



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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WAVES
of Art...
Series 3

ARTISANAL FISHERIES

Through the Eyes of Artists



BOBP

Bay of Bengal Programme
Inter-Governmental Organisation

Amawaz

Amawaz Vasudev Charities



National Fisheries
Development Board
Department of Fisheries
Government of India



In association with



Pleinair sketching at Fort Kochi - Artists from Chennai and Kochi



ARTISANAL FISHERIES

Through the Eyes of Artists



Dr. S Jayaraj
Co-ordinator
Waves of Art Programme



BOBP-IGO, 2023 Artisanal Fisheries - Through the Eyes of Artists, Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, p64.

The sketches in this series included those drawn during the ICES/FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (WGFTFB23) & Symposium on Innovations in Fishing Technologies for Sustainable and Resilient Fisheries organised by BOBP in collaboration with NFDB, CIFT and CMFRI at Hotel Taj Gateway at Kochi from 13-14 February 2023. The publication also includes contributions from eminent subject matter specialists and artists from South Asian countries and Europe.

We thank Dr. R. Soundararajan and Dr. Sri Hari for their assistance in drafting, editing and finalizing the descriptions for the art works.

This document has been produced under the auspices of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Expert Group. The contents therein do not necessarily represent the view of the Council.

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Note: The art works in this publication may be used for non-commercial purposes with due credit.



Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, IAS
Secretary

डॉ अभिलाक्ष लिखी भा.प्र.से.
सचिव



भारत सरकार
मत्स्यपालन, पशु पालन एवं डेयरी मंत्रालय
मत्स्यपालन विभाग
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110 001

Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries,
Animal Husbandry & Dairying
Department of Fisheries
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Foreword

The unveiling of the "Waves of Art" series' third edition is indeed a moment of reflection and anticipation. Art has consistently mirrored society's essence, and its fusion with the fisheries realm offers a narrative both enlightening and vital. Crafted by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) in collaboration with the Arnawas Charitable Trust, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), with other distinguished collaborators, this edition, themed 'Artisanal Fisheries', magnifies the balance between traditional practices and contemporary innovations in the sector and seeks to broaden our social outreach through the medium of creative expression.

I am happy to note that these artworks, created during the International Symposium on 'Innovations in Fishing Technologies for Sustainable and Resilient Fisheries', hosted by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India at Kochi during February 2023. The publication presents a journey through South and Southeast Asia's waterscapes, embracing the spirit and innovation of its fishing communities.

This edition is more than artistic expression; it is a call for sustainable practices, technological growth, and community empowerment in the face of multi-faceted challenges. Through the vibrant tapestry of nets, boats, and communities, may it inspire us to champion the harmonious blend of fisheries' art and science.

My best wishes to BOBP-IGO, its collaborators and all the creative contributors.

(Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi)



Preface

The BOBP-IGO recently started a new initiative - Waves of Arts Series, under which art or sketching events are conducted on themes related to the sea, fishing and fishermen, joining hands with enthusiasts and sponsors. This is the third issue in the series.

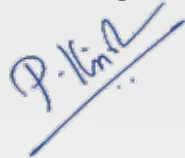
The **Waves of Art Series -3** includes those drawn during the symposium on 'Innovations in Fishing Technologies for Sustainable and Resilient Fisheries' organised by BOBP in collaboration with NFDB at Hotel Taj Gateway at Kochi from 13-14 February 2023. The publication also includes contributions from eminent subject matter specialists and artists from South Asian countries and Europe.

We organized a sketching event as a side event during the symposium which received significant attention from the participants. Artists from Tamil Nadu and Kerala participated in the live sketching event. This publication is a compilation of the art works made by those who participated in the event and also a few subject matter experts and distinguished artists, who had contributed to this edition, on special request.

While BOBP looks forward to associating with relevant platforms, using creative communication for the cause of sustainable fisheries, I will be happy to receive your suggestions to expand the scope and reach of the **Waves of Art Initiative**.

We will reach out to you soon with the plan for our next issue on an equally interesting theme, wherein you could be one of the partners or contributors.

Warm regards,



(P. Krishnan)



Dr. P. Krishnan

Director, BOBP-IGO
Chennai







Dr. Daniel Stepputtis
*Scientist, Thünen Institute
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Dr. Antonello Sala
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Mr. Jon Lansley
Fishery Industry Officer, FAO



Celebrating the Rich Tapestry of Indian Fisheries

In the Southwest of India's coastline, amidst the tranquil backwaters of Kerala, we gathered for the ICES-FAO-Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour. It is a privilege to introduce this remarkable book that presents the essence of our working group and conference through artistry. These paintings, created on the sidelines of the conference where participants from around the world gathered to discuss the future of fishing gear technology, offer a glimpse into the world of Indian fisheries, a world where tradition meets innovation.

India's coastline stretches over 7,500 kilometers, nurturing a mosaic of communities whose lives are deeply intertwined with the sea. This book, provides a visual journey that takes us from the shores of Gujarat to the mangroves of the Sundarbans, and from the vibrant fishing villages of Kerala to the bustling harbors of Tamil Nadu. Each stroke of the brush captures the spirit of these regions and their fishing traditions.



Through the eyes of the talented artists who contributed their work to this collection, we are presented with the grace of traditional fishing boats, the intricate craftsmanship of fishing gear, and the resilience of the fishermen who fish in the open waters day after day. These paintings reflect the life of fishing communities who have passed down knowledge and skills through generations.

We extend our gratitude to the artists who have contributed their talent and to all those who have dedicated their time and expertise to the conference. May this book be a source of inspiration, reflection, and collaboration as we work towards a future where innovative fishing methods ensure that the marine resources that communities depend upon for their existence and way of life, are utilized sustainably, safeguarding livelihoods for future generations.

In closing, we express our heartfelt gratitude to our hosts BOBP-IGO and NFDB for their warm hospitality and the beautiful backdrop of Kerala that has welcomed us. We leave this conference with a sense of optimism and hope, believing that it marks the beginning of a meaningful and extensive collaboration. Together, let us work tirelessly to harness the potential of fishing gear technology for the betterment of fisheries in India and beyond, sustaining our precious marine resources and securing a sustainable future for all.

With warm regards,

Dr. Daniel Stepputtis,
 Dr. Antonello Sala,
 Mr. Jon Lansley (FAO)



Working Group on Fishing Technology
Fish Behaviour (WGFB)
Symposium
Innovations
Technologies
and Resilience
January 2023 | Taj Gateway Hotel

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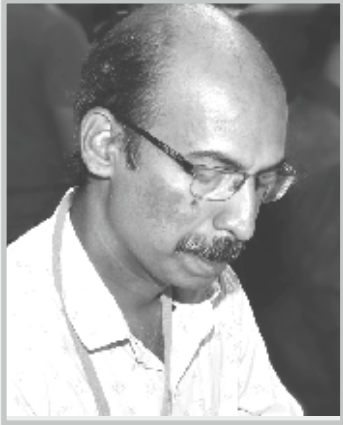
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Kerala State, situated on the south-west coast of India, has traditionally been the foremost fishery area of the Indian subcontinent. Fishermen operating in the mechanized sector venture into deeper waters to tap the underexploited fishery potential.

