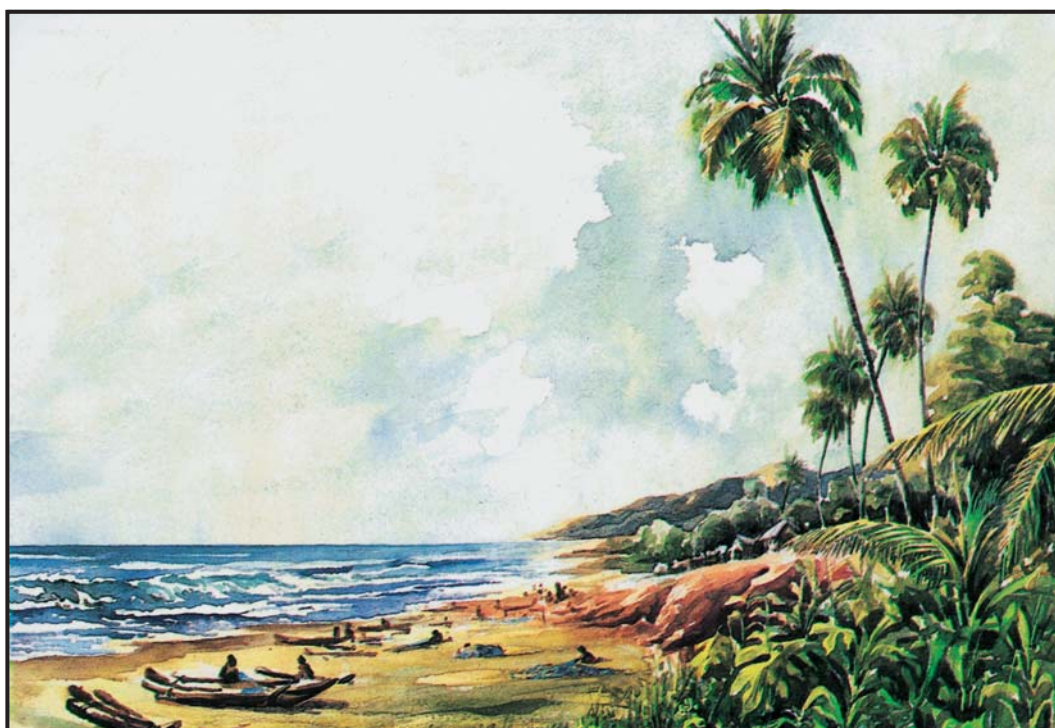


Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council



**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

22 - 23 June 2011
Malé, Maldives

This document records the report of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). The meeting was held on 22-23 June 2011 in Malé, Maldives.

The document contains a Progress Report of the BOBP-IGO for the period April 2010 - March 2011 and Workplan for the period April 2011 - March 2012. It also contains the Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO held in New Delhi, India on 20-21 April 2011.

The Governing Council is set up as per Article 8 of the Agreement on the Institutionalisation of the BOBP-IGO. It is composed of representatives of member-countries. The Council usually meets once a year by rotation in the member-countries. Non-member Governments, Organisations and Institutions that are able to make significant contributions to the activities of the BOBP-IGO are invited to be represented at sessions of the Governing Council as observers.

The BOBP-IGO presently covers four countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka). Its objectives are to enhance cooperation among member-countries, other countries and organisations in the region and provide technical and management advisory services for sustainable coastal fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal region.

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Delegates and guests at the Inaugural Session of GCM-7

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM-7) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in Bandos Island Resort (North Malé Atoll), Maldives on 22 – 23 June 2011. The GCM-7 was attended by representatives of the four member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka), delegates from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and the Secretariat staff of the BOBP-IGO. The list of delegates is attached as *Appendix A*.

2.0 The Inaugural Session of the Meeting began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Hon'ble (Dr) Mohamed Ali, Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and chaired the Inaugural Session. Hon'ble (Dr) Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture; Hon'ble (Dr) Aminath Shafia, Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture and Dr Abdulla Naseer, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MoFA) also graced the occasion along with the senior officials from MoFA, Ministry of Defence and National Security, Ministry of Transport and Communication, Ministry of Housing and Environment and representatives from the High Commissions of India, Sri Lanka and the United Nations Development Programme.

3.0 Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO, welcomed the delegates and the dignitaries on behalf of the BOBP-IGO and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Maldives for making excellent arrangements for the Meeting. He said that the meeting of the Governing Council was being held in Malé for the second time, the first meeting being held in the year 2007 (GCM-3). Dr Yadava said that almost 99 percent of the fishers in the region are small-scale and have their own set of characteristics, requirements and priorities and developing fisheries in the region would much depend on the efficacy of addressing issues related to small-scale fishers. He said that there has been considerable improvement in fisheries management in the region. However, the BOBP-IGO member-countries are facing newer challenges from changing climate, fisheries trade and securing livelihoods of their fishers and urged the countries for collective action in addressing their common issues. Dr Yadava said that during the last meeting of the Governing Council in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the Organisation developed its Strategic Plan of Action, 2010-14 (SPA: 2010-14) and the current year was spent on laying the foundation for the activities proposed in the SPA: 2010-14. The SPA: 2010-14 is expected to address many issues mentioned above in a collective and holistic manner.

Dr Yadava placed on record his gratitude to Dr Ali for sparing his valuable time to grace the Inaugural Session. He thanked the representatives from the member-countries, the observers from FAO, SACEP and SEAFDEC for attending the GCM-7 and the guests for participating in the Inaugural Session and for their support to the Organisation.

4.0 Dr Mohamed Shiham Adam, Director General, Marine Research Center, Government of Maldives extended a hearty welcome to the delegates and the dignitaries present in the Inaugural Session. He commended the good progress made by BOBP-IGO in addressing issues related to marine fisheries, especially in improving safety at sea for marine fishers; assisting member-countries in implementing FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the national and regional plans of action for conservation of sharks and hilsa fisheries and in building national capacities in fisheries management. He attributed the achievements of the Organisation to its knowledge of the region accrued over three decades of presence in the region and the dynamic leadership and staff of the Secretariat. Dr Adam said that the meetings of the Governing Council were meant for evaluating the performance of the Organisation in the preceding year and also to provide guidance and directions for future work. He hoped that the delegates would be forthcoming with their evaluation and suggestions to further improve the performance of the Organisation. In conclusion, Dr Adam thanked the dignitaries and delegates for marking the occasion and wished the delegates a pleasant stay in the Maldives.

5.0 In his inaugural address, Dr Ali extended a warm welcome to the delegates. He said that he was happy to take part in the Inaugural Session of the GCM-7 of the BOBP-IGO. Dr Ali said that the Organisation is very

important as it caters to a very large segment of the global fisher population. Referring to the myriad of environmental and managerial issues unique to the region, Dr Ali said that the Bay of Bengal is the only sea in the world which is closed on one side and the events taking place in the Bay are very different from the rest of the oceans.

“The BOBP-IGO is an effective regional fisheries advisory body and I’m highly impressed with the work done so far by the Organisation in promoting cooperation amongst the member-countries and with other countries and organizations in the region and outside. The region is represented mostly by small-scale fishers and hence the Organisation is actually addressing the issues of livelihoods. However, the marine waters of the countries are inter-connected and no one country can address its problems alone. The ‘Large Marine Ecosystem’ approach adopted by the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project is the way forward to address these issues”, said Dr Ali. Welcoming the ongoing process of dialogue on the scope of BOBP-IGO as a regional fisheries management organisation, Dr Ali said that there was a need to include other countries of the Bay of Bengal region in the Organisation as then it would be more effective in addressing regional issues and also inherit the institutional structure aimed at in the BOBLME Project.

Drawing attention to the increasing pollution of the oceanic waters, Dr Ali said that the Bay and its adjacent waters formed an important channel for international shipping traffic. However, such traffic often led to oil spills and other environmental hazards. In addition, there were instances of pollution from land-based sources. He said that there was no effective mechanism in the region to tackle pollution of marine waters, which is a serious threat to the flora and fauna of the Bay. He called for increasing cooperation between SACEP and the BOBP-IGO to address the larger environmental issues such as oil spills. He said that SACEP was conceived to address such issues. However, the activities of SACEP were now limited and the two organizations should work together to implement the environmental agenda of the region. Dr Ali hoped that the GCM-7 will be effective in discussing important issues and charting the way forward for the Organisation. Wishing the meeting every success and the delegates a pleasant stay in Maldives, he declared the meeting open.

6.0 Mr Hussain Sinan, Senior Research Officer, MoFA proposed the vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to Dr Ali for gracing the occasion and for his thought provoking inaugural address. He thanked the BOBP-IGO Secretariat for coordinating and overseeing the meeting arrangements and working in tandem with the MoFA. Mr Sinan said that the organization of the GCM-7 needed huge efforts and guidance and thanked Dr Hassan and Dr Naseer for their zeal and directions to make the meeting a success. He thanked the MoFA staff for working tirelessly in organizing the meeting and hoped that the delegates would find the arrangements suitable. He thanked the guests for attending the Inaugural Session and wished the delegates a pleasant and enjoyable stay in Bandos Island Resort, Maldives.

Adoption of the Agenda

7.0 The Governing Council adopted the Agenda placed as *Appendix B*. The documents considered and reviewed by the Governing Council are listed at *Appendix C*.

8.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO presented the first Annual Report of the Organisation to Dr (Ms) Damitha de Zoysa, the current chair of the Governing Council. The Governing Council during its Sixth Meeting had directed the Secretariat to publish an Annual Report chronicling the activities conducted by the Organisation during the year. Accordingly, the first Annual Report was published for the year 2010 – 11. The chair complimented the Secretariat for bringing out an excellent Annual Report and hoped that the document would be circulated to all concerned in the region and outside.

9.0 The chair opened the Session for the election of new chairperson for GCM-7. India proposed the name of Maldives to chair GCM-7, which was seconded by Bangladesh and was unanimously agreed upon.

10.0 Dr Zoysa in her closing remarks complimented the Secretariat for rendering valuable services to the member-countries and hoped that it would reach new heights of excellence in the coming years. She wished Dr Adam, the newly elected chair a successful term.

11.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO thanked the outgoing chairperson for her dynamic leadership and accessibility. He said that whenever there was a need, Dr Zoysa gave time for the activities of the Organisation. Dr Yadava also welcomed the new chairperson of the Governing Council. Appreciating the leadership provided by Dr Zoysa to the BOBP-IGO during her tenure as chairperson, India moved a resolution to record her contributions and support to the Organisation, which was unanimously agreed upon.

12.0 In his introductory remarks, Dr Adam placed on record his appreciation for the leadership provided by Sri Lanka during the GCM-6 and thanked the delegates for choosing Maldives as the new chair. He said that he would try to carry forward the work done so far by the Organisation and also make efforts for taking it to new heights. Dr Adam requested the Director, BOBP-IGO to present the Report of the Organisation for the period 01 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

13.0 The Secretariat presented a detailed report on the status of fisheries resources in the region followed by a report on the activities carried out during 2010 – 2011. The Report is attached as **Appendix D (Part A & B)**.

Report on the status of marine fisheries in the region

14.0 Presenting the country-wise fish landing data, Director, BOBP-IGO said that there was an overall increase in production in the region during 2000 – 09, although the production had slowed down as compared to the previous decade (1990 – 99). He said that this declining growth rate was due to slowing down of production in Maldives and Sri Lanka and the marginal increase in India. In case of Bangladesh, the near doubling of production during the period could be contributed to increasing effort and area of operation.

“One of the weakest links in the fisheries management systems of the region is the structural weaknesses and capacity gaps in fisheries information system. Owing to this, a sizable part of the catch is usually clubbed as ‘marine fishes’ and the composition is not recorded, especially in case of low value species. As a result, it is becoming difficult to measure the actual levels of exploitation of various species with certainty”, said Dr Yadava. Lack of information on fishing effort and its distribution in the marine waters has further compounded the problem.

Dr Yadava highlighted the need for carrying out comprehensive reviews on ‘small-scale and artisanal’ fisheries sectors in the region. He said that globally, there was a renewed interest to address the problems of the small-scale fisheries and since the small-scale fisheries is assuming significance in other international bodies such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) also, it would be useful for the BOBP-IGO member-countries to understand the nature of small-scale fisheries within their own settings and charting out their future role in the overall fisheries management structures.

15.0 Initiating discussions on the status of marine fisheries in the region, India enquired about the reliability of the data. Sharing the same concern, the Sri Lankan delegate said that in recent years there was considerable increase in production, especially from the offshore fisheries.

16.0 The Secretariat said that the data presented were official data for the period 2000-2009. However, bearing in mind that there were structural weaknesses in the data collection mechanism, the information could be termed as inadequate. The Secretariat also informed that the magnitude of production could be viewed with the quality of fish landings and there were increasing incidences of fishing down the food chain, which was a sign of worry.

17.0 The Governing Council shared the concerns of the Secretariat on the small-scale fisheries and congratulated it for highlighting the need for regional cooperation in better understanding the dynamics of small-scale fisheries.

18.0 India welcomed the proposal of defining the attributes and priorities of small-scale fisheries in the region. Maldives said that the developed countries, through a set of market-related measures were imposing standards on small-scale fisheries, which might not be suitable for the region. Sharing the concerns, India referred to the continuous efforts in various rounds of negotiations in the WTO to define small-scale fisheries. Since small-scale fisheries were exempted from some trade regulations and enjoyed benefits like subsidies, the



Inaugural Session in progress

developed countries were trying to promote their trade interests by defining the small-scale fisheries in a manner suitable for them.

Sri Lanka highlighted the discussions in the recently concluded session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) in Colombo and said that the developing countries were often in disadvantageous positions considering the instruments proposed in such negotiations. Bangladesh said that small-scale fisheries lacked resources to adhere to standards proposed by the developed countries, which were based on their own attributes. The country delegations further referred to the proposed international instrument on small-scale fisheries being developed by the FAO and agreed that the instrument might play an important role in fisheries trade and management policies in the coming years and it was essential for the BOBP-IGO member-countries to ensure that their concerns were adequately addressed while developing such an instrument.

