



Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation

BOBP-IGO, a Regional Fishery Advisory Body (RFAB), serves as the think tank on transboundary and contemporary national issues of the member countries concerning fisheries management.

Transforming possibilities to actualities



The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), set up in 2003, is a regional fisheries advisory body (RFAB) with Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka as its member countries. The Organisation evolved from the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) founded in 1979.

The BOBP-IGO is mandated to enhance cooperation among its member-countries as well as other countries and organizations in the Bay of Bengal region and provide technical and management advisory for sustainable fisheries development and management.

BOBP-IGO is committed to contributing towards accelerating the transformation of the fisheries sector of this region towards real-time, evidence-driven, and ecosystem-based management, leveraging our global knowledge networks and effective partnership with the national governments and their constituent research and academic institutions.

RFAB

What is a Regional Fishery Advisory Body?

RFABs are a type of Regional Fishery Body (RFB) that have an advisory mandate, and provide advice, decisions, or coordinating mechanisms that are voluntary in nature.

On the other hand, RFBs having management mandates are called Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). They adopt fisheries conservation and management measures that are binding on their members.

Both types of RFBs are the mechanisms through which States or organizations, that are parties to an international fishery agreement or arrangement, work together towards conservation, management, and/or development of fisheries.

Currently, there are about 30 RFABs and 23 RFMOs.



Indicative map of RFBs around the globe

Map not to scale



Competencies

Policy Advocacy and Consensus building:

We monitor and analyse global fisheries development and support our members to adopt best practices. We also assist them in arriving at a consensus on issues of regional importance.

Science & Tech Support:

Based on the regional situation analysis, member countries are advised on stock management, emerging opportunities, and tackling challenges.

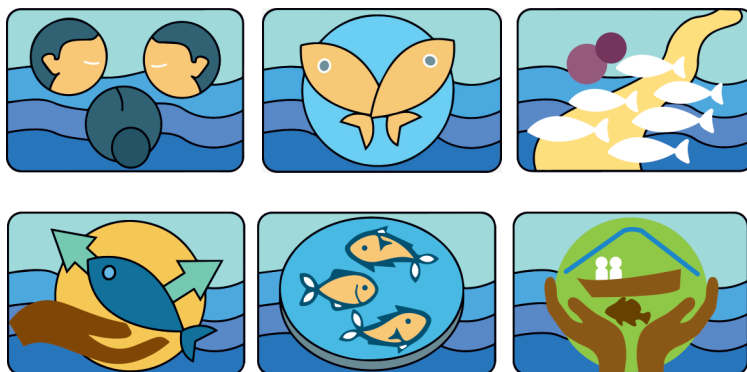
Knowledge Management:

Keeping track of global and regional development, acting as a knowledge repository, and expanding collaborative research framework for promoting research on shared and transboundary fisheries and ecosystem-based issues.

Capacity Enhancement:

Helping the concerned people and agencies to discharge current responsibilities better and explore new vistas.

Programmes & Activities



Research & Policy Advocacy

Reimagining Regional Fisheries Management:

We envision strengthening the methodological framework for stock assessment by promoting real-time catch reporting, sample surveys, and recommending methods for data analysis and reporting, and to aid in informed decision-making by the resource managers.

Developing a Framework for the Management of the Small-Scale Multi-Species Fishery: The objective of this interdisciplinary programme is to assess and understand the vulnerabilities of artisanal and small-scale fisheries in the national and regional contexts and develop strategies to strengthen their capacity, contribution and resilience.

Developing Governance and Institutional Framework for Assessment and Management of Blue Economy in the Bay of Bengal: Blue Economy is multi-sectoral and activities are often overlapping. Our effort is to ensure that the fisheries sector is not marginalized in the process and the economic gain is optimized sustainably. A part of our effort is directed towards supporting the convergence of the countries' regional strategies to curb Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and enhance occupational safety and working condition of fishers with particular focus on fisherwomen.

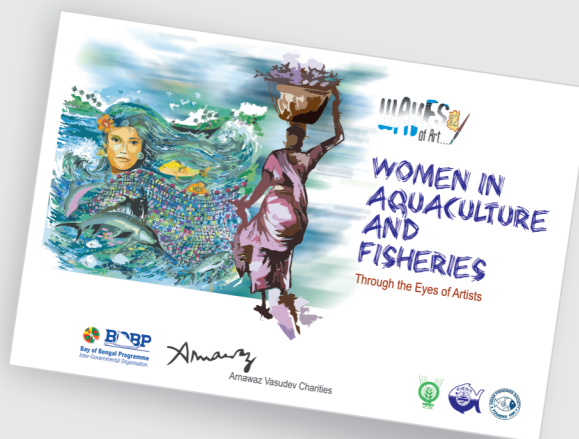
Aquaculture-Fisheries Co-development for Stock Enhancement and Sea Ranching: Under this programme, we are leveraging the accumulated knowledge in the region on fish farming, breeding, hatchery management, and stock assessment for developing a methodological framework for fisheries enhancement to their optimum potential at the national and regional levels.