A purse seiner anchored at Kochi harbour after a fishing trip



The Kerala backwaters form a network of brackish lagoons and lakes lying hinterland parallel to the Arabian Sea coast of Kerala state in southern India, and interconnected canals, rivers, and inlets as well, forming a labyrinthine system of more than 900 kilometres of waterways.

A gillnetter navigating through the Kochi backwaters to the open sea





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Mechanised fishing by trawling was introduced in India in the 1950s to target high-value catches, driven by foreign interests. Trawling changed the face of Indian fisheries and immensely boosted marine production.

A trawler along with an FRP Boat anchored in a fishing harbour





The Chinese fishing nets in Kochi are a famous tourist attraction as the mechanisms of using these nets for fishing are complex, and mystifying to look at. These majestic Chinese fishing nets are operated by four to six fishermen and watching this spectacular fishing process is in itself a spellbinding experience.

*Chinese fishing net (shore-operated lift net or dip net)
in the Kochi backwaters*





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In the picture, we see two brave fishermen embark on their perilous journeys at the break of dawn, facing exhaustion and danger in the effort to sustain their livelihoods and support their families.

The introduction of outboard motors transformed the face of traditional fishing activities that have brought about changes in the design and operation of existing craft and gears.

Two fishermen venturing into the sea in an FRP boat for fishing



Trawling is one of the most common methods of fishing. Trawl nets are designed to be towed by a boat through the water column (midwater trawl) or along the sea floor (bottom trawl).

The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) introduced new trawling techniques in Tamil Nadu during 1980/81.

A trawler sailing towards the open waters at dawn on a fishing trip



Masula or Masoola boats are stitched boats found on the Coromandel Coast of southeast India. It is a light, open vessel designed and modified to negotiate safely through sea and surf conditions.

Traditional fishing boats beached after fishing activities are over





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The moon boat also referred to as the Chand-nouka, is a traditional fishing boat used in the Cox's Bazar District of southeastern Bangladesh. It features a unique design where the arches similar to a crescent moon are incorporated into the curving lines of the boat. This celestial shape allows the boat to sail in either direction, providing flexibility in navigation. In the face of most of the Fishing boats of Bangladesh continuing to modernize, the Moon Boat remains a cherished symbol of tradition and a reminder of the country's rich cultural heritage.

Launching of moon boat into the water in preparation for the fishing operation.



Dhoni is a traditional fishing and transportation vessel that holds great cultural and historical significance in the Maldives. This type of boat has been an integral part of Maldivian maritime culture for centuries. Its construction allows it to navigate with ease through the shallow waters and intricate coral reefs that characterize the Maldivian archipelago.

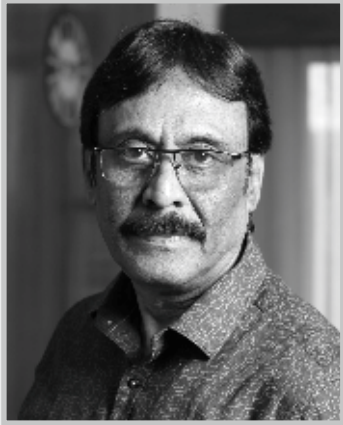
Fishers unloading tuna catch after a long fishing trip



During dry docking, the boat is lifted out of the water onto a platform or dock, allowing maintenance, repairs, and inspections to be carried out on the hull, propellers, and other underwater components. This process is essential for ensuring the seaworthiness and safety of the fishing boat.

A trawler dry-docked for - services





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The wooden vessels used in Tamil Nadu for trawling of inshore prawn resources in the 80s were being locally constructed and followed a standard design. Typically, they were equipped with mechanically driven trawl winches positioned on the deck at the rear of the engine housing. The net and cod-end were manually handled, aided by a lifting boom attached to the mast.

Fishing boats approaching the fishing harbour in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu



The FRP (Fiber-Reinforced Plastic) made Oruwa fishing catamaran is a modernized version of a traditional Sri Lankan fishing vessel. This innovative adaptation incorporates the use of better long-lasting materials and advanced construction techniques to enhance the performance and durability of the catamaran, while still retaining the essence of the traditional design. It serves as a bridge between the old tradition and the present advancement, combining the timeless design of the Oruwa with the benefits of modern materials and techniques.

FRP Oruwa boats beached after fishing trips at Negombo, Sri Lanka



The traditional Oruwa fishing catamaran of Sri Lanka is a unique watercraft that has a distinct design with sail used for centuries by the local fishing communities. The Oruwa is specifically crafted to navigate the coastal waters and capture fish efficiently. The design of the catamaran provides stability, allowing fishermen to venture into the open sea with confidence.

Fishermen landing the oruwa on a sandy beach of Dodanduwa, Sri Lanka after completing a fishing trip





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Marine capture fisheries play a crucial role in providing employment, income, and foreign exchange earnings, in addition to ensuring nutritional security for people. In India, non-motorized fishing crafts account for 15% of the total fishing crafts in the country and contribute to 1% of the overall marine fish landings.

A small fishing boat in the waters of Kerala



In India, traditional fishing boats are a symbol of the country's diverse coastal communities and fishing traditions, showcasing a rich maritime heritage. Local fishermen's ingenuity and resourcefulness, developed over generations, are evident in the design of these boats. Along the extensive coastline, different regions take pride in their distinctive styles of traditional fishing boats, carefully crafted to adapt to the unique conditions of their respective waters.

Fishing boat used to catch fish in the Vypin island of Kochi





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Bangladesh, with its rich inland waters and river systems, has significant capture fishery and aquaculture potential. Fishing by boat is a common sight in the riverine regions of Bangladesh, and it has always been an integral part of the country's lifestyle. The rivers provide significant opportunities and potential for increasing fish production and enhancing the socio-economic well-being of the communities residing nearby.

Fisher venturing into the river for catching fish in Patuakhali, Bangladesh



Common people and villagers utilize small boats to fish in canals and other water bodies. The fisheries sector is one of the most prolific and dynamic industries in Bangladesh's agricultural economy, with enormous potential for future development.

A fisher hauling gill net with netted fish in a river in Bhola, Bangladesh





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In capture fisheries, fisherwomen play multifaceted and indispensable roles. They are involved in various activities associated with fishing operations, from mending nets and preparing fishing gear to actively participating in fishing trips and collecting fish catch for marketing.