Report of the BOBP-IGO (April 2010 - March 2011)

19.0 The Director presented an activity matrix of the Programmes undertaken by the Secretariat during April 2010 – March 2011 as per the work programme endorsed by the Governing Council at its Sixth Meeting (GCM-6) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The activities undertaken broadly aimed at building capacity in the member-countries; improving management of fisheries resources and fish stocks shared in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the member-countries and Myanmar; improving safety at sea for small-scale fisheries and promoting regional cooperation. The summary of the status of activities approved by the Governing Council and undertaken by the Secretariat during 2010 – 11 is placed in *Appendix E*. In addition, the Organisation worked on preparing documents for the first meeting of the Technical Committee on Regional Fisheries Management Organization (TC-RFMO). The year was also used as a preparatory year for implementation of the SPA: 2010 – 14 and institutionalizing a flagship Regional Training Programme on Strengthening of Fisheries Statistics in the member-countries. Besides, the Organisation successfully conducted an international donor workshop on safety at sea for small-scale fisheries, to shape the way for future activities on safety at sea in the region.

20.0 The Director said that one of the major activities of the year was the first meeting of the TC-RFMO on the need and scope of an RFMO in the Bay of Bengal region and the suitability of the BOBP-IGO in this regard. Presenting the outcome of the meeting, he informed that while the TC agreed on the need of an RFMO for the region in view of its ecological integrity and the suitability of the BOBP-IGO in this regard, it was apprehensive about balancing the present activities of the Organisation with the activities expected from an RFMO, which would be basically of managerial nature. The TC also enquired about the resources required for such an RFMO in terms of finance and manpower. Based on the above considerations, the TC suggested convening another meeting in early 2011. However, the meeting would now be convened in the second half of 2011 due to some unavoidable reasons.

Another major achievement during the reporting year was organizing the International Workshop on Safety and Health of Fishing Communities in the Bay of Bengal. The Workshop, organized in collaboration with FAO and the Alaska Pacific Regional Office of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (APRO/NIOSH), US Centers for Disease Control and Preventions, brought together countries, stakeholders, implementing agencies, donors and service providers to address the crucial safety and health issues of small-scale fishers in the region. The major outcome of the Workshop was ‘Mahabalipuram Declaration’ which re-emphasized on the need of addressing the safety at sea issues on urgent basis and called for cooperation between the countries and the organizations to address these issues.

The Director presented an innovative interactive map developed by the Organisation for fish markets in Chennai, India. The map once fully functional would act as a gateway for policy makers and consumers to get information on fish markets, trade and other relevant information for the city of Chennai. The map would also be useful for traders to manage their supply chain. Demonstrating the map, which has been hosted on the website of BOBP-IGO (www.bobpigo.org), the Director said that such maps would be developed for one major city each in Bangladesh (Dhaka), Maldives (Malé) and Sri Lanka (Colombo) subsequently.

The Director said that apart from these activities, the Secretariat had assisted the member-countries in raising their concerns during the meetings of the FAO Committee on Fisheries and the IOTC.

21.0 Initiating discussions on the report, the chair complimented the Organisation for making significant contributions during the year and then opened the Report for discussions.

22.0 Congratulating the Secretariat for its valuable services to the Government of Bangladesh during the year, the delegate informed that the proposal developed by the Secretariat for registration and licensing of fishing vessels in Bangladesh and introduction of indemnity programme was very useful and his Government would like the BOBP-IGO to take part in discussions with the donor agencies to fund a possible registration programme, which would also include indemnity scheme for the marine fisher population in Bangladesh.

23.0 India complimented the Secretariat for the activities carried out during the year and enquired whether mapping of fish markets could be extended to other major Indian cities too. The Secretariat informed that it did plan to cover other major cities of India, but funding was a constraint. In this regard, the Indian delegation suggested that the Government of India could consider funding BOBP-IGO for covering other major cities of the country. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh enquired when this programme would be initiated in their countries. The Secretariat informed that the preliminary work for mapping fish markets in Colombo, Malé and Dhaka would be initiated during 2011 – 12 and would be completed by 2012 – 13.

24.0 The Governing Council reviewed the suggestion of the TC-RFMO on the need and scope of an RFMO in the Bay of Bengal region and the suitability of the BOBP-IGO in this regard. The Governing Council suggested that the cost and benefits of the proposal should be considered from all possible angles, including enhancement of the country contributions to cover the additional requirements of the Organisation. The GCM-7 further recommended that the TC-RFMO should also consider extending the scope of the geographical limits of the Organisation from the present confines of the Bay to the entire oceanic area under the sovereignty of the member-countries, subject to the condition that the services provided to the Bay of Bengal are not diluted. The Governing Council further agreed to the following:

- The Second Meeting of the TC-RFMO would be held in India in the first week of September 2011 subject to the confirmation of the exact dates by the chairperson of the TC-RFMO and the venue by the Government of India.
- The member-countries would depute senior policy makers to the meeting.
- The BOBLME Project would be invited to attend the Second meeting of the TC-RFMO.
- The Director, BOBP-IGO will prepare a concept paper on this issue and circulate it to the member-countries prior to the meeting.

25.0 The Governing Council accepted the Report of the Secretariat on the activities carried out for the period April 2010 – March 2011 and appreciated the performance of the Secretariat during the year.

Report on the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

26.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO presented the Report of the Sixth Meeting of the TAC (TAC-6) held in New Delhi, India on 20 – 21 April, 2011. The Report is placed as *Appendix F*.

27.0 The Director informed the Governing Council that TAC-6 reviewed the activities carried out by the Secretariat during April 2010 to March 2011 and expressed its satisfaction over the status of implementation of the programmes. He said that TAC-6 was happy over the progress in developing an RFMO for the region and reiterated its support for the BOBP-IGO to take the role. In addition, the Government of Sri Lanka issued a statement during the meeting supporting the initiative and identifying BOBP-IGO as a suitable organization to play the role.

28.0 The Director said that one of the important agenda of the TAC-6 was fostering regional cooperation in research and meeting the scientific requirements of the BOBP-IGO through dedicated programmes to be carried out by the fisheries research institutes. In this regard, the TAC-6 suggested developing a code for fostering cooperation in research, which has now been placed as an agenda before the GCM-7. The TAC-6 also suggested evaluating the scope of extending the activities of the Organisation to the west coast of India and to place the proposal before the GCM-7 for its consideration.

29.0 The Director informed that while preparing the Work Plan of the Organisation for the period April 2011 – March 2012, the TAC-6 considered a presentation from the BOBLME Project and noted the common areas of interest of both the Organisations. The TAC-6 suggested a close cooperation between the BOBP-IGO and BOBLME and emphasized on building synergies so that duplication of work could be avoided.

30.0 The GCM-7 accepted the suggestions of the TAC-6 and said that the issues addressed by the TAC-6 would be further discussed during the meeting.

Formalization of cooperation between BOBP-IGO and Fisheries Research Institutes in the Region

31.0 The Secretariat presented a proposal on 'Formalization of cooperation between BOBP-IGO and Fisheries Research Institutes in the region'. The proposal is given in *Appendix G*

32.0 The Director said that in recent years there is an increasing demand on the Secretariat to provide management inputs to its member-countries. To develop such inputs, rigorous scientific research is necessary, which is not a part of its mandate. The Organisation has rather used research findings from institutions within and outside the region to further its developmental agenda.

However, the Secretariat was facing constraint in respect of quality research inputs to develop and deliver its management services to the member-countries due to divergence in priorities and restricted research activities within the national boundaries. Therefore, it is suggested that member-countries may consider directing their research institutes to allocate a portion of their resources (in terms of manpower and finance) to research activities prioritized by the member-countries keeping in mind their fisheries management needs and the shared nature of the Bay.

In addition, the existing relationship between the TAC constituents (the four identified research institutions in the member-countries) and the BOBP-IGO has been unidirectional- from TAC to the Secretariat. For accelerating the growth of the Organisation it was necessary that this relationship be of a symbiotic nature, where each can access other's resources. The Secretariat proposed that a Regional Conference might be convened to discuss these issues and arrive at some solutions.

33.0 The Governing Council considered the proposal to strengthen the relationship between the Secretariat and the fisheries research institutes in the member-countries and agreed that the present working arrangements were not conducive for the BOBP-IGO to discharge its responsibilities. The GCM-7 further agreed that there is



The GCM in progress

lack of in-country mechanism to align the activities of the fisheries research institutes to meet the information and developmental needs of the BOBP-IGO. In this regard, the Governing Council agreed for the following:

- To organize a Regional Conference involving the TAC constituents, other important fisheries research institutes and policy makers to develop a code for alignment of research activities keeping in view the policy and developmental needs of the member-countries.
- To enhance cooperation among fisheries research institutions in the region through collaborative programmes that would meet the broader objectives of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the region.

Extending the activities of the BOBP-IGO to the west coast of India

34.0 Presenting the views of the Secretariat on this issue raised in TAC-6, the Director said that the genesis of the Organisation has been on the basis of an exclusive marine ecosystem (Bay of Bengal), with set boundaries and a mandate of cooperation between countries sharing the same ecosystem. The west coast States/Union Territories (UTs) of India (Kerala, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep), as they are located on the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, are outside the geographical boundaries of the Bay of Bengal and have different socio-ecological requirements. However, any effort to develop marine fisheries sector in the country would not become national unless all the coastal States/UTs were involved. The Secretariat suggested that the capacity-building activities of the Organisation might be extended to the west coast of India subject to additional funding. The proposal is presented in *Appendix H*.

35.0 Clarifying the position of the Government of India on this issue, the Indian delegate said that the proposal was not from the Government, but was from other stakeholders as they have seen the fruits of the work carried out by the Organization on the east coast of India and felt that similar inputs were missing for the west coast States/UTs. India further clarified that although the proposal was not from the Government, it still recognizes the need for bringing the west coast of India under the umbrella of BOBP-IGO to ensure that India, like the other member-countries, is represented as a whole in the Organisation.

36.0 On this issue, Bangladesh enquired whether such extension would affect the focus of the Organisation in Bay of Bengal region, which is a unique ecosystem. The Secretariat said that extending the activities of the Organisation to the Arabian Sea would certainly increase the work load on the Secretariat. Further, such extension to cover the western Indian Ocean would theoretically also increase the possibility of inclusion of the rim-countries of the Arabian Sea and the Western Indian Ocean in the Organisation, which might subsequently affect its focus on the Bay of Bengal.

37.0 The Governing Council enquired about the domain of the activities of the Organisation in other member-countries, especially for the region not falling under the Bay of Bengal. The Secretariat clarified that only Bangladesh has its entire oceanic area within the Bay of Bengal while parts of Sri Lanka and Maldives are adjacent to the Indian Ocean. However, while signing the IGO Agreement in 2003, the entire oceanic areas of Sri Lanka and Maldives were considered, while only the east coast of India was taken into account due to its sheer size and socio-ecological complexities. The Governing Council further enquired about the pros and cons of developing the Organisation as an ecosystem-based organization, as it is now, or developing it as a regional fisheries advisory body for the South Asian region.

38.0 While agreeing with the concerns of other member-countries on the issue and also appreciating the funds constraint of the Organisation, India suggested that the Organisation might undertake project-based activities in the west coast States/UTs of India, subject to additional activity-related funding support from the Government of India.

39.0 The Governing Council agreed that while the larger issue of expanding the full scope of the Organisation to cover the entire oceanic area under the sovereignty of the member-countries would be considered by the TC set up for the RFMO related matters, the more urgent needs of the west coast States/UTs of India in respect of capacity building, training and information dissemination would be met by the Secretariat, with specific activity-related funding by the Government of India.

Statement from Observers

40.0 Dr Chris O'Brien, Regional Coordinator, BOBLME Project (and representing FAO) congratulated the Secretariat for the work done during 2010 – 11. He said that the four member-countries of the BOBP-IGO were also part of the BOBLME and hence activities of the Organisation were very important for his Project too. Detailing the work undertaken by the BOBLME Project during 2010, Dr O'Brien said that to date the Project has completed several major reviews, which include identifying priority water-related issues affecting the Bay of Bengal and their causes; best practices in integrated coastal management; synergies and gaps in resource management policies in the BOBLME countries; and the status of the marine protected areas. It has also undertaken a major assessment of the status and management of small pelagic fisheries-focusing on hilsa and Indian mackerel. Dr O'Brien informed that both BOBLME and BOBP-IGO were in constant touch to coordinate each other's work programmes and hoped that the collaboration would continue during this year also.

41.0 Ms Nishanthi M P Perera, Programme Officer, SACEP said that the emergence of SACEP in 1982 marked a new era in the history of South Asia, as for the first time the countries of the region came together to form its foremost inter-governmental organization. She said that presently SACEP is undertaking activities to address the recommendations of the 12th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP and the 4th Inter-Ministerial Meeting of SAS Programme including programmes on biodiversity conservation; management of natural disasters; adoption to climate change; database on natural resources; management of marine and coastal protected areas and revising the South Asian Seas Action Plan to cater to the emerging regional and global trends and needs. Ms Perera said that in SACEP's revised mission statement, the development of partnerships is recognized as an intrinsic aspect of the Organization's mandate and it has taken measures to expand its partner network and delineated the areas where BOBP-IGO and the SACEP could work together. The full text of her statement is given in *Appendix I*.

42.0 Dr Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary General of SEAFDEC thanked the BOBP-IGO for inviting his Organization to the GCM-7 and congratulated the Secretariat for successful conduct of its activities. He said that SEAFDEC has been supporting relevant fisheries activities in the Bay of Bengal area for its member-countries and was also cooperating with the BOBLME Project in implementation of its activities. He appreciated the experience gained by SEAFDEC from BOBP-IGO's work on safety at sea. The Secretary General also informed that SEAFDEC is planning to assist Bangladesh to assess its fisheries resources by deputing the research vessel M.V. SEAFDEC in Bangladesh waters, at the request of the Government of Bangladesh. He said that SEAFDEC has been for long time involved in planning fisheries management and the lessons learned will be beneficial for the BOBP-IGO member-countries to develop their national fisheries management plans. Extending support to the BOBP-IGO, the Secretary General said that cooperation between the two Organizations would be valuable for all the countries in the region. Dr Pongsri's statement is given in *Appendix J*.

43.0 The Governing Council thanked the partner Organizations for their participation in GCM-7 and suggested that the Secretariat work in tandem with these Organizations to draw upon their expertise that would be of use to the BOBP-IGO member-countries.

On the issue of regional collaboration, the Governing Council also discussed the issue of BOBP-IGO's participation in the meetings of the IOTC and resolved that the IOTC would be urged through communications from the current chair and members of the Governing Council to invite BOBP-IGO in the annual sessions of the IOTC.

Presentation of Programme and Activities for the year April 2011 – March 2012

44.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, presented the proposed programme and activities for the period April 2011 – March 2012 for review and approval of the Governing Council. The Governing Council agreed to the Work Programme and the Plan, which conformed to the approved Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) 2010 – 14 of the Organisation. Besides, the following additional activities were also agreed for implementation:

- Capacity development in the member-countries to include formulation of management plans for other commercially important fisheries such as groupers, sea cucumber, yellowfin tuna, etc.

