



National Workshop for
**Development of Small-scale
Fisheries Plan for Resilience and
Sustainability in Sri Lanka**

21 - 22 November 2025
NARA, Colombo, Sri Lanka



*The Workshop is supported by the
Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project*

Implemented By



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Introduction

To initiate the preparation of Sri Lanka's National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF), a National Workshop will be organized to convene key stakeholders representing the diverse spectrum of small-scale fisheries (SSF) sectors across the country. The workshop will serve as the starting point of a comprehensive and participatory national scoping process, aimed at identifying sector-specific issues, expectations, and priorities across marine, inland, estuarine, riverine, reservoir, and hill fisheries systems. It will bring together small-scale fishers, fisherwomen, cooperatives, government officials, researchers, civil society organizations, and private sector actors to ensure inclusive and broad-based participation.

This initiative follows the outcomes of the Regional Capacity Development Workshop on NPOA-SSF Development Process held in Chennai, India, during 17–19 September 2025, organized by the BOBP-IGO under the BOBLME project, with technical guidance from the FAO. Building on the commitments made at the regional level and endorsed by the XIII Governing Council of BOBP-IGO, the Sri Lanka workshop will formally launch the National Task Force (NTF) and initiate the NPOA-SSF development process at the national level.

Through this participatory approach, the workshop will provide a platform for dialogue among stakeholders to assess the current status of small-scale fisheries, explore opportunities for livelihood enhancement, and address challenges related to resource management, market access, climate resilience, and social protection. The outcomes will directly contribute to the formulation of a national roadmap for the NPOA-SSF aligned with the FAO SSF Guidelines and strengthen Sri Lanka's commitment to sustainable and inclusive fisheries management within the framework of the BOBP-IGO and FAO regional cooperation platforms.

Specific Objectives

The workshop will:

1. **Understanding the national policy and vision for fisheries sector** and the need for NPOA-SSF
2. **Introduce the NPOA-SSF concept, process, and objectives** aligned with FAO SSF Guidelines and regional commitments under BOBP-IGO and BOBLME.
3. **Facilitate breakout sessions for key SSF stakeholder groups** (sectoral -marine, inland; regional, etc) to discuss specific challenges, needs, and expectations.
4. **Build awareness among stakeholders of Sri Lanka's commitment to sustainable SSF** and its role as a regional exemplar in the Bay of Bengal region and globally with FAO support.
5. **Collect and consolidate preliminary inputs** to shape the structure, priorities, and institutional arrangements for the national NPOA-SSF process.
6. **Enable cross-sectoral networking and partnership strengthening** between government, SSF communities (including women and marginalized groups), and technical agencies.



Expected Outputs

By the end of the workshop:

- **Strengthens Sri Lanka's commitment** in sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region and globally, showcasing her inclusivity in SSF governance to FAO and regional partners.
- **Ensures broad-based, inclusive consultation and ownership** of the NPOA-SSF process by representing diverse ecological and socio-economic sub-sectors within Sri Lankan fisheries.
- **Creates stronger networks and collaboration channels** among SSF stakeholders from government, communities, civil society, and technical agencies, key for successful implementation of the NPOA and broader fisheries development.
- **Enhances alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 14** and national priorities on food security, poverty alleviation, and climate-resilient fisheries livelihood strategies.

Participants

Workshop – 21-22 Nov 2025 (60-70 Nos)

(a) Two SSF representatives and one officer from each of 15 fisheries districts in Sri Lanka **(45)**

(b) National Fisheries Federation – **5 (1 officer 4 fishers)**

(c) Service sector associations / NGOs/ CBOs (boat builders; processors; export associations; central fish market; dry fish producers; **(10 Nos)**

(d) Facilitators: **5 (BOBP-IGO, NARA & Academia)**



Annotated Agenda

Coordinator : Dr. E. Vivekanandan, BOBP-IGO

Facilitator : Dr. Prabhath Jayasinghe & Mr. Maheepala, NARA

Day 1 (21 November 2025)