The image depicts the Importance of women in harvest and post-harvest activities



In India, women have taken on diverse responsibilities within the fisheries sector, extending beyond their primary role in nurturing families. The implementation of supportive policies has contributed to enhancing their skills, encouraging the establishment of women's cooperatives and self-help groups (SHGs), and ensuring access to financial resources. In addition to their conventional involvement in post-harvest tasks, women are now expanding their participation into various other areas, including seaweed farming and other mariculture activities.

Women are an integral part of Small scale Fisheries



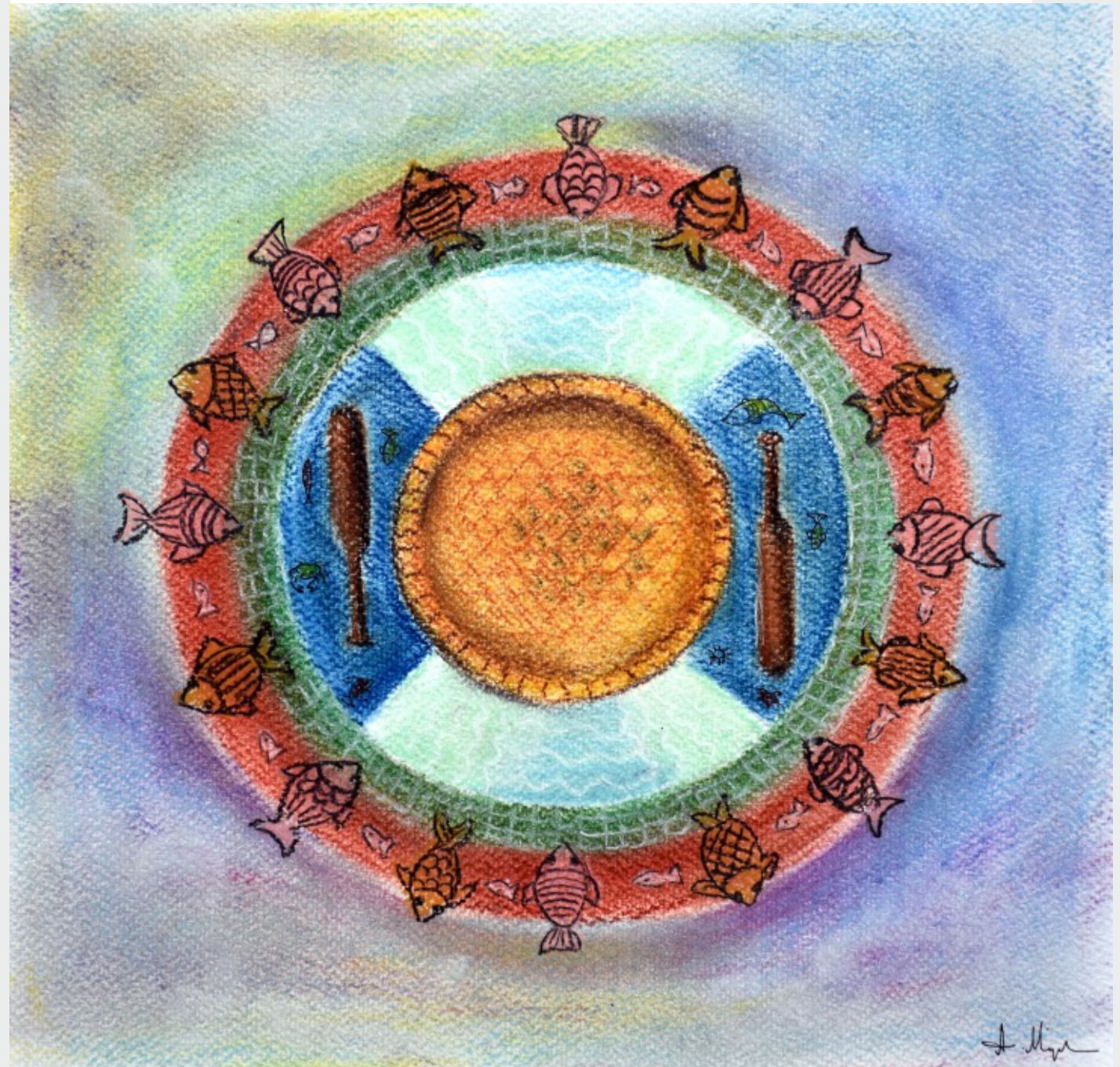


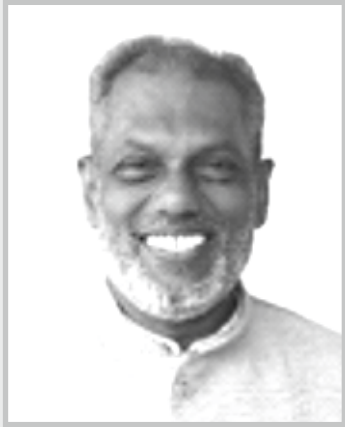
Manjula Anand

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The coracle, a traditional fishing craft, has been used in India for centuries. It is a round or oval boat made of interwoven bamboo or thin wooden strips covered with a waterproof material being exclusively used in inland water systems. Its use has been documented in southern and eastern regions, including Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.