- Increasing efforts in creating awareness amongst stakeholders on the need for resource management.
- Keeping in view the urgent need to strengthen the information base and build in-house capacity to collect, collate and analyze fisheries data, the training programme on strengthening of fisheries information base should also be conducted for fisheries professionals from the member-countries. This would facilitate in creation of a critical mass of trainers in each member-country and such trainers would further conduct regular training for their field staff engaged in data collection.
- Appreciating the contributions of the Secretariat in providing inputs to the agenda of international fisheries and related meetings held from time to time, the Secretariat would also prepare views on the agenda items of the 30th Session of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries, which is scheduled during July 2012. Such views would be circulated to the member-countries in advance for taking common stand on issues that are important for the region. To facilitate this, the Secretariat may organize consultation(s) to adopt common stand and if necessary may also consider convening a meeting.

45.0 The Governing Council re-emphasized on the need for the BOBLME Project and the BOBP-IGO to work in close cooperation and that their relationship should be formalized to achieve greater synergy. In this regard, the Governing Council also suggested that there should be no duplication of efforts by the BOBLME and the BOBP-IGO in their work programmes and that the funds should be utilized in the most cost-effective manner.

46.0 The Work Plan for the period April 2011 – March 2012 is presented as *Appendix K*.

Administrative Matters

Auditor's report

47.0 The GCM-7 accepted the report of the External Auditors of the BOBP-IGO on the accounts of the Organisation for the period January – December 2010 and directed that in future the Audit Report may separately indicate the interest accrued by the Organisation on the funds held by it.

Review of employment conditions of the Secretariat Staff

48.0 The Secretariat placed a proposal for reviewing the pay scale and allowances of the Secretariat Staff, which was not revised since 2003. The Governing Council considered the proposal of the Secretariat to enhance the pay scales of the Professional and General Duty Staff and the allowances admissible to them. In view of the satisfactory performance of the Secretariat, the Governing Council agreed for a 30 percent raise in the salary for both categories of staff and increase in the allowances as proposed in the document placed in *Annexure L*.

49.0 The Governing Council considered the proposal of the Secretariat to review the employment conditions with respect to promotion of staff as presented in *Annexure M*. The GCM-7 agreed to the proposal with the following changes:

- Promotion from Level 1 to Level 2 in case of Professional Staff and General Duty Staff will be admissible after completion of five (05) years of satisfactory service.
- This service would include the period spent by the staff member in any capacity as a Professional or a General Duty Staff, as the case may be, in the Organisation.
- The Governing Council further agreed to the proposal of providing increment to the staff who have reached the end of their salary scale on *pro rata* basis.
- With regard to the Performance Report of the Staff, the Governing Council directed that such reports will be maintained by the Director and will be used for consideration of clearance of probationary period and subsequent promotions from one level to another.

Appointment of Fisheries Resources Officer

50.0 The Director informed the GCM-7 that on the directions of the Governing Council during its Sixth Meeting, the Secretariat invited applications for the post of Fisheries Resource Officer (Level 2: Professional duty). After following due procedures for screening of the applications and interviews, Dr Md Sharif Uddin, presently Assistant Director in the Marine Fisheries Office, Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh was selected for the post.

Other matters

Review of contributions of member-countries

51.0 The Governing Council considered the suggestion from the Secretariat to review the annual contributions of the member-countries. The Director informed that the country contributions were determined in 2000 during institutionalization of the BOBP as an IGO and were agreed while signing of the BOBP-IGO Agreement in April 2003. However, since 2003 the activities of the Organisation and its involvement in the member-countries have increased many folds. While initially the activities were largely limited to capacity building and information dissemination, later at the behest of the member-countries the activities have expanded to fisheries resource management, safety at sea for small-scale fisheries and food safety. Since 2008, the Organisation is also providing assistance to the member-countries in trade related issues and consolidating their position in international fora. The Organisation has now emerged as a trusted institution for the member-countries. Resultantly, it is expected that scope of the work of the Organisation will increase further in the coming years.

At the same time, the cost of communication, transportation, compensation paid to staff and consultants, the cost of printing and other day-to-day services has nearly tripled. In view of this, the Organisation is finding increasingly difficult to maintain and expand its core activities within the existing member-country contributions.

52.0 The Governing Council agreed that due to inflation and the increasing activities of the Organisation, the availability of funds with the Secretariat in real terms had declined substantially. The member-country contributions that were agreed while institutionalizing the BOBP into an IGO in April 2003 were inadequate to meet the present requirements of the Organisation. In this regard, the Governing Council resolved to agree to increase the present rate of the country contributions by 25 percent, subject to the approval of their respective Governments.

Date and Place of the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council

53.0 The Governing Council accepted the kind offer of the delegation of Bangladesh to host the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council during mid- 2012, subject to the approval of the Government of Bangladesh. The date and venue would be decided by the Secretariat in consultation with the Government of Bangladesh.

Adoption of the Report

54.0 In adopting the Report, the Governing Council expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of Maldives for the generous hospitality accorded to the members of the Governing Council.

55.0 The chairperson in his concluding remarks appreciated the active participation of the delegates and declared the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council closed.

56.0 The Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council was adopted on 23 June 2011.

* * *



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Agenda and Timetable

Wednesday, 22 June 2011

Morning, 0900 hrs

1. Registration
2. Inauguration of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting
4. Election of the Chairperson
5. Release of the Annual Report, 2010-2011 of the BOBP-IGO
6. Report on BOBP-IGO Activities for the Period April 2010 - March 2011
7. Presentation of the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of BOBP-IGO
8. Presentation of the Report of the First Meeting of the Technical Committee set up to consider Establishment of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization in the Bay of Bengal

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

9. Proposed Work Programme and Activities: April 2011 - March 2012
10. Administrative Matters

Thursday, 23 June 2011

Morning, 1000 hrs

11. Any Other Matter
12. Date and Place of the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council
13. Adoption of the Report
14. Close of Meeting

* * *

List of Documents

A. Working Documents:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/WP1</i> | Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/WP2</i> | Annual Report of BOBP-IGO, 2010 – 11. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/WP3</i> | Report on the Activities of the BOBP-IGO (<i>April 2010 – March 2011</i>). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/WP4</i> | Report on the performance of the BOBP-IGO Staff (<i>April 2010 – March 2011</i>). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/WP5</i> | Report of the First Meeting of the Technical Committee for setting up of the RFMO. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/WP6</i> | Need for formalization of cooperation between the BOBP-IGO and Fisheries Research Institutions in the Region. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/WP7</i> | Proposed Work Programme and Activities: <i>April 2011 – March 2012</i> . |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/WP8</i> | Administrative Matters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Report of the Auditors.</i> b. <i>Review of Employment Conditions of the Secretariat Staff – Salary and Allowances.</i> c. <i>Review of Employment Conditions of the Secretariat Staff – Promotions.</i> d. <i>Appointment to the post of Fisheries Resource Officer.</i> e. <i>Other Administrative Matters.</i> |

B. Information Documents:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.1</i> | Provisional List of Documents. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.2</i> | Tentative Programme. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.3</i> | Provisional List of Participants. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.4</i> | Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, New Delhi, India, 20 – 21 April 2011. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.5</i> | Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 15 – 16 July 2010. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.6</i> | Report of the Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Indonesia. Report of Phase Three, 02 – 06 March 2010. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.7</i> | Report of the Third Regional Training Course on CCRF. Chennai/ Mumbai, India, 20 June – 03 July 2010. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.8</i> | Report of the BOBLME Regional TDA Consultation Planning Workshop. Bangkok, Thailand, 24 – 25 August 2010. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.9</i> | Training Manual on the construction of FRP beach landing boats (BOBP/REP/119). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.10</i> | Guide to simple repair of FRP boats in a tropical climate (BOBP/MAG/27). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.11</i> | Report of the Workshop on Improving Communication Skills in Fisheries, Chennai, India, 25 – 26 October 2010. |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.12</i> | Report on the Modernization of the Existing Old Fish Market on Dycus Road in Nellore City, Andhra Pradesh. November, 2010. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.13</i> | Report of the International Workshop on Safety at Sea, 13 – 14 December, 2010, Mahabalipuram, India. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.14</i> | National Stakeholder Consultation on Safety at Sea for Small- scale Fishermen in Bangladesh, 19 December 2010, Chittagong, Bangladesh. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.15</i> | Booklet on Pearl Culture (in Divehi language). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.16</i> | 2011 Calendar of BOBP-IGO (Fishing Crafts of the Bay of Bengal). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.17</i> | Forms for reporting fishing-related accidents at sea. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.18</i> | Report on the Suitability of Mudasalodai Fish Landing Centre and Annankoil Beach Landing Site in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu for Implementing Integrated Seafood Quality Improvement Programme, January 2011. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.19</i> | Interactive Map of Fish Markets in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India (Draft version). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.20</i> | CCRF Concise Version (in Malayalam language). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.21</i> | CCRF Technical Guideline (No.11) on Responsible Fish Trade (in Tamil language). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.22</i> | CCRF Technical Guideline (No. 4 Suppl. 3) Fisheries management. Managing fishing capacity (in Tamil language). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.23</i> | Poster on Maintaining Marine Aquarium. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.24</i> | Poster on Maintaining Freshwater Aquarium. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.25</i> | Poster on Common Reef Fishery Species of the Maldives (excluding Serranidae Family). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.26</i> | Registration Form. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/Inf.27</i> | Provisional Itinerary of Delegates. |

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**Report on the Activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme
Inter-Governmental Organisation
(April 2010 – March 2011)**

Part A: Status of marine fisheries in the BOBP region

1.0 Trends in capture fisheries production

1.1 The BOBP region, for the purpose of this report, is defined as the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the four member-countries of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), viz., Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka and the EEZ of Myanmar, which is working closely with the BOBP-IGO (Fig. 1). This area mostly falls under the FAO Statistical area 57 and to some extent in area 51 (as in the case of Maldives). Together, these countries have a jurisdiction over 2/3rd area of the Bay of Bengal.

1.2 The BOBP region is one of the most productive regions in the fisheries world and the capture fisheries production from the region is showing continuous growth. The marine capture fisheries production has increased by 16 percent between 2007 and 2009; from about 3.4 million tonnes to 4.0 million tonnes. Overall, since 1950, the marine capture fisheries production is showing a steady increase (Fig. 2). There also seems to be conspicuous shift in production as mean level of production increased markedly during early 1970s and early 2000s over the previous decades (Fig. 3). These shifts may be associated with introduction of new technologies and or increased levels of motorization/mechanization in the member-countries.

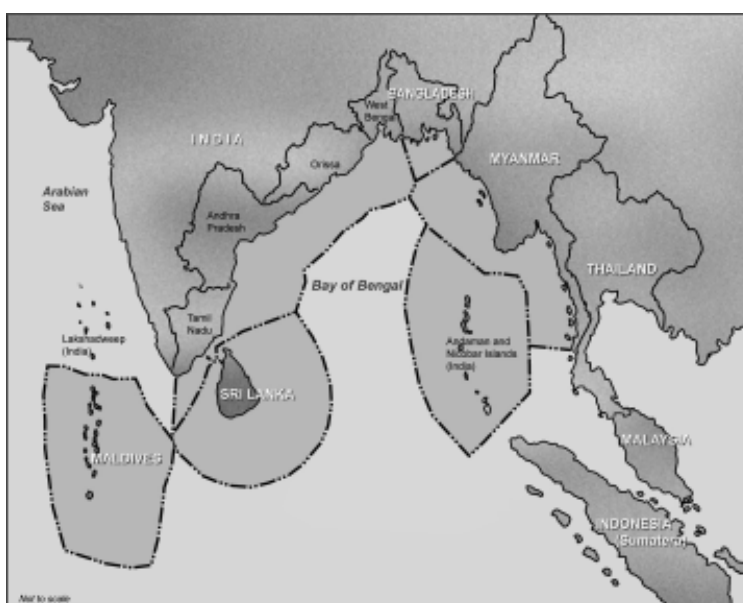


Figure 1: The BOBP region.

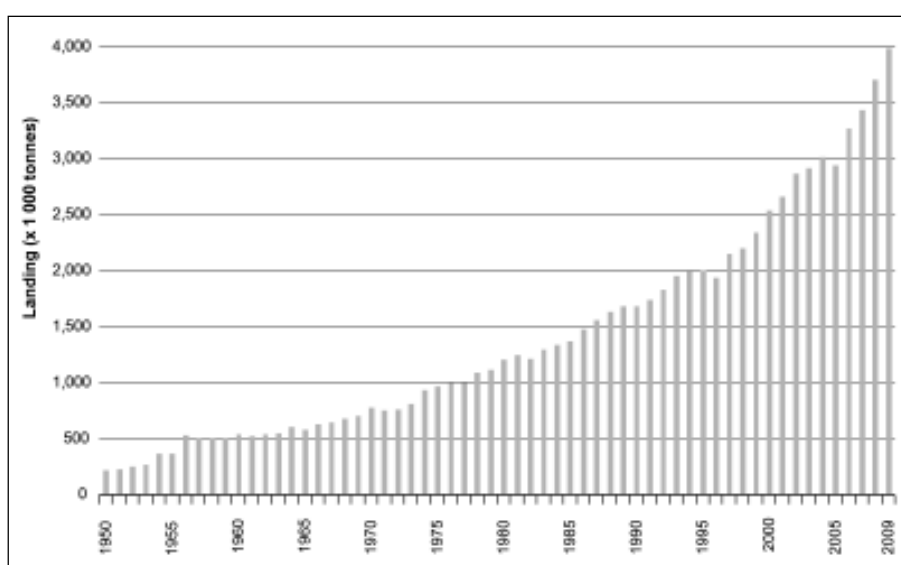


Figure 2: Growth in fish landings in BOBP region, 1950-2009.