Insurance for Ameliorating the Climate Risks of Coastal Fishers of the Bay of Bengal Region: Small-scale and artisanal fisheries face major threats from the changing climate and frequent extreme weather events. Insurance, especially parametric insurance, is emerging as a tool of choice for reducing the impacts. However, fisheries and insurance are historically alienated. We intend to bridge with fishers, administrators, insurance companies, and funding agencies to reach a win-win solution for the fisheries sector in the region.

Networking & Outreach

BOB-NeRKA– Bay of Bengal Network for Research & Knowledge Advancement:

BOBP-IGO envisions developing a voluntary network of individuals and institutions having a portfolio of fisheries and ocean sciences concerning the Bay of Bengal region. The Network will facilitate collaborative research, exchange of students and faculty members and encourage south-south cooperation in fisheries sciences to foster dialogues on sustainable development pathways.



Awareness Raising & Social Connect – ‘Waves of Art’ Initiative:

The ‘Waves of Art’ is a social art initiative of the BOBP-IGO. It aims at using art as a medium of raising the profile of various issues in fisheries from gender mainstreaming to gear management amongst the populace. Under this initiative, professional and amateur artists, fisheries experts, and the populace, old and young alike, gather in a comradery environment to learn about a fisheries issue and then visualize and express their understanding through art. In the process, the initiative aims to promote active learning and share ideas, including innovative ones, for a deeper understanding and empathy.

Capacity Development

We have developed a Menu of Training Programmes for the region based on actual and felt needs. The programmes are offered in hybrid mode at both national and regional levels.



Monitoring and Reporting Progress for Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water:

To understand SDG Indicators and reporting mechanisms and develop the capacity to collect, collate and report data in the global platform for a true reflection of national progress on SDGs.

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries:

The flagship-training programme to expose the trainees to the principles of CCRF and their adoption in the national scenarios.

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

Management: To sensitize participants on the concept and principles of the EAFM, and improve their capacity for developing local-level EAFM plans.

New Paradigms in Fish Stock Assessment:

To strengthen the core competencies of the field officials and young researchers in emerging fish stock assessment practices.

Development of Changing Climate Adaptation

Plan: To learn the requirement and process of developing effective climate change adaptation plan for the fisheries sector at the local level.

Business Case & Design Thinking for

Development Projects Planning: To develop skill and capacity for integrating business plans and design thinking principles in policy pitching and preparation of fisheries development projects.



Make us your IMPACT partner

BOBP-IGO undertakes contractual assignments for fostering transformation and enhancing resilience of the fisheries sector in the BOB region.

BOBP-IGO can help in delving into developmental challenges and **crafting science-backed practical solutions**. Our experience and knowledge on the region would be your ignition key.

We can also assist you for effective **outreach and policy connect**. Our reach covers diverse stakeholders from fishers to the policy makers, in the region.

BOBP-IGO Design Factory is a one-stop solution for all documentation, design, and publication needs, which can aid in developing impactful short films/documentary/concept videos in English and other regional languages for maximising outreach.

Count on us for making a statement for the right cause.

Visit <https://www.bobpigo.org/pages/view/events-support-bobp>
or write to info@bobpigo.org

Connect with us

Donors: We offer an accountable and transparent process for collaborative work in areas of mutual interest. We can facilitate reaching different levels of stakeholders from a marginal fisherwoman to the highest level of policymakers. For priority areas, we will assist in pooling in additional resources to corroborate your effort. You can support uplifting millions of small-scale fishers in the region and ensure resource sustainability.

Interested? Write to info@bobbpigo.org

Scientists and Experts: We offer you the platform for joint project development, access to international experts, and above all, scope of expanding your research area to the whole of the Bay of Bengal region. If you believe that you can contribute to making the fisheries green and sustainable - consider being part of the **Bay of Bengal Policy Research Group (BOBPRG)**.
<https://bobbpigo.org/pages/bobfellows>

Students and interested citizens: Do you wish to get exposure to national and international fisheries issues and participate in working out solutions? Do you want to have practical experience in policy research and formulating policy decisions? Apply for an internship at the BOBP-IGO and personally experience transformation. Write to info@bobbpigo.org



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91, Saint Mary's Road, Abhiramapuram
Chennai - 600 018, Tamil Nadu, India
Telephone: # 91 44 42040024
www.bobbpigo.org
Email: info@bobbpigo.org