Image depicts the importance of coracle in Inland capture fisheries



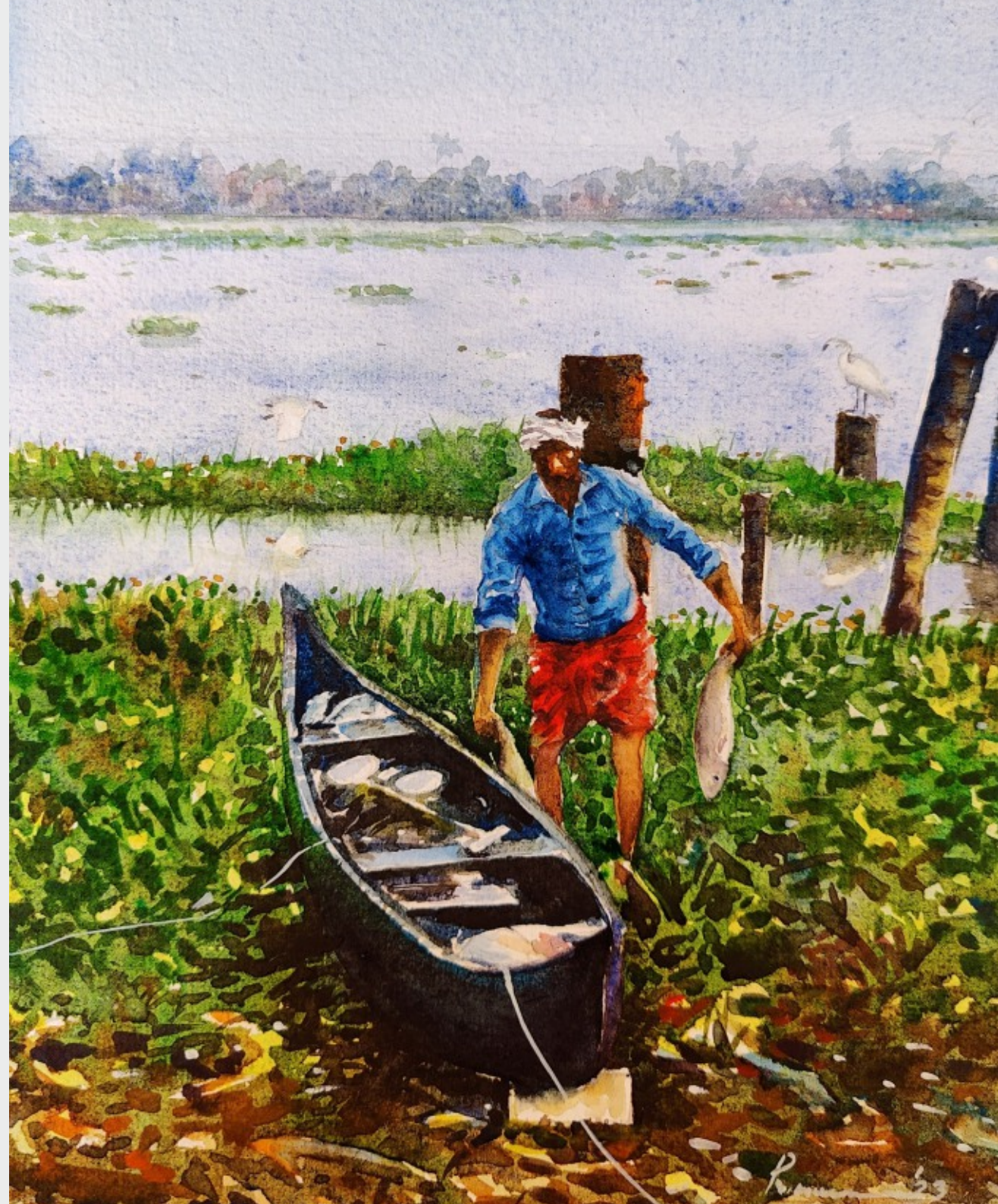


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The plank-built canoe is made up of locally available wooden planks and is mainly used for fishing along the central coast of Kerala. These canoes are used by one or two fishers to operate gillnets, trammel nets, and hook and line in backwaters and coastal waters. The small canoes are mostly rowed by oars whereas Outboard engines are used in the case of large canoes.

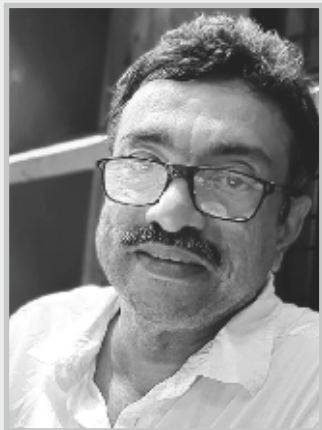
A subsistence fisher is seen returning home with the fish he caught.





Kattumaram is a traditional fishing craft used along the south-east coast of India. Kattumarams are also seen in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. They are made from three to seven tree logs tied together. The name "kattumaram" is derived from Tamil language meaning "tied wood," (kattu = binding" + maram = "wood"). This is a beach landing craft that fishermen use for operating gill nets, encircling nets, trammel nets, hooks and lines, etc., in coastal waters. The Kattumaram is mostly propelled by oars and large fibre kattumaram uses long-tailed propeller engines.

*Kattumaram in the backdrop of the FRP
Fishing boats in the harbour*



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In Kannur Moppila Bay, the fishing harbour has many boats, big and small. This is the main fishing hub of Kannur also called Aayikkara. The whole shoreline of Kannur is active for fishing. In the morning hours, small boats return to shore to land freshly caught fish and prawns.

The picture depicts the different crafts used for fishing operations in Moppila Bay, Kerala.





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Marine fisheries have an important place in the economy of Kerala. More than 1 million marine fishermen along the Kerala Coast depend on marine fisheries as their sole source of livelihood. Kerala has consistently embraced innovative and advanced technologies in fishing practices, leading to the evolution of a vibrant economic and social structure within the marine fisheries sector.

Traditional Fishers with their boats in a landing centre in Kerala









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Fisheries play a crucial role in the livelihoods of people in developing nations, offering diverse contributions, such as providing essential food, generating income, offering various social advantages, and decreasing susceptibility to poverty.

Fishers who are venturing into the sea in search of a good catch being seen off from the shore.



Fishing and tourism in the backwaters of Kerala form a harmonious relationship, contributing to the region's cultural heritage, economic growth, and natural beauty. Fishing and tourism complement each other in the backwaters, as visitors have the opportunity to enjoy freshly caught seafood, prepared in the taste and flavour of local culinary delights.

*Fishing boats and Houseboats,
"Kettuvallam" in the backwaters of Kerala*





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Commercial trawling in India began in Cochin during the early 1960s and subsequently expanded to other regions of the country. In recent years, the multi-day trawl fishery has experienced significant growth, evolving into a distinct fishery sector. In the state of Kerala, the trawl fishery contributes approximately 35-50% of the annual fish landings. The escalating global demand for shrimps and cuttlefish has led to intensified competition, increased investment, and continuous upgrading of trawlers.

A trawler is getting ready for the next fishing trip from Munambam, Kochi



The cast net, a simple yet highly effective tool, is utilized by local fishermen to capture fish in the calm backwaters of Kerala. Fabricated in a circular shape using nylon or cotton netting, the cast net is equipped with small sinker weights distributed along its edges. Cast net fishing in Kerala's backwaters not only serves as a livelihood for many local fishermen but also holds profound significance as an integral part of their cultural heritage.

A fisherman is seen casting the cast net from a traditional canoe.



The Chinese fishing nets, locally known as "Cheenavala" in Malayalam, are believed to have been introduced to Kochi by a Chinese explorer. These nets are tied to a combination of teak wood and bamboo poles. Fishing activities using the nets predominantly take place during the early morning and late evening hours. It's worth noting that the use of these Chinese nets has become an integral part of the fishing culture in Kochi, offering a unique spectacle to visitors and contributing to the local economy.

Chinese dip nets in the Kochi backwaters at dusk.