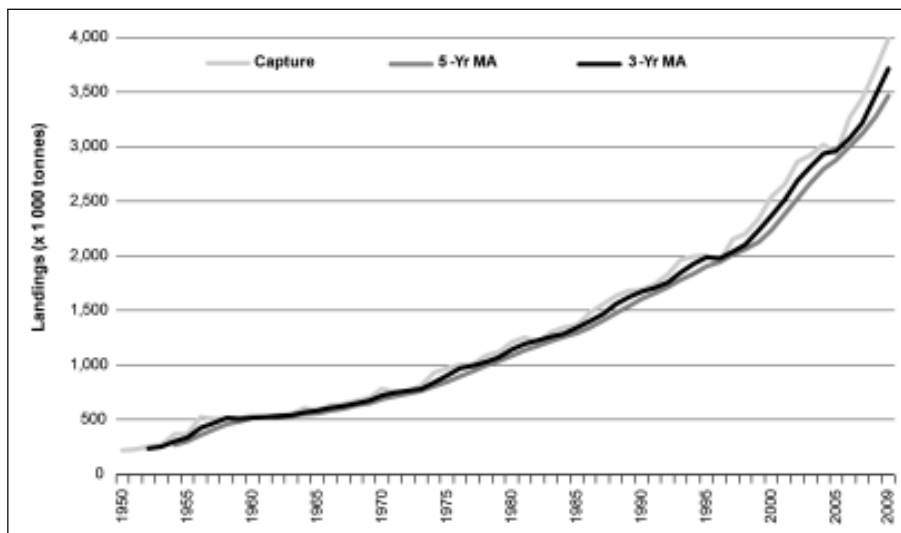


Figure 3: Actual and average capture production in BOBP region, 1950-2009.

1.3 In terms of individual countries, while all have experienced long-term growth during the period, landings from marine capture fisheries in Myanmar have shown remarkable increases since mid - 1990s and are still continuing. Capture fisheries production of Myanmar from eastern Indian Ocean, which was about one-half of production of India during 1990s has now overtaken India as the leading producer in the eastern Indian Ocean (Fig. 4). In Maldives, there has been a decline in tuna production in recent years. While at this point it is still uncertain whether this decline is resulting from stock dynamics or is an indication of stock depletion in the Indian Ocean. Since, tuna fishing is the main fishery of the country, such decline may have economic impact on the country. In this regard, Maldives has raised their concern with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and is working in close cooperation with IOTC to address the issue.

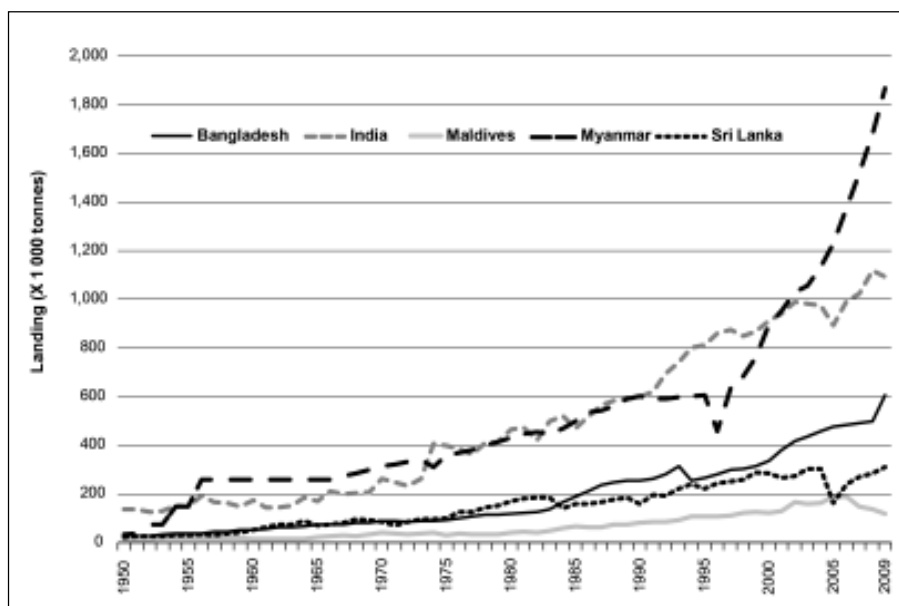


Figure 4: Growth in landings at country level in BOBP region, 1950-2009.

1.4 In terms of species composition, demersal fishery resources continue to dominate the landings, except for Maldives. However, as fishery has expanded beyond the traditional fishing grounds, the share of demersal resources in total landings of the countries has possibly declined. The trend shows that landings of crustaceans are increasing (Fig. 5 - on next page).

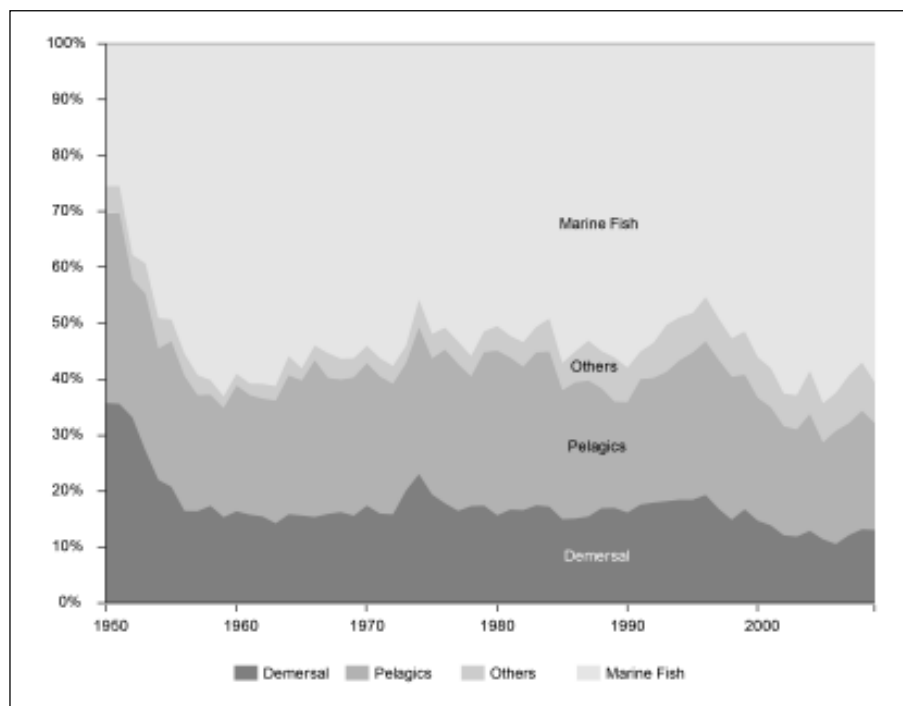


Figure 5: Species composition in landings in the BOBP region, 1950-2009.

Unidentified species

1.5 Fisheries catch statistics from the BOBP region comprise a large percentage of unidentified species in the total catch (Fig. 6). This seems to be a fall out of fisheries information system within the countries, which need a thorough review and capacity building. As per the prevailing system, usually detailed information is collected only for commercially important fisheries particular to a country while other low value fisheries are clubbed together. While this system makes sense from revenue collection perspective, but lack of detailed catch statistics is a major hindrance for moving towards an ecosystem-based fisheries management system. Especially, in a multi-species fisheries environment that characterizes the BOBP region, absence of information on commercially less important fisheries can lead to costly errors in judgment on the health of stocks and the ocean.

1.6 Some recent initiatives like introduction of logbooks for reef fishermen in Maldives are expected to address this problem to an extent. However, there is a dearth of taxonomists and trained reporters within the countries and this will create hurdles in their efforts to improve the fisheries statistics system within a medium-term of 5 years or so unless special drives to address the gaps in capacity are taken. A detailed species-wise catch statistics is also a primary necessity to track the impact of climate change on fisheries. Given these considerations, what is necessary is to value a species based on its position in the ecosystem rather than its commercial value. While such overhauling of fisheries information system seems to be cost-prohibitive, regional cooperation among research institutions in the region and regional grants and training programme in capacity building can reduce the cost of system overhauling to a large extent.

Utilization of fish

1.7 The supply of fish for human consumption is the single most utilization of fisheries production in the region and non-food uses of fish are still limited (Fig. 7). The per capita supply of fish from all sources has shown a steady increase during the last two decades (1990 – 2007). In the BOBP region, the potential of aquaculture is yet to be fully tapped. Aquaculture has mainly developed in India, Bangladesh and Myanmar and Sri Lanka and Maldives are taking measures to develop aquaculture. However, in terms of energy efficiency, aquaculture falls behind marine capture fisheries and hence capture fisheries is still of pivotal importance. During 1990 to 2007, the per capita supply of fish has increased from 5.54 kg to 9.13 kg, which is significantly

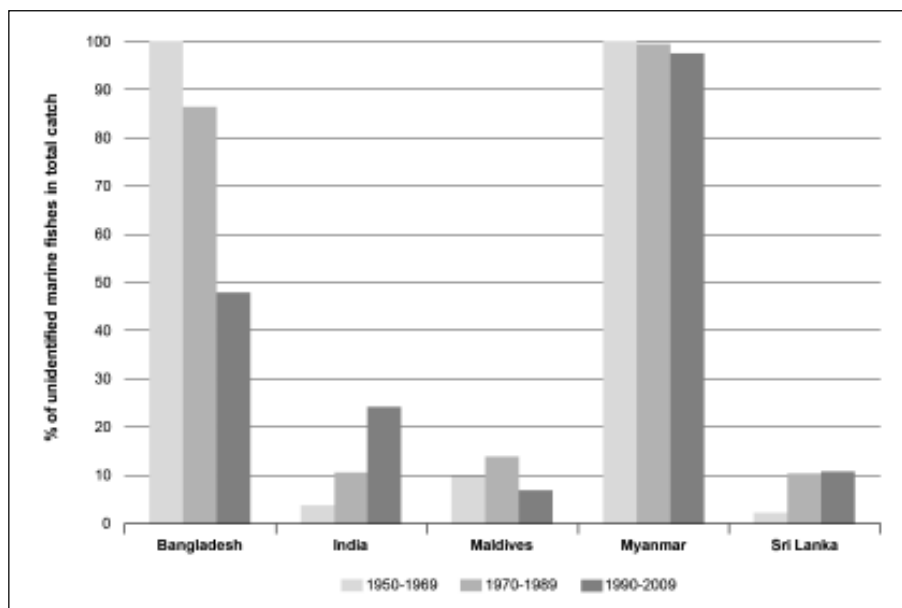


Figure 6: Proportion of unidentified marine fishes in reported catch, decadal average.

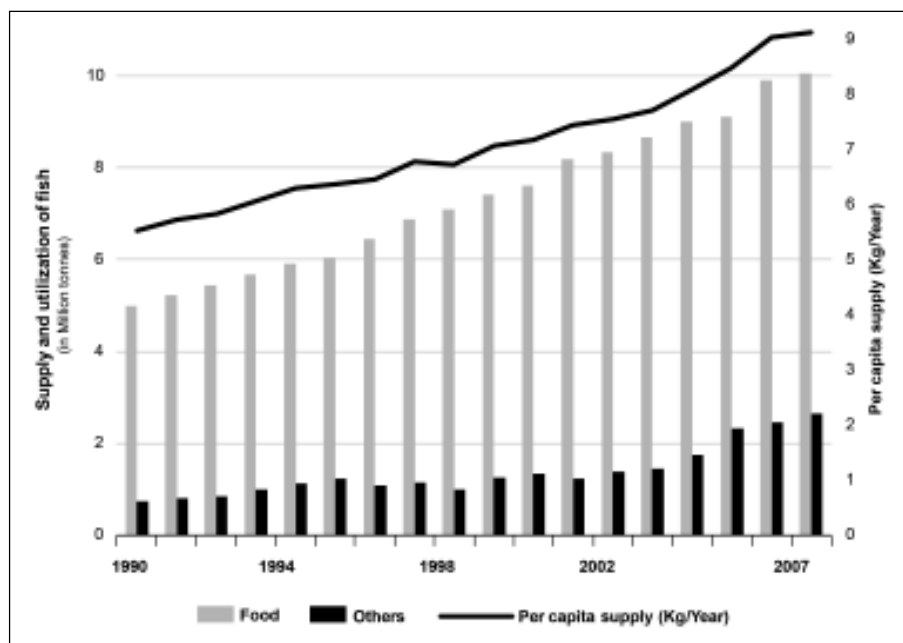


Figure 7: Utilization of fish, population growth and per capita supply of fish in the BOBP region, 1990-2007.

below the global average (17 kg in 2007). The prime reason for this low availability can be attributed to population growth, which to an extent offsets the growth in capture production in the region.

Wasted capacity

1.8 One of the looming problems in the marine capture fisheries of the region is the increasing unutilized capacity of the fishing fleet. Owing to a *de facto* open access regime, the number of fishing vessels has kept increasing, mostly in the < 20 m category. These vessels earlier fished in the coastal waters. However, as availability of catch in the coastal waters declined, they increased their capacity (increase in power or change of gear) to harvest the deep sea resources. The latest technology in this direction is the introduction of high power Chinese engines in India. A recent newspaper report shows that mechanised boats earlier using engines with power in the range 100 to 180 HP are now going for Chinese engines, which have power ranging from 300 to

440 HP. Trawlers using the former category of engines would haul nets at a speed of 2.5 nautical miles/hour. But boats using Chinese engines could haul nets at a speed of 4.5 nautical miles/hour. This has enabled such boats to engage in bottom, mid-sea and pelagic trawling at higher speed.

1.9 The motivation for using such technology largely stems from falling catch per unit of effort (CPUE) in the region. Studies from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka have indicated that CPUE is declining and return to capital and labour is also decreasing (Fig. 8 & Table 1). However, dealing with falling CPUE with more efficient technology is a self-destructive game, which will ultimately leave the oceans barren and dry.

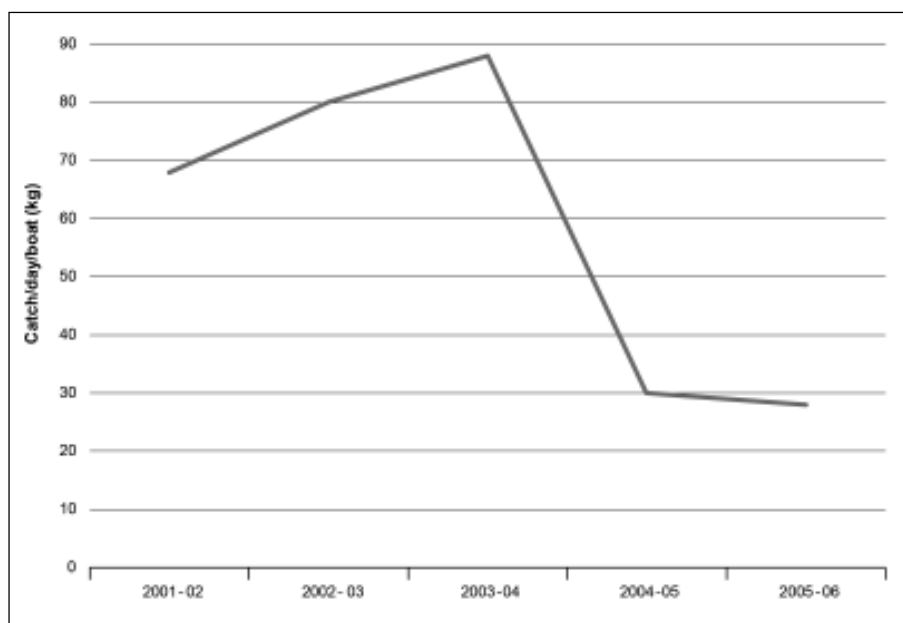


Figure 8: Landings from Rocket net in Chittagong, Bangladesh (Source: WorldFish Centre).