Time	Session / Activity	Details	Facilitation
09:00-09:30	Visit to Aqua Connect Expo	The expo showcases the Sri Lanka's fisheries, aquaculture, and ornamental fish industries while promoting sustainability, innovation, trade, and education	DFAR
09:30-10:00	Assemble for World Fisheries Day Celebrations		
10:00-11:15	World Fisheries Day Celebrations Inauguration of National Workshop	Remarks by BOBP, DAFR & Govt. of Sri Lanka Overview of NPOA-SSF, Sri Lanka's role and commitment	DFAR, BOBP
12:15-13:15	National Policy and Vision for Fisheries sector and need for NPOA-SSF	Presentation of national and sectoral fisheries policies and long-term vision	DAFR / Ministry
	Introduction to NPOA-SSF & SSF Guidelines	Overview on FAO's SSF Guidelines, global and regional context, emphasis on human rights, gender, and value chain	FAO
	EAFM as a guiding principle to NPOA-SSF	Overview of EAFM process and how NPOA SSF can contribute to its implementation	BOBP
	Q&A & Introduction to Breakout sessions	Clarifications, expectations from participants	Facilitator
13:15-14:00	Lunch at Workshop Venue		
14:00-14:20	Technical Deep Dive: Policy & Institutional Frameworks for SSF	Overview of national fisheries policies, legal frameworks, institutional gaps, social protection, and gender integration	DFAR / Ministry
14:20-15:00	Group Work #1: Sector-specific breakout sessions Two Concurrent Sessions Groups: (Each system Two groups, each containing 5 members) Marine / Inland – Riverine/Reservoir, and Lagoon SSF Theme - Overview of SSF Guidelines and local fisheries realities	1. Identify key livelihood and governance issues in small-scale fisheries (marine, lagoon, inland) 2. Discuss social, economic, and environmental challenges (access to resources, declining stocks, price, gender, and youth). Each group lists 5 major problems and 3 immediate needs. Output: Local Issues & Needs Sheet for NPOA situational analysis.	Group Facilitators (NARA/ BOBP)
15:00-15:30	Tea Break		



Time	Session / Activity	Details	Facilitation
15:30-16:30	Group Work #2: Theme - SSF Governance & Policy Coherence	Groups revisit & Discuss 1. Map how decisions are made locally (co-ops, DFAR, NAQDA, divisional level). 2. Discuss tenure rights, licensing, and conflicts between small- and large-scale fishers. Identify gaps in institutional coordination (DFAR–NARA–NAQDA–Coops–Local Gov). Output: Governance & Institutional Reform Proposals for NPOA.	Group Facilitators
16:30-17:30	Plenary Presentations and Discussions	Groups present their key discussion points	Group Presentation

Day 2 (22 November 2025)

Time	Session / Activity	Details	Facilitation
09:00-09:20	Recap & Reflections on Day 1	Synthesis of key findings, setting agenda for day 2	Facilitator
09:20-10:15	Group Work #3: Theme: SSF – Gender & Value Chain	1. Identify actions to empower women and youth in leadership and decision-making. 2. Identify opportunities for value addition, eco-labeling, and cooperative marketing. 3. Discuss employment role in processing, trading, decision-making, and employment related to fishing operations Output: Gender responsiveness & Market Access Action Matrix.	Group Facilitators
10:15-10:30	Presentation: Best Practices & Lessons from Existing NPOA-SSF Initiatives	Case studies from Sri Lanka & other countries	FAO / SRL expert
10:00-11:00	Group Work #4: Regional & Cross-cutting Theme: SSF Guidelines Ch. 8 & 9; Social development & Climate Change	1. Assess income sources, market linkages, inputs of fishing operations and employment conditions. Discuss climate impacts (storms, salinity, disease, coastal erosion) and local coping practices. 2. Propose adaptation strategies (early-warning, mangrove restoration, insurance, climate-smart gears). Output: Livelihood Improvement & Climate-Resilient Action Plan for NPOA.	Group Facilitators
1100-1115	Tea Break		

Time	Session / Activity	Details	Facilitation
11:15-12:00	Drafting the Workshop Outcome Document	Participants collaborate to create a summary report outlining priorities, next steps, and linkage to regional workshop	Group work
12:00-12:30	National workshop members are taken to the Lotus Tower for the Joint Plenary		DFAR / NARA
12:30-13:00	Plenary Session	Fisher Representatives Discuss with NTF Members	FAO/BOBP/NARA
13:00-13:15	Closing Session	Next Steps	DFAR
13:15-14:00	Lunch Break		
Visit to Exhibition and Interactions			



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