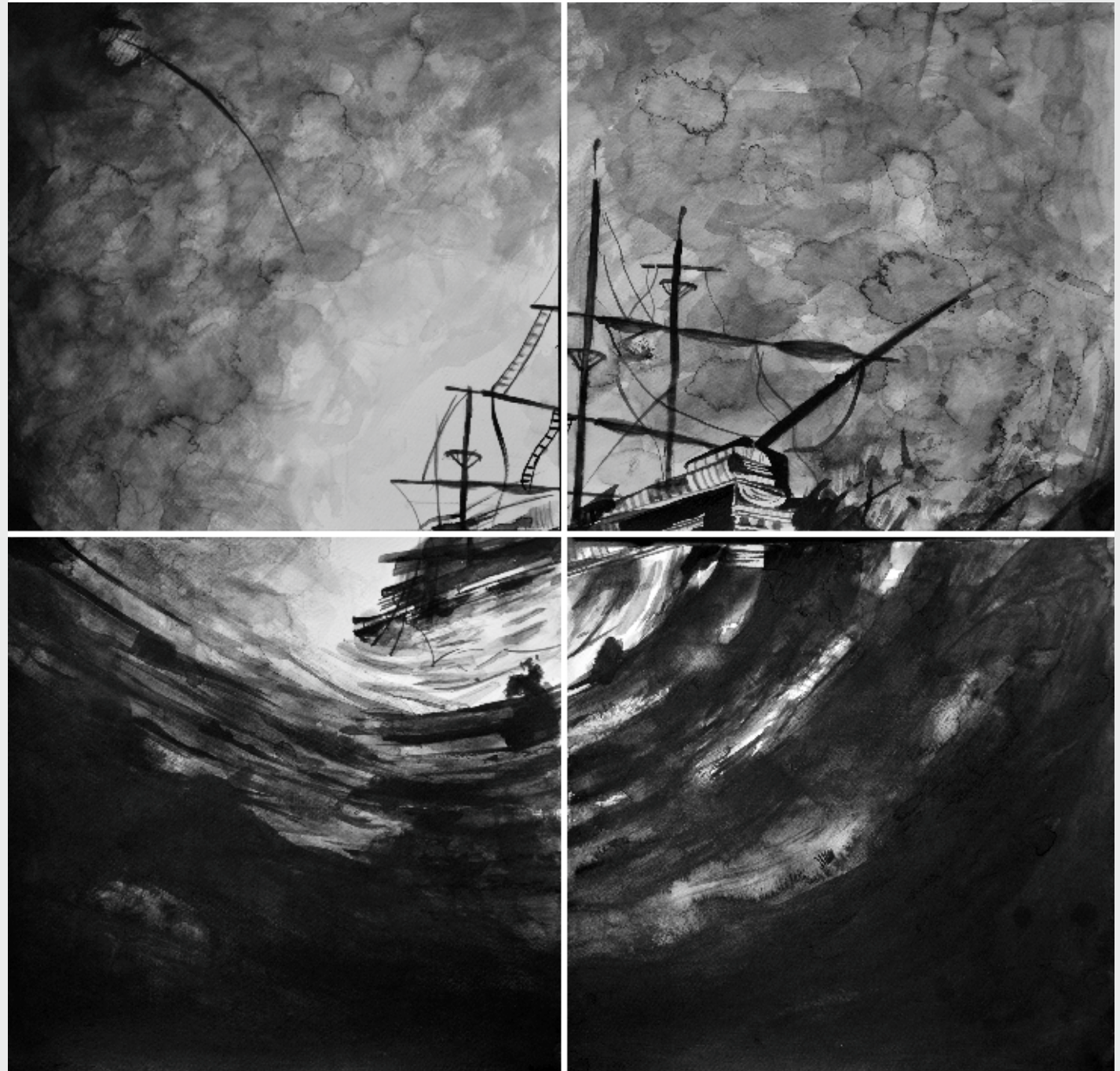


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The sea provides a spiritual lift to humans through its beauty., It reminds us of our insignificance in front of its magnificent vastness. At the same time, it does not prevent us from face life's challenges with courage by constantly calling forth men to willingly risk their lives at sea for the sake of securing food and livelihood.

An industrial fishing boat is caught amidst a cyclone in the middle of the sea.



The beach is not only known as a place to relax but as a place of enjoying unbound beauty. The intriguing sea and life intertwined with it are both beautiful and mysterious, with its great depths holding many wonders waiting to be discovered unendingly.

Children are playing on the beach, with a large fishing vessel in the backdrop.







Sheela Maradi

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Vallam is a term commonly used to denote traditional fishing boats that play a vital role in the coastal fishing communities of Tamil Nadu. Crafted primarily from locally sourced materials like teak or country wood, these boats come in diverse sizes and designs, tailored to suit the specific fishing practices and needs of the local fishermen.

Birds resting on a Vallam on the shores of Tamil Nadu



Amidst the tranquil waters, two determined fishermen steer their outboard motor boat, entwined in a struggle for their daily livelihood. Their unwavering spirits mirror the ebb and flow of the waves, as they cast their nets, embracing both hope and uncertainty. With each dawn, their toil paints a poignant picture of resilience and the timeless bond between humanity and the sea.

A fisher is seen removing the fish catch from the net on the way back to the shore



Royapuram fishing harbor, located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, a southeastern state of India, is a vital hub for the fishing industry in the region. Trawlers form a prominent part of the fishing fleet and they engage normally in offshore fishing activities. The use of trawlers has significantly increased the fishing efficiency and productivity of the local fishing industry.