Table 1: Catch per Trip (CPUE) by Fishing Boat Type-Large Pelagic Fishery (Kg/trip)

| Craft Type | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 5.5-7.2 m FRP dinghy | 60.60 | 68.05 | 71.35 | 69.32 | 47.28 | 37.31 |
| 8.8-9.8 m FRP (operating in coastal waters) | 102.00 | 124.26 | 132.50 | 128.30 | 101.28 | 85.12 |
| 8.8-9.8 m FRP (operating in offshore waters) | 707.02 | 1 036.27 | 1 078.98 | 1 103.30 | 1 033.70 | 823.14 |
| 9.8-12.2 m. FRP | 2 315.05 | 3 266.59 | 2 449.50 | 1 814.30 | 1 763.60 | 1 554.5 |
| 12.2-15.2 m FRP | 4 647.54 | 6 070.75 | 4 007.40 | 4 027.10 | 3 784.20 | 3 212.7 |

Source: Large pelagic fishery database-MBRD/NARA.

1.10 In view of the prevailing situation in the BOBP region, it has become essential for fisheries managers and scientists to carry out comprehensive reviews on ‘small-scale and artisanal’ fisheries sector. Globally, there is also a renewed interest to address the problems of the small-scale fisheries. In the recently concluded 29th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, issues related to small-scale fisheries were discussed and debated at length. The debate moved in various directions such as promoting human rights in small-scale fisheries to defining small-scale fisheries to setting standards for this sector. The countries also discussed various modalities for instituting a regular programme for implementation by FAO and arrive at a consensus on an international instrument and a global assistance programme for small-scale fisheries. It was pointed out that the attributes of this sector are less technical in nature but more socio-economical, which also makes it unique from country to country.

1.11 These developments and also the fact that small-scale fisheries is assuming similar significance in other international bodies such as the World Trade Organization, it may be useful for the BOBP-IGO countries and Myanmar to understand the nature of the small-scale fisheries within their own settings. Such an understanding may include definition, scope of operations, legal and policy frameworks and other related parameters. At a later stage a regional approach to this issue might also be useful.

References:

Figures 2 to 6

FAO Fisheries Department. Fisheries Information, Data and Statistics Unit. FISHSTAT Plus. Universal Software for fishery statistical time series. Version 2.3.2000.

Calculations are those of authors.

Figure 7

FAOSTAT (Rome, Italy), 2011. Available online at <http://faostat.fao.org/site/291/default.aspx>.

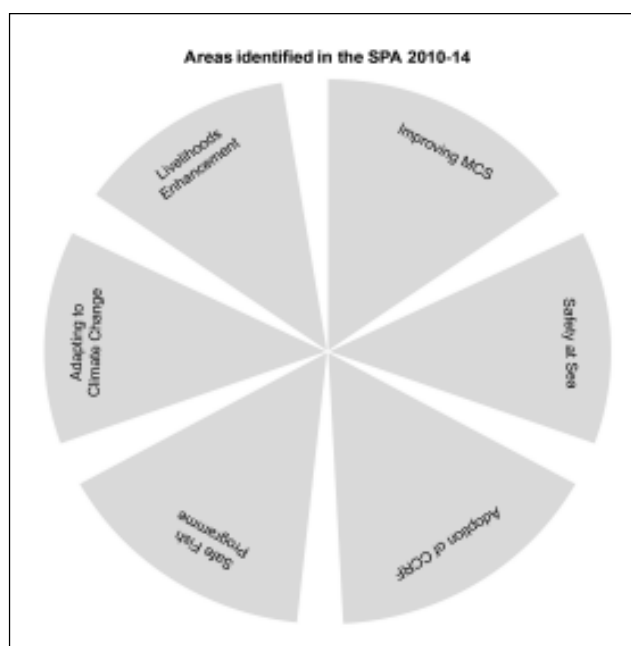
Part B. Report on the activities of the BOBP-IGO Secretariat

2.0 Activities in 2010-11

2.1 The BOBP-IGO formulated and adopted its 5-year Strategic Plan of Action (SPA: 2010-14) during the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM-6: Colombo, Sri Lanka: 15 – 16 July 2010). The SPA identified that in the coming years, the activities of the Organisation will be concentrated in six areas (see below) aimed at improving resource management, betterment of fisher's livelihoods, ensuring fair deal for consumers and dealing with the contemporary environmental challenges.

2.2 The GCM-6 also guided that the ongoing and future activities may be gradually tuned to the SPA: 2010 – 14. Based on this guidance, the activity plan for 2010 – 11 was prepared and executed. In terms of activities, the year 2010 – 11 can be termed as a bridging year and many activities have also been initiated during this year.

2.3 The major activities during this year include preparatory workshop on scope and modalities of forming a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) region; international workshop on safety at sea; training programme on the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF); preparatory activities for regional training course on strengthening of data collection and stock assessment; and development of programmes for improving hygiene and sanitation in small-scale fisheries



sector. In addition, the Secretariat participated and coordinated with the member-countries in development of policy and management aspects and in raising their issues in various international fora such as the 29th Session of the Committee on Fisheries of the FAO. As suggested during the previous GCMs, the Organisation is cooperating with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) to implement the work programme of the BOBLME. The BOBP-IGO was instrumental in organising the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) Planning Workshop of the BOBLME and presently cooperating with the BOBLME in organization of a bi-national workshop involving India and Sri Lanka on the Gulf of Mannar, scheduled to be held in mid - 2011.

2.4 On the flipside, these preparatory activities have taken more than the budgeted time of the Secretariat and some of the activities could not be implemented on the scale as they were planned.

2.5 Overall, this year can be termed as a watershed year for the BOBP-IGO. The Secretariat successfully implemented the agenda entrusted to it and the member-countries have shown their trust in the capabilities of the Organisation not only in the home ground but also in the international arena. However, the Secretariat is of the opinion that given the budget constraint, rising cost is limiting the scope of the Secretariat in carrying out more programmes in the member-countries. The Secretariat calls for cooperation from its member research organisations and other research organisations in the region to draw cooperative programmes, as resource constraint is not a problem for only one organization, but is a global problem, especially for those who are working in the public sector. The Secretariat is also of the firm opinion that pooling of resources is the best hope for the region.

3.0 First Meeting of the Technical Committee for Establishment of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the BoB Region

3.1 During the GCM-6 a Technical Committee (TC-RFMO) under the chairpersonship of Dr Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives was constituted to review the prospects of the proposal. The mandate of the TC-RFMO was to prepare a comprehensive report on the need and scope of the RFMO for the BoB Region and also involve concerned parties including the FAO and Myanmar to chart a roadmap in this regard.

3.2 The Secretariat with the help of fisheries experts prepared the background material for the TC-RFMO bringing out the ecologically integrated features of the region and the status of fish stocks shared by the countries, from which the need to form an RFMO arises. The Secretariat also chalked out the legal and administrative requirements to form such an RFMO.

3.3 The First Meeting of the TC-RFMO was held on 25 – 26 November, 2010 in Chennai, India. Senior country representatives from Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka attended. Delegates from Myanmar and FAO attended the TC-RFMO as observers along with the expert. During discussions the delegates agreed on the need for forming an RFMO. The TC-RFMO further concluded that BOBP-IGO having established itself as a trusted and efficient Regional Fishery Advisory Body is well placed to graduate as an RFMO.

3.4 The TC-RFMO was concerned about the resources that could be placed at the disposal of such an RFMO and was of the view that a hurried approach without ascertaining the availability of financial and human resources at the disposal of the BOBP-IGO may affect the existing functions of the BOBP-IGO, which are very important to its member-countries.

3.5 The TC-RFMO raised questions about non-performance of existing RFMOs and suggested that while there is no doubt about the need of an RFMO and suitability of the BOBP-IGO to become an RFMO, the Secretariat should explore and present its recommendations before the TC-RFMO during its second meeting delineating how the Organisation will maintain its current activities while taking additional responsibilities given the resource constraints. The TC-RFMO also agreed to explore alternative solutions in this regard such as increasing the financial contributions from the member-countries and allocating budget in the fisheries research entities (REs) of the member-countries to work closely with the BOBP-IGO Secretariat.

3.6 The TC-RFMO also enquired about the scientific capacity in the region, which is essential for building an RFMO. The TC-RFMO holds that the region has the capacity; however, establishing adequate linkages and networking of the institutions to work on regional issues could be the task in hand.

3.7 The Secretariat suggested that the leading REs of the region are already linked with the BOBP-IGO through its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); however, the level of cooperation can be improved to a large extent. The Secretariat pointed out that while most of the REs have collaborative projects with overseas REs, there are few examples of regional collaborative projects. Therefore, developing regional cooperative projects is important in view of the ecological integrity of the region.

3.8 The TC-RFMO also agreed to explore the possibility of establishing an RFMO outside the ambit of UN conventions and treaties. The TC-RFMO suggested that suitable modifications can be carried out within the BOBP-IGO Agreement in this regard. It further agreed that activities of the Organisation might be reorganised in view of funding limitations subject to the concurrence of the Governing Council. The TC-RFMO proposed to hold the second meeting of the Committee in 2011 with more information on cost and benefits of the decision to promote the BOBP-IGO as an RFMO. It was agreed that the meeting would be organised in Chennai, India.

4.0 Capacity building and information services

4.1 At the request of the Government of Bangladesh, the Secretariat prepared a detailed action plan for registration and licensing of fishing vessels in Bangladesh and introduction of indemnity programme for the fishermen. Registration and licensing of fishing vessels is a building block of fisheries management, and while there are repeated efforts from the Government of Bangladesh, a large number of fishing vessels in the country are still not registered. The action plan was prepared based on the lessons learned from the past drives, issues raised by the fishing vessel owners during the national stakeholder consultation for preparation of the National Plan of Action for implementation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Bangladesh and inputs from stakeholders during the ongoing Safety at Sea programme in the country. It is suggested that there are not enough incentives (both carrot and stick) for the fishing vessel owners to register their vessels and a programme was chalked out with in-built incentives to implement a registration drive.

4.2 At the request of the Government of India, the Secretariat prepared a status report on fisheries management in India, especially on the role of small-scale fisheries. The report was useful in various global fora to present India's views. The Organisation was also invited by the Government of India to provide expert inputs in the formulation of the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012 – 17) for the fisheries sector, which is now under process.

4.3 The BOBP-IGO, since its inception, is promoting the 1995 FAO CCRF and its Technical Guidelines (TGs) through publications, posters and training programmes. The 3rd Regional Training Course on the CCRF (3rd RTC-CCRF) was held during 20 June – 03 July 2010 in association with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai and the BOBLME. It is one-of-its-kind training programme for the junior and middle-level fisheries officials of the member-countries to understand the theory and practices for responsible fisheries governance in tune with the principles of CCRF. The 3rd RTC-CCRF was attended by 20 participants comprising four participants from each member-country and Myanmar. The BOBLME supported the participation of candidates from Myanmar. The first phase of the programme was organised in Chennai during 20 June – 24 June 2010 comprising introduction to CCRF and its technical aspects and field visits. In the second phase at CIFE (25 – 28 June 2010), the participants discussed about integrated coastal management, co-management and preparing reports on various aspects of fisheries management. In the final phase in Chennai (29 June – 3 July 2010), the participants were assigned the task of preparing hypothetical awareness campaigns on CCRF applicable to their respective settings.

In addition, continuing its activity of translating and publishing the CCRF and the TGs of the CCRF in vernacular, the Secretariat published TGs on Responsible Fish Trade and Fisheries Management- Managing Fishing Capacity in Tamil and the concise version of the CCRF in Malayalam language. The vernacular versions are useful for speedy dissemination of knowledge, especially at the grassroots level and in extension programmes. A set of TGs published during the period are placed on display. These TGs will be useful for the Indian State/Union Territory of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and Kerala and Tamil speaking areas in the northern and north-eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. The translation of the TGs in Dhivehi, Sinhalese and in Telugu (for the Indian east coast State of Andhra Pradesh) is in progress. Last year, the Organisation had printed a set of TGs in Bangla language and provided to the Government of Bangladesh (Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock) for distribution amongst the concerned stakeholders.

4.4 At the request of the Government of Maldives, a training programme for four officials of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives was organized in ‘Product Development and Quality Assurance’ at the National Institute of Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology and Training, Kochi, India from 19 June – 01 July 2010. The training included a range of topics covering both theory and practical and was very useful for the trainees. The Government of Maldives has requested for organization of more such training programmes for building the capacity of staff handling post-harvest and quality control matters.

4.5 The BOBP-IGO has assisted BOBLME in organizing the Regional TDA (Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis) Consultation Planning Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand from 24 – 25 August 2010. The Workshop was organised to develop national consultation roadmaps for validation of the TDA by the BOBLME Project countries and was attended by 32 participants representing the Project countries, FAO, experts and the BOBLME Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU). Following the Workshop, the Project countries developed the Terms of Reference for National Facilitators (or local facilitators in case of India) and list of stakeholders to be engaged in the national TDA consultations and also the roadmaps by each Project country for organising national stakeholder consultations to validate the TDA.

4.6 Communication and knowledge dissemination is an important activity for fisheries professionals. However, this important art is often overlooked in their trainings. Most common means of communication are meetings/workshops/seminars where stakeholders meet and exchange ideas. However, much of the success of these events is decided behind the scene. Ingredients, such as structured agenda and documentation, maintaining timing, ensuring participation of all participants, logistics, etc are quite important to make an event successful and productive. This area is a traditional forte of the BOBP-IGO. At the behest of the Fishery Survey of India (FSI), the BOBP-IGO organised a two-day Workshop on Improving Communication Skills in Fisheries in Chennai, India during 25 – 26 October 2010. 16 participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, FSI and the National Fisheries Development Board took part. The post-Workshop evaluation by the participants highlighted the success of the Workshop, which helped them in acquiring new skills in planning and implementation of such events, team building and other basic skills of effective communication and management. The Secretariat is willing to organize more such in-country workshops in the member-countries if required.

4.7 The year 2010 being the ‘International Year of Biodiversity’ was an important occasion for the BOBP-IGO. To mark the occasion, a one-day painting competition was organised for school children in Chittagong, Bangladesh on 18 December 2010. The theme of the contest was “Biodiversity is life. Save Biodiversity”. 95 students from different areas of Chittagong took part. The children during their preparation for the contest went through books on marine ecosystems, watched TV programmes, talked to their teachers and fisheries officials. Their subjects ranged from pollution to depiction of water world, to coastal eco-system to interactions between fishery and human beings. The participants told during the pre-contest discussions that the topic was new to them and they learned many things about marine biodiversity while preparing for the contest. The contest was held at two venues: Sitakund and Chittagong town. The BOBP-IGO in association with the Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh awarded certificates and cash prizes to successful candidates. The art works will also be useful for developing awareness material.

4.8* The BOBP-IGO has cooperated with the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Government of India to organize a two-day Regional Workshop “On Establishing a Cooperative Mechanism for Protection of Met-Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean Region” from 7 – 8 May 2011 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. The NIOT is the nodal agency for installing, maintaining and utilizing data buoys, which are an inseparable tool for climate research and early warning system. However, these data buoys are often damaged by fishermen, intentionally or not. These data buoys, being located in the Indian as well as in international waters, need regional cooperation for their effective protection. This vandalism of data buoys being a global phenomenon has attracted the attention of the United Nations and a resolution was passed calling for regional cooperation in their maintenance. Countries around the Bay: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated in the Workshop along with international bodies, fisher organizations and industry representatives.

4.9* Fisheries information is one of the weakest links in the fisheries management in the region. Taking note of this fact, the GCM-6 recommended the Secretariat to develop a training programme for fisheries officials

aiming at strengthening data collection and stock assessment. Accordingly, the BOBP-IGO has involved the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), a premier league fisheries research entity and the FSI, the nodal agency for keeping track of India's fishery resources, to provide cutting-edge training on stock assessment methodology, fisheries statistics and taxonomy. The Regional Training Course on Strengthening Fisheries Data Collection and Stock Assessment (RTC-SFDC) is aimed at junior and middle-level fisheries officials from the BOBP-IGO member-countries and Myanmar, working at the field-level in collection, collation and analysis of fisheries data. The objectives of the RTC-SFDC are (i) to train junior and middle-level fisheries officials on fisheries data collection, collation and analysis and survey-based stock assessment methodologies; (ii) to familiarize them with computer aided methodologies in resource assessment; (iii) to give first-hand experience in exploratory fish stock assessments and sampling at landing centres; and (iv) to enrich their overall knowledge on fisheries science. It is expected that after completion of the Training Course, the participants will be able to (i) understand the quality of fisheries information and information gaps in their own country; (ii) design sample surveys to collect fisheries data systematically and methodologically; (iii) familiarize with techniques to identify fin and shell fish species; and (iv) understand the requirements of fish stock surveys and their utility in resource assessment. The RTC-SFDC was conducted at the CMFRI campus in Kochi, Kerala, India from 25th April to 7th May 2011.

(The activities listed under paragraphs 4.8 and 4.9 above have although been undertaken during the period 2011 – 12 but they have been reported here since the preparatory works for implementing these two activities were undertaken during the year of reporting i.e. 2010 – 11).*

4.10 Under the Sub-programme component 'Improving Food Safety', the Secretariat, as a first step, has undertaken audio-visual documentation of the existing practices in post-capture handling of fish at various stages in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. The Secretariat is now in discussion with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), India in capacity building of the primary stakeholders in sanitation and hygiene from 'boat to plate'. The Secretariat has already carried out a rapid survey at two locations in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu to determine their suitability and has proposed preparation of a Detailed Project Report for carrying out the work. The lessons learned from the exercise will be helpful for advising other member-countries.

4.11 The Secretariat assisted the NFDB, Hyderabad in reviewing its work on modernization of the old Nellore Fish Market in Nellore City, Andhra Pradesh. A visit to the market was undertaken on 18 November 2010 and based on the visit and interactions with the engineers and other staff engaged in the construction of the market, detailed suggestions were provided to NFDB for incorporation at the construction stage. Discussions were also held with fisherwomen representatives who would be the main beneficiary of the new market.

4.12 The Secretariat has also undertaken a pilot-scale home project on mapping fish markets in Chennai. Under this exercise all the fish markets in Chennai (wholesale, retail and street corner type) were identified and baseline assessments were conducted. The objective of the baseline assessment was to get preliminary information on the number of sellers, types of fish handled, volume of sale and the state of infrastructure. So far 70 fish markets of various types have been identified, which is nearly double of what was received from the official documents maintained by the Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu, India. In addition, the programme also throws light on the product movement or supply chain for fisheries products in Chennai. This programme will be developed as a model to study the major fish trading centres in the member-countries and ultimately to delineate the fish supply chain and critical control points.

4.13 The Secretariat in association with the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka carried out an extensive photo and video-documentation of Fishing Harbours (FH) and Fish Landing Centres (FLCs) on 13 – 14 July 2010 and subsequently from 17 – 20 July 2010 in Sri Lanka. The facilities covered include FHs at Negombo and Chilaw located north of Colombo and FHs and FLC located at Beruwela, FLCs at Ambalangoda and Dodanduwa and FH at Hikkaduwa located south of Colombo. Besides, a couple of fishing villages located in Negombo and Beruwela were also covered to assess the facilities for landing of fish and its handling by the traditional fisher groups. The video-documentation is now under finalization.

5.0 Fisheries resource management

5.1 Pursuant to the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on ‘Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (RW-MCS) for Marine Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal’ held in Chittagong, Bangladesh on 16 – 18 January 2008, the BOBP-IGO had organised National Workshops in Bangladesh (June 2008), India (December 2008), Maldives (January 2009) and Sri Lanka (November 2009).

During the national workshops, countries developed their respective MCS National Plans of Action (NPOA) and the implementation is in progress. To review the progress a regional consultation on MCS will be organised in the later part of 2011. The Secretariat in this regard has initiated discussions with FAO for their participation in the second regional consultation, which will review the progress on the NPOA in the member-countries and also move towards a Regional Plan of Action on MCS.

5.2 The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka organized the first stakeholder meeting for preparation of the National Plan of Action for Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) at the Negombo District Fisheries Office, Negombo, Sri Lanka in July 2010. The main stakeholders who attended the meet included the multi-day fishers, skippers, shark fin processors, collectors, exporters, and Government Officials from the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Customs. In the case of India, it is planned to conduct two studies on major shark fishing groups located in the western State of Gujarat and in Toothkudi in Tamil Nadu. These studies are essential to plan for the NPOA-Sharks in India.

6.0 Improving safety at sea for small-scale fishers

6.1 The BOBP-IGO in cooperation with the FAO and the Alaska Pacific Regional Office of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (APRO/NIOSH) organised an International Workshop on Improving Safety and Health of Fishing Communities: A Bay of Bengal Initiative on 13 – 14 December 2010 in Mahabalipuram, India. The objective of the Workshop was to bring together representatives of key ministries of the countries in the BoB region, international experts in sea safety and potential investors and donors in communication and early-warning infrastructure to assist in creating the necessary social infrastructure for safety at sea (S@S). The Workshop also aimed at charting a path to carry forward the unfinished agenda under the Global Project on S@S executed by FAO and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The Workshop was attended by 56 delegates representing concerned ministries/departments of the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka; representatives from International Labour Organization (ILO); FAO; APRO/NIOSH; The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC); FAO-executed national fisheries programme in the region; international and national NGOs; industry and educational institutes. The major outcome of the Workshop was the ‘Mahabalipuram Declaration’ which seeks to address the S@S issues on an urgent basis through in-country efforts and cooperation from international organizations where needed. The Declaration also stressed on the role of women in fisheries and seeks to improve their working conditions as well as discourage child labour.

6.2 The BOBP-IGO in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Government of Bangladesh and the APRO/NIOSH organised a National Stakeholder Consultation (NSC) on 19 December 2010 in Chittagong on Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fishermen in Bangladesh. The objectives of the NSC were to ensure implementation of reporting of fishing related accidents at sea by the fishermen and boat owners; and to prepare the modalities for an indemnity programme for marine fishermen in Bangladesh. The NSC was attended by 34 participants representing fishermen and boat owner’s associations; NGOs; Officials of the MoFL and the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Government of Bangladesh; APRO/NIOSH; and BOBP-IGO. Post-presentations, the participants discussed the modalities of expanding the base of accident reporting scheme and implementation of an indemnity programme for fishermen. During the NSC, stakeholders pointed out that it was necessary to register and license all fishing vessels before accident-reporting could be proposed. There were also doubts whether a voluntary accident reporting scheme would be effective given the wide-spread illiteracy among fishermen in the country. It was suggested that accident-reporting may be initially limited to major accidents and later expanded to other accidents. It was pointed out that legal provisions already exist for reporting voyage plan by trawlers and the same could be extended to other categories of fishing vessels and the designated District Fishery Officers in the coastal districts could oversee the implementation.

On the Group Insurance Scheme, participants suggested that the groups could be based on fishing vessels and the boat owners may share the insurance premium. However, it was pointed out that the crew often moved from one boat to the other and hence implementation of vessel-based groups may not be practical. Participants were of the view that fishermen should contribute a portion of the premium as per their ability to pay. This way the fishermen would feel the ownership of the scheme and would also have a bigger voice in implementation of the scheme. It was decided that the Government would look forward for donor assistance while trying to initiate the scheme on a pilot-scale basis. For the purpose of group formation, fishermen would be educated through extension programmes and they would also be informed about the benefits of working in cooperative arrangements. As of now the MoFL is mulling over a registration and licensing drive for fishing vessels. As mentioned earlier (under para 4.1), the BOBP-IGO has prepared and submitted guidelines to MoFL for carrying out the registration and licensing on district by district basis.

6.3 To promote improved and safer design of traditional fishing craft, two FRP boats were constructed under the Global Project on Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries with improved design and new engine layouts. The two boats (IND 30 and IND 30A) were launched in June and July 2009 and provided to a fishing village about 60 km south of Chennai city (Devaneri Fishing Village, District Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu) for undertaking trials and reporting on their performance. During the year (from 11 – 14 August 2010 and 4 – 5 February 2011), additional trials were undertaken in cooperation with Mr Oyvind Gulbrandsen, FAO Consultant on ascertaining the modifications required in the boats. The trial period in Devaneri is now over and a future course of action is being discussed with the village Panchayat and FAO.

6.4 Dr Phillip D Somervell, Epidemiologist of APRO/NIOSH visited India and Sri Lanka from 26 April to 07 May 2010. The objective of the visit was to review the insurance data sets in India and establish modalities for accident reporting systems in India and Sri Lanka. Dr Somervell along with the Secretariat staff finalized the accident reporting forms for both the countries. It was agreed that the Indian form would constitute a part of the insurance claims filed by fishers/fisher families under the Group Accident Insurance Scheme implemented by the Government of India. In the case of Sri Lanka, it was agreed to include the accident reporting form with the log books that the fishermen in Sri Lanka are now required to submit to the Department of Fisheries after each fishing voyage.

6.5 Under the FAO/Sida Global Project on Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries, the BOBP-IGO published a Training Manual on Construction of FRP Beach Landing Boats (**BOBP/REP/119**) in collaboration with FAO/Sida and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). This Training Manual has been prepared and issued under the Joint IMO-FAO Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project in the Bay of Bengal Region with a focus on FRP boats (TC/0124, a sub-project of the FAO – Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries project – GCP/GLO/200/MUL). Copies have been distributed to large number of users within and outside the region.

The BOBP-IGO also published a ‘Guide to simple repair of FRP boats in a tropical climate’ (**MAG- 27**). This guide to simple repair of FRP boats was developed to address types of repair works that can be carried out by fishing boat owners or others who do not have the necessary expertise. A great deal of repair work is done by boat owners, including work that should have been carried out by FRP experts, because the owners might have difficulties in finding a skilled FRP boat builder or taking the boat to a boatyard for proper repair work. This booklet gives simple guidance to owners or laminators on how to carry out FRP repairs on the beach, the pitfalls and the do’s and don’ts. It also advises when a skilled FRP expert should be contacted. Copies have been distributed to large number of users within and outside the region.

6.6 The Secretariat is also pursuing collaboration with other regional organizations to build a regional platform for addressing safety at sea for small-scale fisheries and related issues. In this regard, initial dialogue is under progress with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The BOBP-IGO is also an important collaborator in the FAO website on Safety at Sea (<http://www.safety-for-fishermen.org/en/>).

6.7 The Secretariat has set up a web-based monitoring programme for fishing related accidents in the region. Under this programme an ‘alert’ has been created on fishing related accidents in the region. In addition, e-archives of national newspapers were searched to create a time-series data on accidents, with the larger objectives

of collating information from all sources on such accidents until a comprehensive mechanism is in place. The web-based monitoring has thrown up new issues which were not much highlighted during the pilot-scale programmes due to their localized nature. One such event is death of a large number of fishermen in Bangladesh every year due to tiger attacks in the Sundarbans mangrove forests. This event being specific to a particular region and particular type of fishing has not received much attention earlier.

7.0 Building regional network

7.1 The BOBP-IGO in tune with its mandate, is building a regional network for information exchange and collaborative research encompassing leading research and development institutes in the BoB region. At present data exchange and collaborative research is project-based, which may further expand by including other aspects such as management of fish stocks, trade and regional MCS activities.

8.0 Publications

8.1 A number of documents/publications were printed during the period under report. Apart from the publications, the BOBP-IGO's annual calendar is a much-awaited publication for the fisheries fraternity. The 2011 table calendar based on the theme 'Fishing Crafts of the Bay of Bengal' immortalized the kattumarams, teppas and masulas of India, the chandi boat of Bangladesh, the graceful oru of Sri Lanka and the dhoni of Maldives. This calendar provides glimpses into these crafts, which have been active for centuries and may well be around a few more. A list of the publications brought out during the year is given in *Annex 1*.

9.0 Information dissemination

9.1 The Organisation has set up a YouTube channel (BOBP-IGO) for sharing the videos archived by the Organisation. The channel was launched during the International Workshop on Safety at Sea in Mahabalipuram to advertise the programme. Subsequently, other videos such as engine maintenance videos from the archives were also uploaded. The channel is receiving regular clicks now, many of which are from outside the region.