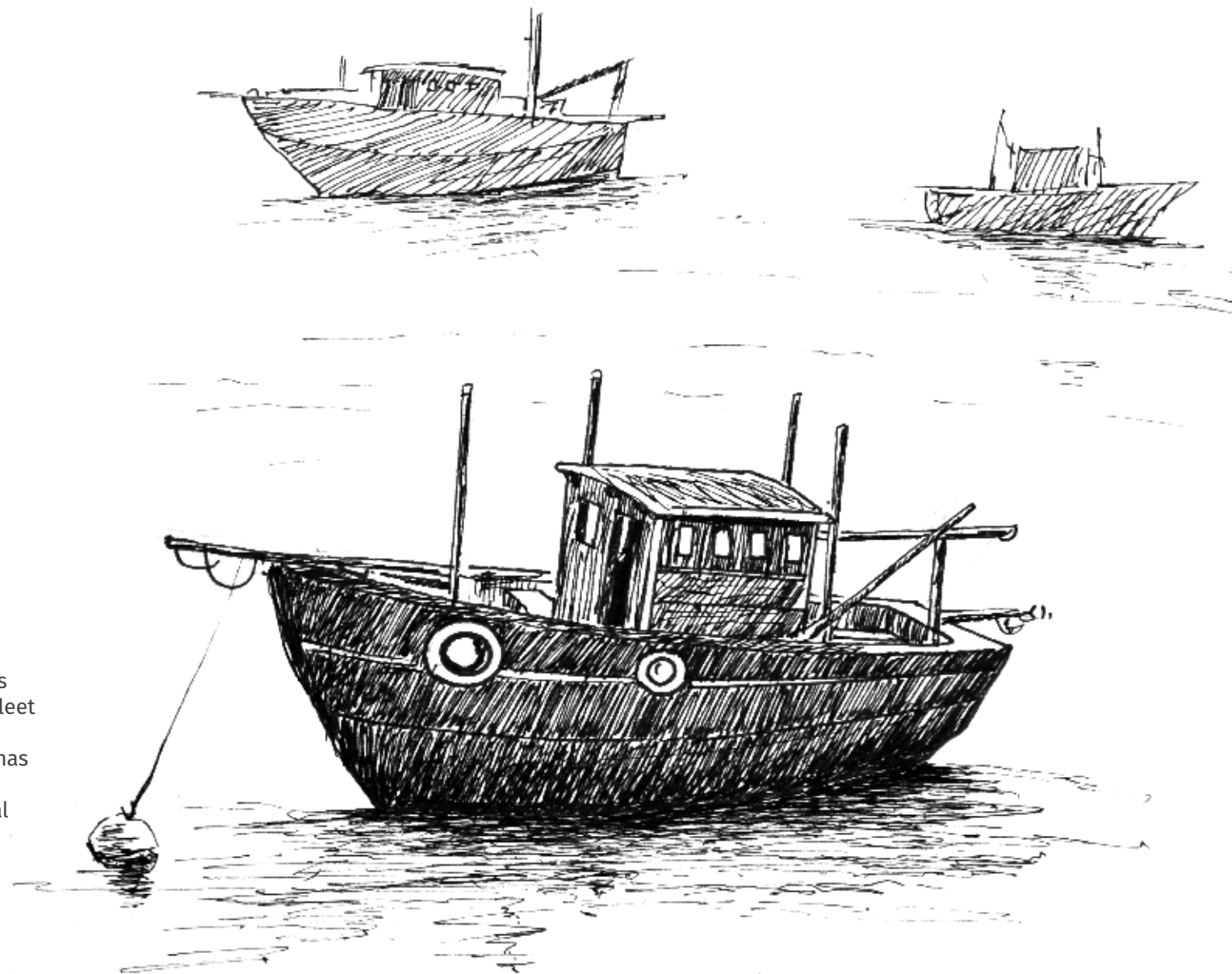


Image of wooden trawlers anchored in the Royapuram fishing harbour

Shelga
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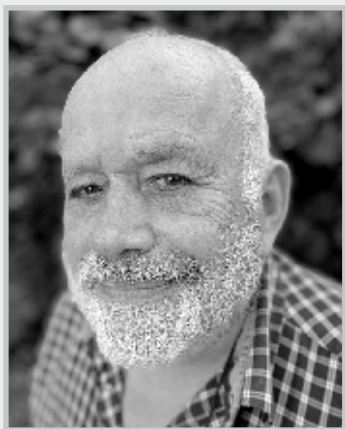


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An enchanting beach town located on India's east coast named Puducherry is a singular destination with a French connection. The region has twenty-seven marine fishing settlements and twenty-three inland fishing hamlets/villages dotted in and around Puducherry and over 90,000 people are actively involved in fisheries.

Fishers manoeuvring through the huge waves in the sea off Puducherry coast





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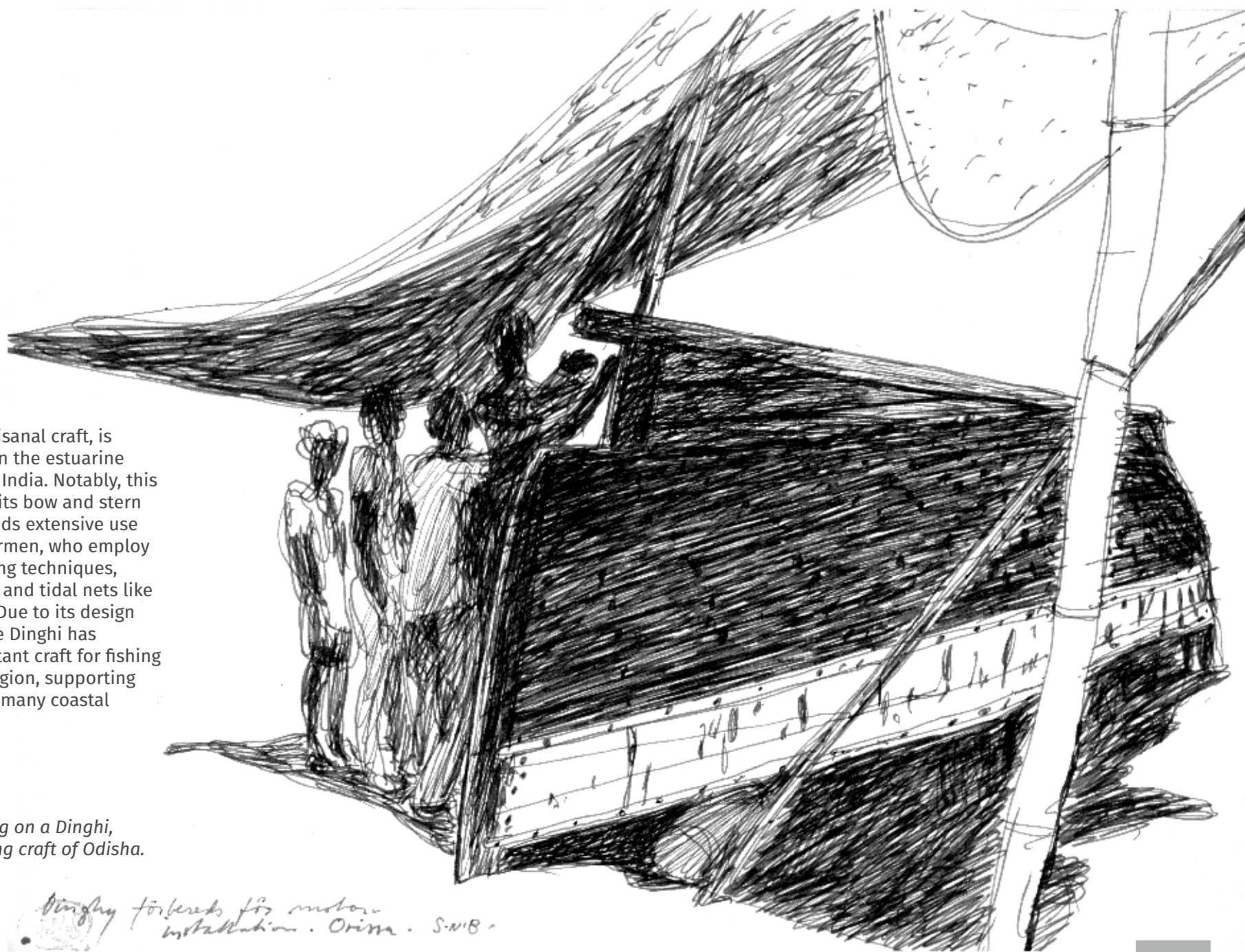
Dhoni is a versatile traditional fishing boat with a motor or lateen sails, primarily employed in the Maldives. Traditionally, it is constructed using coconut tree-wood in a plank-built style. In the past, Maldivian fishermen extensively used sailing dhonis for their fishing activities. However, with the onset of the industrial revolution, many fishermen made a transition to mechanized dhonis for fishing purposes and each capable of carrying approximately eight to twelve persons.