9.2 The Organisation assisted the Marine Research Centre, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives in bringing out a booklet on 'Pearl Culture in Maldives' in Dhivehi language.

9.3 The visual archives of the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) and the present BOBP-IGO have been digitized to create a library in the electronic format. Over 50 000 visuals have been archived with details on their location, topic and other important features. Work has now been initiated to create an e-library of the images so that it can be placed in public domain.

9.4 The website of the Organisation (www.bobpigo.org) has also been updated to add more features such as webcasting, e-commerce, etc. The Organization regularly receives reprint orders and provides library services to host of organizations, research scholars, students and individuals from both within and outside the region. Besides, the Organization has provided set of publications (extra copies received from FAO and various other organizations on exchange basis or as gratis) to various fisheries organizations in India and to the National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering (NIFNE), Sri Lanka and the Marine Fisheries Training Centre, Villingili Island, Maldives.

10.0 Collaboration and support to organizations/individuals from member-countries/region/international fisheries organizations

10.1 The BOBP-IGO has assisted the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in implementing a Training Project on 'Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Asian Countries' since 2006. The Project concluded in July 2010 with the completion of the report preparation work in respect of Indonesia. The said report is placed for information.

10.2 The BOBP-IGO is associating with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in its Developing World Working Group (DWWG) to help MSC identify ways and means to promote participation of fisheries from the developing world in the certification programmes and enter such global markets where certified products are gaining more acceptance from the consumers.

10.3 Since 2007, the Secretariat has been providing placements for Summer Interns from local colleges/universities. Every year two students are admitted for a period of about 45 days during the summer months (May – June) and are assigned topics relating to the work programme of the Organisation. During 2010, two students worked on impact of trade regulations on fisheries trade in the region.

11.0 Participation in international activities to promote the causes of the BOBP-IGO Member-Countries

11.1 The Organisation was invited by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) as a core faculty to participate in the Second Regional Technical Workshop on Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Boats held at the Training Department (TD) of the SEAFDEC in Samut Prakarn, Thailand from 20 to 23 April 2010. The Workshop was organized as a sequel to the First Regional Workshop on Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Boats organized by SEAFDEC in December 2003.

11.2 The Secretariat participated in the Inception Workshop of the ‘Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Project (FIMSUL)’ Project implemented by the FAO in association with the Governments of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry on 20 May 2010 in Chennai, India. The FIMSUL Project, which is funded by the World Bank under its Trust Fund for Tsunami Recovery is an 18-month Project with the objective to support Tamil Nadu and Puducherry in South India to develop a viable policy framework, agreed among stakeholders, for achieving sustainable management of fisheries in the future.

11.3 The Secretariat participated in the 3rd Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) and 31st Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) of the FAO held in Jeju, Republic of Korea from 1 – 8 September 2010. The focus of the RCFM and the APFIC Session was on adopting Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the region. Besides, detailed discussions also took place on issues such as fisheries information, small-scale fisheries, climate change and controlling IUU fishing in the region. The BOBP-IGO proposed that regional fishery bodies in the region should work in close coordination to address these issues.

11.4 The Secretariat participated in the ‘Strategy Meeting on Reducing Vulnerability of Fishing and Fish Farming Communities to Natural Disasters and Climate Change’ and the ‘Regional Consultative Workshop on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fisheries and Social Development’ organized by the FAO at Bangkok, Thailand from 5 – 8 October 2010. The two meetings were organized to provide inputs to the agenda on small-scale fisheries to be taken up in the forthcoming 29th Session on the FAO’s Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

11.5 The Secretariat participated in the 29th Session of the COFI, which was held in FAO, Rome from 31 January – 04 February 2011. The Session was attended by 155 Members of the Committee; representatives from five specialized UN agencies and Observers from 64 Inter-governmental and International Non-governmental Organizations. The COFI *inter alia* discussed the progress in the implementation of the CCRF, including the IPOAs; progress made with regard to measures against IUU fishing, including Port State Measures, Flag State Performance, Market-related measures and Development of a Comprehensive Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels; Fisheries and aquaculture in our changing times: FAO’s role for improved integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection; and good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries: sharing of experiences and lessons learned in responsible fisheries for social and economic development. The Secretariat (represented by the Director) assisted the member-countries in presenting their views during discussions on the agenda items.

11.6 The Secretariat also participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN-3) (being the sixth meeting of regional fishery body secretariats), which was held at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 07 - 08 February 2011. Participants included representatives from 27 regional fishery body (RFB) Secretariats and four Inter-governmental Organizations. The RSN-3 discussed a range of issues pertinent to the scope and mandate of the RFBs and also the COFI -29 agenda items, which had reference to RFBs. The RSN also adopted a Statement expressing its concern about the allegations of anti-fishing lobbies in the press and some scientific journals that most RFBs are failing internationally in their efforts to effectively conserve and manage fisheries resources. Recognizing that challenges exist and there is room for further improvement in regional fisheries governance, the RSN elaborated why many of these condemnations are unjustified and

welcomed evaluation of their practices and encouraged communications and constructive comments. The BOBP-IGO (represented by its Director) was elected as the First vice-chair and Mr Kaitira Ibrahim Katonda, Director, Lake Tanganyika Authority as Second vice-chair of the RSN. Mr Andrew Wright, Executive Secretary, Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was acclaimed as chair of the RSN.

11.7 The Organisation was invited as a faculty to participate in the Third Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (3rd GEFTW), which was held in Maputo, Mozambique from 28 February – 5 March 2011. The 3rd GEFTW was organized by the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network and the FAO in collaboration with several other organizations/institutions. The participation helped the Secretariat in building up its contact for the MCS activities being pursued by the Organisation.

12.0 Other core activities

12.1 The Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC-5) of the BOBP-IGO was organized in Malé, Maldives from 2 – 3 June 2010. The TAC-5 was attended by representatives of the member-countries along with the Secretariat of the BOBP-IGO. The outcome of the TAC-5 is reflected in the report of the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council.

12.2 The Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM-6) of the BOBP-IGO was organized in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 15 – 16 July 2010. The GCM-6 was attended by representatives of the member-countries, delegates from Myanmar and FAO as observers along with the Secretariat of the BOBP-IGO.

13.0 Staffing

13.1 Presently, there are two professional staff (including the Director) and two general duty staff working in the Secretariat. Besides, a couple of consultants are engaged to assist in work related to safety at sea, survey of fish markets in Chennai and editorial tasks. Some of the consultants are hired on ‘when actually engaged’ (WAE) basis. The Organisation has also seconded one staff from the Government of Bangladesh to look after the safety at sea programme in Bangladesh. The Staff Position of the Organisation during April 2010 to March 2011 is given in *Annex 2*.

14.0 Suggested actions by the Governing Council

14.1 The Governing Council is invited to note the activities implemented by the Secretariat during the period April 2010 – March 2011 and consider them further under Agenda BOBP-IGO/GCM/2011/WP1. It may wish to highlight and suggest improvements for action of the Secretariat.

* * *



List of Publications of the BOBP-IGO: 2010-11

Reports

1. Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council, 15-16 July, 2010.
2. Report of the Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries, Chittagong, Bangladesh, 16-18 January 2008.
3. Report of the National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries- Maldives, Male, Maldives, 22-23 March 2009.
4. Report of the National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries – Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, 25-26 November 2009.
5. Report of the Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Indonesia (Phase Three), 2010.

Books/ Guides/Translations

6. Training Manual on the construction of FRP beach landing boats (BOBP/REP/119), 2010.
7. Guide to simple repair of FRP boats in a tropical climate (BOBP/MAG/27), 2010.
8. Pearl Culture (Dhivehi language), 2010.
9. CCRF Concise Version (in Malayalam language), 2010.
10. Responsible Fish Trade (CCRF TG No. 11) (Tamil version), 2010.
11. Fisheries Management: Managing fishing capacity (CCRF TG No 4. Supplement 3) (Tamil version), 2010.

Newsletter, Posters, Calendar, etc.

12. Maintaining Marine Aquarium (Poster), 2010.
13. Maintaining Freshwater Aquarium (Poster), 2010.
14. Common Reef Fishery Species of the Maldives (Poster), 2010.
15. Commercially Exploited Groupers of the Maldives (reprint), 2010.
16. Cetaceans of the Tropical Indian Ocean, 2010.
17. Fishing Craft of the Bay of Bengal (2011 Calendar), 2010.

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Staff position during April 2010 - March 2011

| # | Staff | Designation | Date (month/year) | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------|-----------|
| | | | Joining | Leaving |
| Professional | | | | |
| 1. | Y S Yadava | Director | 05/03 | Till date |
| 2. | R Mukherjee | Policy Analyst | 09/09 | Till date |
| General Duty | | | | |
| 3. | S Jayaraj | Publication Officer | 08/06 | Till date |
| 4. | V Srinivasan | Administrative Assistant | 08/06 | Till date |
| Consultants/Contract Assignments | | | | |
| 5. | M Paramasivam | Consultant | 05/05 | 10/10 |
| 6. | R Ponnuchamy | Consultant | 11/10 | Till date |
| 7. | S R Madhu | Consultant | WAE Basis | |
| 8. | Cheryl Verghese | Secretary | 01/08 | Till date |
| 9. | M Krishna Mohan | Secretary | 01/08 | Till date |
| 10. | M Sivakanth | Videographer | WAE Basis | |
| Seconded Staff from Member-Countries | | | | |
| 11. | Md Sharifuddin | Assistant Director Marine Fisheries Office, Chittagong, Bangladesh | 05/07 | Till date |

* When Actually Engaged

Status of regular activities carried out by the Secretariat, 2010-11

| Capacity building and information dissemination | Fisheries resource management | Improving safety at sea for small-scale fishers in the region |
|---|---|--|
| Completion (%) | | |
| 100 | 75 - 99 | 50 - 74 |
| Implementation of CCRF through training and publication and distribution of documents in vernacular. | Preparation of a Strategic Paper on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region. | Provision and analysis of data to identify the cause of accidents. |
| Developing a Regional Information Network including portals on hilsa and sharks. | Organisation of Regional Consultation on Monitoring, Control, Surveillance (including publication of national MCS Reports). | Education and training (including guidelines, posters, etc). |
| Capacity building in fisheries data collection and stock assessment and preparation of identification kits for reef and coastal fish species. | Preparation of Management Plans (Hilsa Fisheries). | Awareness building and outreach programmes. |
| Capacity building for improving food safety in marine fisheries in the member-countries. | Preparation of Management Plans (Shark Fisheries). | Technical support to member-countries to improve safety at sea. |
| Information dissemination through the Bay of Bengal News, reports and other publications. | Scoping study on tuna fisheries. | |
| Studies on alternative/additional livelihoods. | Scoping study on tiger shrimp brood stock management. | |
| Studies and orientation of stakeholders on impact of climate change on marine fisheries. | Regional Consultation for development of transboundary management units for shared fish stocks. | |
| Consultancy services to member-countries as and when required. | Stakeholder consultation on preparation of management plan for important national fisheries. | |



Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Sixth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC-6) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in New Delhi, India from 20-21 April 2011. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and an observer from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. List of delegates is attached as *Annex 1*.

2.0 The Inaugural Session began with the lighting of the *Traditional Lamp*. Mr Tarun Shridhar, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and Dr P Krishnaiah, Chief Executive, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Government of India attended the Inaugural Session.

3.0 Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO, welcomed the delegates and dignitaries on behalf of the Secretariat and expressed his gratitude to the Government of India for hosting the TAC-6. He said that the year 2010-11 was a watershed year for BOBP-IGO. The Organisation's Five-year Strategic Plan of Action (SPA: 2010-14) was approved by the Governing Council and the year was spent on laying the foundation for the activities under the Plan. Dr Yadava said that one of the major activities during the year was initiating a process to explore the suitability of the BOBP-IGO as a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO). Dr Yadava thanked the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for their inputs in preparation of the SPA: 2010 – 14 and hoped that detailed review of the activities of the Organisation by the TAC and their inputs will improve the delivery of the programmes further.

4.0 Dr K Vijayakumaran, representing India, greeted the delegates and wished them a pleasant stay in Delhi. He said that the Fifth Meeting of the TAC had recommended various initiatives aimed at building capacity in the region and was happy to note that the Secretariat had already developed them into functional work programmes. He said that the TAC has evolved as a platform for free exchange of ideas and hoped that like the previous meetings of the TAC, this meeting would also be fruitful and productive.

5.0 In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest, Mr Tarun Shridhar extended a hearty welcome to the delegates and expressed his happiness on participating in the Inaugural Session of the Sixth Meeting of the TAC. He said that the Bay of Bengal region is home to majority of small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries, which have unique characteristics. However, such unique characteristics and the aspirations of the region to develop its fisheries potential are often overlooked in international and regional fisheries fora, leading to policy measures that are often unfavourable for the countries in the region. He said that the BOBP-IGO, as a regional fisheries body, provides a unique forum for its members to freely raise their concerns and receive appropriate solutions for sustainable development of fisheries in the region.

Mr Shridhar said that the Governing Council has constituted a committee to explore the possibility of transforming the BOBP-IGO as an RFMO. At the first meeting of the committee, members were concerned on the possible shifting of the Organisation's focus from capacity building and human resources development to management of resources. However, in view of the increasing focus on fisheries management measures in international fora like the World Trade Organization (WTO), there may be a need to relook at the functions of the BOBP-IGO and strengthen its role with appropriate management functions. He said that the BOBP-IGO with its neutral status enjoys the trust of the member-countries, which makes its relevance in the region more important *vis-a-vis* other international and regional fisheries entities.

Appreciating the support provided by the Secretariat to the member-countries at the 29th Session of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries, Mr Shridhar said that safety at sea is an important issue for the well-being of fishers in the region. However, in the recent meeting of the COFI there was a proposal by FAO to de-prioritize the programmes on safety at sea. He said that the BOBP-IGO member-countries with the support of other like minded FAO member-States ensured that the safety at sea programmes were retained in the FAO's work programme.

Mr Shridhar also emphasized on improving synergies between BOBP-IGO and the Bay of Bengal Programme Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project. He said that both the Organizations have common agenda and should work together to address issues of common concern in the region. In conclusion he wished the delegates a pleasant stay in New Delhi and wished the meeting all success.

Adoption of the agenda and election of the chairperson

6.0 The TAC-6 adopted the agenda as shown in *Annex 2* and agreed on the arrangements for the meeting. The documents considered and reviewed by the TAC are listed as *Annex 3*.