Fishers landing fish catches from a Dhoni, a traditional craft of Maldives

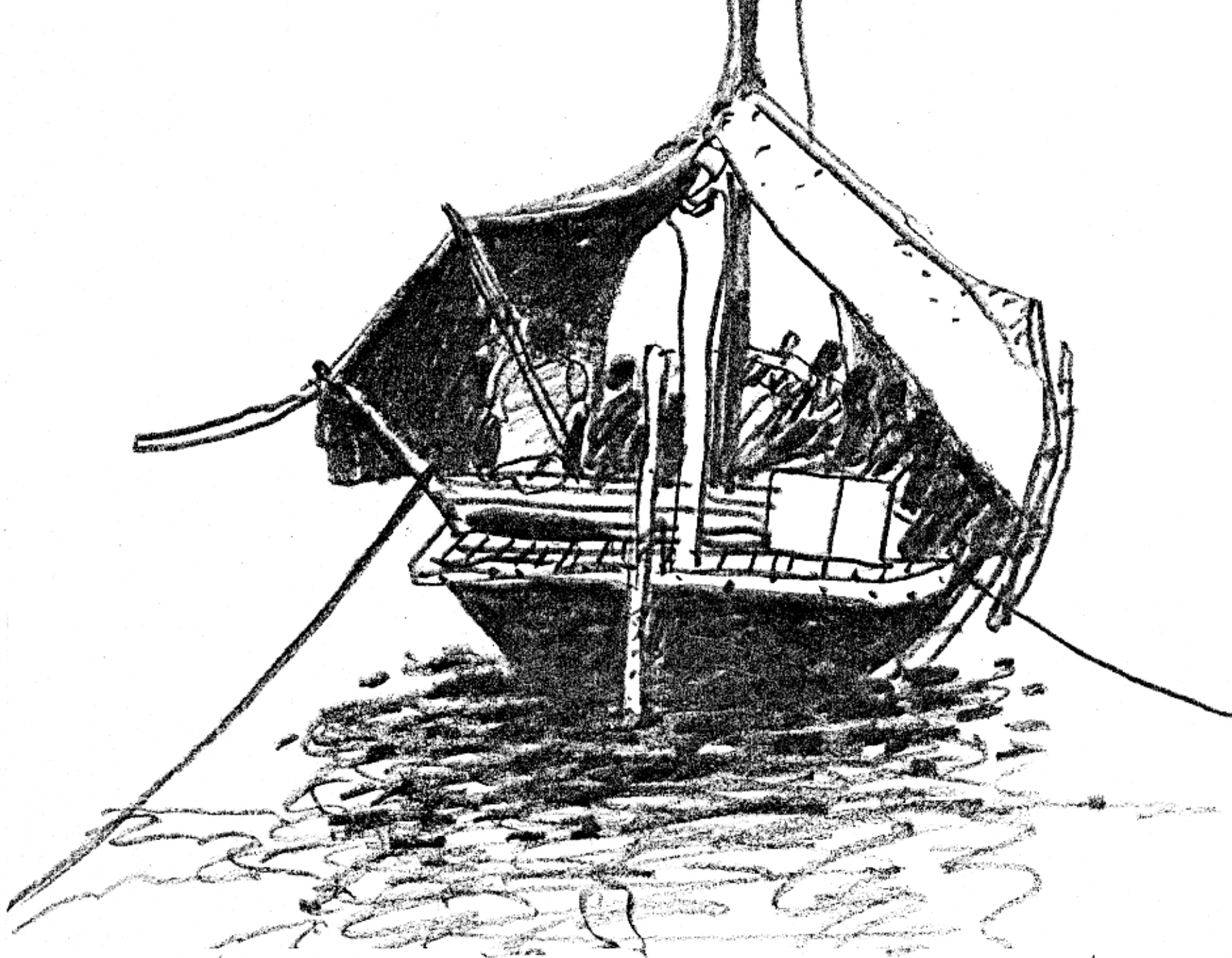


The Dinghi, an artisanal craft, is extensively used in the estuarine system of Odisha, India. Notably, this boat is unique as its bow and stern are identical. It finds extensive use among local fishermen, who employ it for various fishing techniques, including gill nets and tidal nets like the behundi jaal. Due to its design and versatility, the Dinghi has become an important craft for fishing activities in the region, supporting the livelihoods of many coastal communities.

Repair works going on a Dinghi, a traditional fishing craft of Odisha.



Dinghi forbered for motor installation. Orissa. S.V.B.



Dhooni is Malé's name.

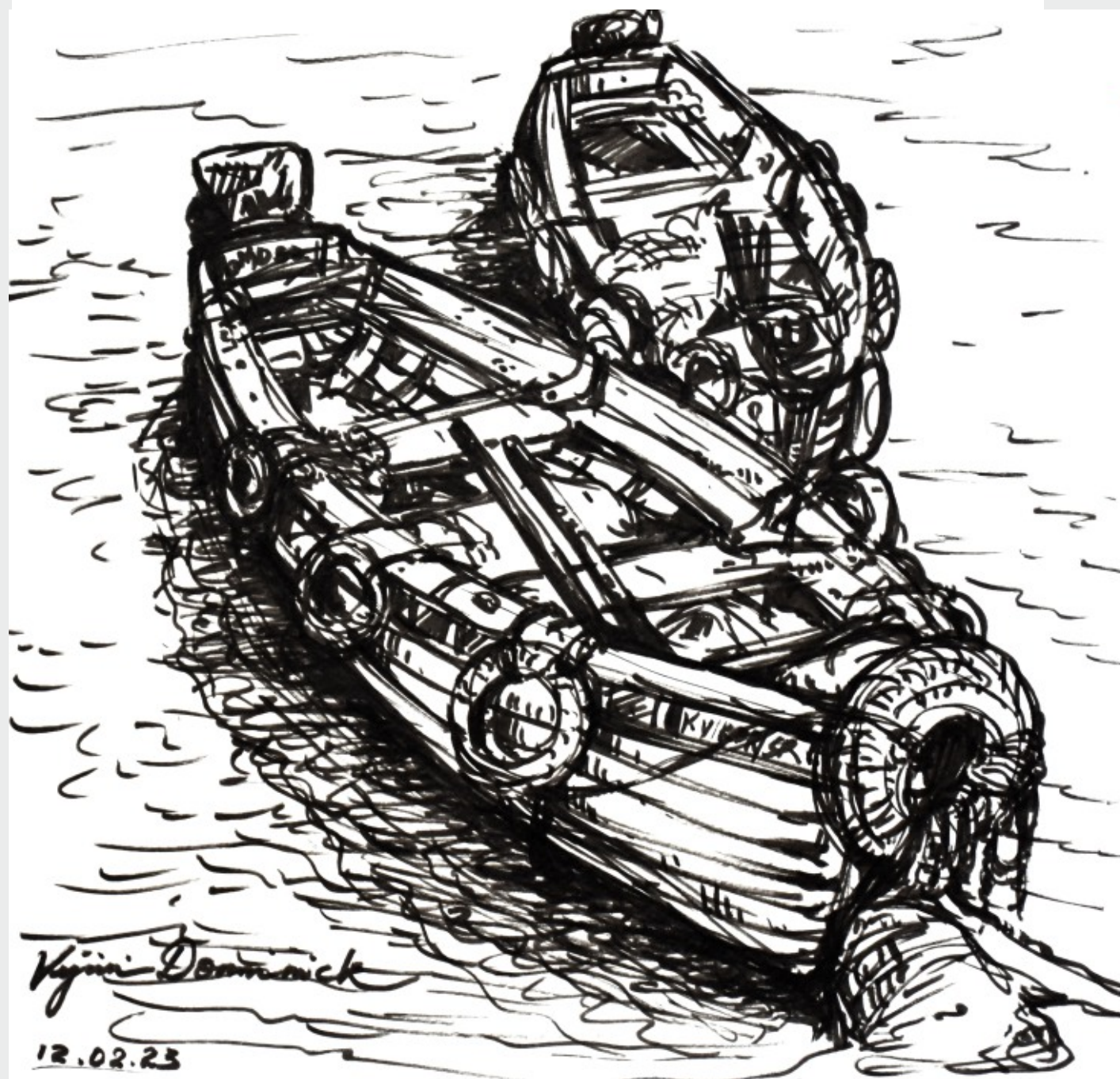
Signature M. Bengtson.



Vijini Domnick
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Plank-built boats are traditional fishing crafts of India constructed by joining several planks of wood together to create the hull of the boat. These boats have a long history in India and are still used in various coastal regions and waterways for fishing, transportation, and other activities. These boats, known for their remarkable resilience and practical design, have been an integral part of India's coastal communities for centuries.

Two plank-built boats on a shore of Kerala





Wilssy Johnson

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In the backwaters, the traditional method of fishing predominates, where fishermen rely on small canoes and either nets or fish hooks to catch fish. This age-old fishery practice has been a significant source of livelihood for numerous individuals throughout the year.

Traditional fishing boats in Vypin Island, Kerala



The picturesque sight of fishing boats passing by and venturing out into the sea for their fishing expeditions in the backwaters of Kochi is always a treat to the locals and the tourists.

Motorised fishing boats moored in a fishing harbour in Kerala



In Kerala, the motorization of country craft commenced in the early 1980s. At present, motorized boats account for approximately 59% of all fishing crafts in India and contribute to nearly 20% of the total marine fish landings. This indicates the substantial impact and prevalence of motorized fishing boats in the country's fishing industry.

Fishing boats at a landing centre in Kerala, India







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Arnawaz

Arnawaz Vasudev Charities



Dr. S G Vasudev

Arnawaz Vasudev Charities, a private trust, was set up by S.G. Vasudev following the untimely death of his artist wife Arnawaz in 1988. The principal objectives of the Trust are to promote art education and art activities, and to provide financial assistance to deserving young artists and art students.

The founding trustees are: Shanta Guhan, Girish Karnad and S.G. Vasudev.

The present trustees are B.O. Shailesh, Bharani V Setlur, Mala Chinappa, R.M. Palaniappan and S.G. Vasudev (Managing Trustee)

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The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), set up in 2003, was evolved from the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) founded in 1979. The current member countries of the Organisation are Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

The BOBP-IGO is a Regional Fisheries Advisory Body (RFAB), which serves as the think tank for the member countries on transboundary and contemporary regional issues concerning fisheries management, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, pollution management, livelihood and occupational safety. The IGO assists its member countries in achieving UN Decadal Targets for fisheries management, ecosystem conservation and sustainable development in the region through research-based policy advocacy, need-based capacity development and extensive community engagement programs.

BOBP-IGO is a member of the Regional Fisheries Body Secretariats' Network (RSN), coordinated by the FAO.

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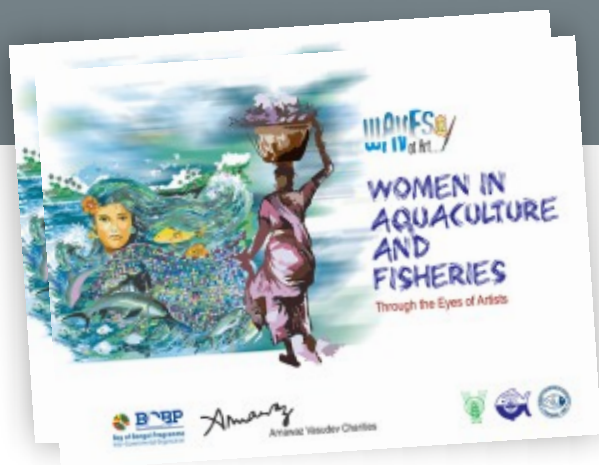
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Release of Waves of Art Series 2

BOBP's Social Art Publication on Gender Released by Kerala Governor.

The publication developed by BOBP-IGO jointly with Arnawas Charities, ICAR-CIFT, Asian Fisheries society was released by Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala on 20 November 2022 at Kochi, Kerala. The "Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture – Through the Eyes of the Artists", second in the series, is our collective appreciation of the role of women in fisheries. It has over 70 sketches made by professional artists and enthusiasts, portraying the role of women in aquaculture, fishing, post-harvest and marketing.

<https://www.bobpigo.org/webroot/publications/Waves%20of%20Art-Series-2-Women%20in%20Aquaculture%20and%20Fisheries.pdf>



The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO's goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With 195 members - 194 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.



The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) is an intergovernmental marine science organization, meeting societal needs for impartial evidence on the state and sustainable use of our seas and oceans. Our goal is to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide and to use this knowledge to generate state-of-the-art advice for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals.

We are a network of nearly 6000 scientists from over 700 marine institutes in our 20 member countries and beyond. Over 2500 scientists participate in our activities annually.



Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation

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