7.0 Mr Hussain Sinan (Maldives), the present chairperson opened the floor for election of the new chairperson. The house unanimously elected Dr K Vijayakumaran (India) as the TAC-6 chair.

8.0 Mr Sinan in his concluding remarks appreciated the efforts of the BOBP-IGO Secretariat for the activities undertaken during the year 2010 – 2011 and wished the new chairperson a successful term.

9.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO thanked the outgoing chairperson for his contributions and welcomed the new chairperson of the TAC.

10.0 Dr Vijayakumaran thanked the delegates for choosing India to chair the TAC-6 and invited the BOBP-IGO Secretariat to present the report on the activities for the period April 2010 – March 2011.

11.0 The Secretariat presented a detailed report on the status of fisheries resources in the region followed by a report on the activities carried out during 2010 – 2011.

Status of marine fisheries in the BOBP region

12.0 In its report on the status of marine fisheries in the region, the Secretariat informed that the capture fisheries production from the BOBP region (comprising the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka and Myanmar) is showing continuous growth. Between 2007 and 2009, the marine capture fisheries production increased from about 3.4 million tonnes to 4.0 million tonnes (an increase of about 16%). In terms of individual countries, while all of them showed long-term growth during the period, landings from Myanmar showed considerable increases since mid-1990s, and Maldives is showing decline in production in recent years. In terms of species composition, demersal fishery resources continued to dominate the landings, except for Maldives. However, as fishery has expanded beyond traditional fishing grounds, the share of demersal resources in the total landings of the countries has possibly declined. In terms of fisheries information, the large percentage of unidentified species in reported catches is a worrying sign. As a result, it is becoming difficult to measure the actual levels of exploitation of various species with certainty.

The per capita supply of fish from all sources has shown a steady increase during the last two decades (1990 – 2007), although the region is lagging behind the global average. During 1990 to 2007, the per capita supply of fish from all sources has increased from 5.54 kg to 9.13 kg, which is significantly below the global average (17.0 kg in 2007). The prime reason for this low availability can be attributed to population growth, which to an extent offsets the growth in capture production in the region.

One of the looming problems in the marine capture fisheries of the region is the increasing unutilized capacity of the fishing fleet. Owing to a *de facto* open access regime, the number of fishing vessels has kept increasing, mostly in the < 20 m category. These vessels earlier fished in the coastal waters. However, as availability of catch in the coastal waters declined, they increased their capacity (increase in power or change of gear) to harvest the deeper waters. Despite such changes, studies from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka have indicated that the catch per unit effort (CPUE) is declining and return to capital and labour is also decreasing.

The report further highlighted the need for carrying out comprehensive reviews on ‘small-scale and artisanal’ fisheries sectors in the region. Globally, there is a renewed interest to address the problems of the small-scale fisheries and since the small-scale fisheries is assuming significance in other international bodies such as the WTO, it may be useful for the BOBP-IGO countries and Myanmar to understand the nature of the small-scale fisheries within their own settings and charting out their future role in fisheries management.

13.0 Initiating discussions on the presentation, India was of the view that increase in percentage of unidentified catch might be due to increase in the landings of trash fish species, which are usually clubbed together. Bangladesh

and Maldives shared the view. Maldives also informed that until 2009 reef fish was considered as trash fish and grouped into three categories for reporting. However, from 2010, logbooks were introduced for reef fishery as well and it would now cover the catch statistics of reef fishery at species level.

14.0 The Committee, however, felt the need to improve fisheries information and welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat in this regard. The Committee also agreed on the importance of small-scale fisheries in the region and for conducting a comprehensive review on their role in the rapidly changing international fisheries framework.

Report on BOBP-IGO activities

15.0 In the next part of the presentation (Part B of the Report), Director, BOBP-IGO presented a detailed account of the status of various activities undertaken by the Secretariat under the SPA: 2010 – 14 as approved by the Governing Council in its Sixth Meeting. Dr Yadava informed that during the reporting year, programmes were carried out on (i) capacity building and information dissemination; (ii) fisheries resource management and (iii) safety at sea for small-scale fishers. In addition, the Organisation also worked on preparing documents for the first meeting of the Technical Committee on RFMO. The year was also used as a preparatory year for implementation of the SPA: 2010 – 14 and institutionalizing a flagship Regional Training Programme on Strengthening of Fisheries Statistics in the member-countries. Besides, the Organisation successfully conducted an international donor workshop on safety at sea for small-scale fisheries to shape the way for future activities on safety at sea in the region.

Among other activities, the BOBP-IGO in association with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) developed an accident reporting format and identified suitable institutional mechanisms in India and Sri Lanka to introduce the reporting formats. These formats would be useful for collection, collation and analysis of data on accidents at sea and later establish causes to design prevention strategies. Towards this, a National Stakeholder Consultation was organized in Bangladesh. While the NSC agreed on a universal mechanism for accident reporting, but pointed out certain procedures to move towards an institutional mechanism for accident reporting in Bangladesh.

The Secretariat also successfully organized the Third Regional Training Course on the ‘Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries’ in association with the BOBLME Project and the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai, India. Twenty junior and middle level officers from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka took part in the Course, which is now becoming a popular annual event in the region. Besides, the Organization also facilitated training of four Fisheries Officials from Maldives in fisheries post-harvest at Kochi, India.

In its support to organizations/institutions in the member-countries, the Secretariat provided technical support to NFDB in building capacity for safer fishery product in India. Under this programme, expert advice was provided for construction of a fish market in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh; and candidate sites were surveyed and a suitable site in Tamil Nadu, India was selected for building a model supply chain from boat to plate ensuring safe fishery products. In addition, the Organisation is building the first ever interactive map of a city (Chennai) depicting its fish markets with baseline information (including pictures). This map would be useful for consumers and suppliers as well as the government. Similarly, extensive documentation was carried out in Sri Lanka in several fishing harbours to draw up critical control points where interventions would be required for improving seafood hygiene and safe standards.

The year 2010 being the international year of biodiversity was an important occasion for BOBP-IGO. The year was celebrated with school children in Chittagong, Bangladesh through an art contest themed as ‘Biodiversity is life. Save Biodiversity’. The contest not only exposed many young talent, but a far reaching output was achieved through understanding of marine ecosystem among school children who spent considerable time reading on biodiversity so as to prepare for the contest.

Discussion on BOBP-IGO activities

16.0 Appreciating the activities carried out by the Secretariat during the period 2010 – 11, the chair said that the activities were in accordance with the suggestions of TAC-5 and in tune with the high expectations placed by the member-countries on the Secretariat.

17.0 Initiating discussions on the report, Bangladesh informed that the Government of Bangladesh is implementing programmes for sustainable development of hilsa fisheries. However, for sustaining hilsa fisheries regional cooperation is vital and in this regard, it was suggested that India may take a lead on critical aspects such as stock assessment of hilsa fisheries in the region.

18.0 Sri Lanka informed that the Government has undertaken the National Fisheries Development Strategy, which is targeting doubling of domestic fish production by 2013 through improvements in fisheries in northern Sri Lanka and increasing production from offshore fisheries. If the targets are achieved, availability of fish per capita will increase from 11.5 kg (2009) to 13 kg (2013). Further, Sri Lanka has also conducted a national stakeholder consultation on shark management plan under the BOBP-IGO initiative on preparation of national management plans for sharks. The report of the consultation is under preparation.

19.0 India suggested that the fisheries officers trained by the BOBP-IGO on CCRF could act as trainers in their respective settings for speedy dissemination of knowledge. Complementing BOBP-IGO in its efforts to build capacity in fisheries information, India suggested that capacity building programmes for the state/provincial governments could be undertaken with the help of national research institutes. India also suggested that the BOBLME Project has undertaken initiatives on hilsa, Indian mackerel and sea grass. The two organizations should work together in these initiatives and disseminate knowledge on hilsa and mackerel. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka also supported this view.

Complimenting the work of the Secretariat on improving food safety, India said that these programme are of high importance to the member-countries.

India also emphasized on the need to review the utilization of the valuable publications of the BOBP-IGO by the central and state governments in the country and suggested a national level meeting for the purpose. Organizations like NFDB could collaborate with BOBP-IGO in this regard. It was also stressed on maximum utilization of the networking capabilities of the BOBP-IGO to address national issues of importance. Commenting on the national fisheries scenario, India said that a large number of industries were being established along the coast, thus blocking fishermen's approach to sea and also restricting their area of operation. This issue necessitated a national debate for which BOBP-IGO and NFDB could initiate the process. Commenting on the Secretariat's work to develop national plan for hilsa, it was suggested that NFDB could also assist BOBP-IGO in taking the work forward. India further suggested that studies may be initiated on occupational changes within fishermen communities as many fishers were out-migrating from the sector while those from non-fishermen communities were entering into the fisheries.

Commenting on the BOBP-IGO's geographical limitations of work to the east coast of India, the delegates from India suggested that the activities may also be extended to States on the west coast bordering the Arabian Sea. The chair said that while the concern was genuine, expanding BOBP-IGO's activities to rest of India has funding and manpower implications and suggested that national organizations such as NFDB could replicate the Organization's work in the other coastal states. The Secretariat informed that this issue had emerged on several occasions in the meetings of the Organization and suggested that if the Governing Council agreed the mandate could be modified. The Committee agreed that the matter be raised in the next meeting of the Governing Council.

20.0 Maldives said that the Secretariat is providing valuable technological support to the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture in Maldives and playing an important role in information dissemination through publications. Maldives suggested organization of a meeting of fisheries research institutes in the region to address regional research needs, lack of capacity and information dissemination and a workshop on communication skills in fisheries. Lack of communication skills in fisheries sector are not only limited to Maldives but a common problem in the region and, therefore such workshop(s) will benefit all the member-countries.

21.0 The BOBLME Project Regional Coordinator representing FAO complimented the BOBP-IGO for its work and said that the two Organizations were cooperating in many areas with good possibilities for cooperation in several other areas. He said that while the BOBLME Project did not have funding constraints, the delivery mechanism was still under development. Therefore, the Project could support activities of mutual concern and take advantage of the well-developed delivery mechanism of the BOBP-IGO.

Report of the First Meeting of the Technical Committee on RFMO

22.0 Director, BOBP-IGO presented the report of the First Meeting of the Technical Committee on RFMO set up by the Governing Council for information of the TAC Members.

23.0 The Secretariat said that establishing an RFMO in the Bay of Bengal region is justified by ecological interdependence of the countries on each other. In such a condition, individual efforts by a country to manage its resources sustainably will have little impact if other countries in the region do not synchronize their actions too. The Secretariat said that the BOBP-IGO, as a well-established and trusted regional mechanism, is well-suited to play the role of an RFMO in the region and the Organisation can draw its scientific expertise from the pool of scientific institutions in the region, which is largely untapped so far.

The Secretariat further informed that the Technical Committee agreed in principle on the need for establishing an RFMO and suggested that procedures should be developed so that the Organization does not lose its present focus on capacity building if it is assigned the role of an RFMO. In addition, the Technical Committee is also exploring the means of providing funding support if such a role is assigned to the BOBP-IGO.

24.0 The chair said that the major concern was on how an institutional mechanism could be set up, which would allow the BOBP-IGO to take up its new role while continuing to assist the member-countries in human resource development, information dissemination and providing policy advisory services. Since the BOBP-IGO is the only regional fishery body providing such services in the region, it is but natural for the member-countries to be concerned. Further, keeping in mind that an RFMO for the Bay of Bengal region is a necessity and cannot be overlooked, a step-by-step procedure may be considered for its establishment. The chair also suggested that initially, management measures could be agreed for species or regional sub-complexes such as Sundarbans and Gulf of Mannar and later expanded to the whole Bay.

25.0 Bangladesh said that all aspects should be viewed comprehensively before the RFMO is set up. Further, the final outcome of the BOBLME Project *i.e.* the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) would also have a bearing on the setting up of the RFMO in the Bay of Bengal region.

26.0 The delegate from FAO said that the BOBLME Project is setting a framework that could take the shape of an RFMO. However, as per the funding available from Global Environment Facility (GEF), a second round of funding could be available for implementation of SAP. Therefore, if an RFMO came into being within the project-cycle of the BOBLME Project, it would benefit from such funding.

He also informed that most of the RFMOs do not have any in-house scientific capacity and rely on its member-countries to provide scientific inputs. Therefore, it is not necessary for BOBP-IGO to develop in-house scientific capacity, if it takes the shape of an RFMO.

27.0 Maldives enquired about the relationship of the proposed RFMO with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and possible cost-benefits to the countries. It also suggested that while doing a cost-benefit analysis, both tangible and intangible benefits should be considered as intangible benefits often outweigh the tangible benefits.

28.0 Sri Lanka said that although the BOBP-IGO is carrying out functions similar to an RFMO, it does not have the legal status of an RFMO and Sri Lanka supports the idea of transforming the BOBP-IGO as an RFMO by modifying the existing Agreement. The delegate said that coastal fisheries are an essential sector of development in the Bay of Bengal region. However, there is no well established RFMO providing support for management, conservation, stock assessments, etc for the coastal fishery resources. Considering this, Sri Lanka agrees with the need of ensuring ecological and economic security of the region through the proposed RFMO. However, while forming such an RFMO care should be taken to avoid conflicts with other RFMOs in the region.

29.0 The Secretariat welcomed the suggestions and accreditations from TAC-6 and said that the message would be conveyed to the Governing Council at its Seventh Meeting scheduled in Maldives later in the year.

Presentation on work programme of BOBLME

30.0 The Regional Coordinator of the BOBLME Project informed about the work that had been undertaken by the Project during 2010. He said that so far the Project has completed several major reviews identifying priority water-related issues affecting the Bay of Bengal and their causes; best practices in integrated coastal management (ICM); synergies and gaps in resource management policies in the BOBLME countries; and the status of the marine protected areas (MPAs). It has also undertaken a major assessment of the status and management of small pelagic fisheries – focusing on hilsa and Indian mackerel and playing a key role in the formation of a joint Myanmar and Thailand body to manage the Myeik Archipelago; and formed working groups to guide its work in the areas of fisheries statistics, fisheries stock assessment, ecosystem indicators, oceanography and pollution. The Regional coordinator also informed TAC-6 that the two organisations (BOBLME and BOBP-IGO) are collaborating in promotion of the CCRF principles through training of junior and middle-level officers, and BOBP-IGO had facilitated its TDA consultation planning workshop. He further informed TAC-6 that the BOBLME Project has an ambitious work programme in 2011 and is seeking to collaborate with BOBP-IGO on several fronts.

31.0 The Committee noted that both BOBP-IGO and BOBLME are important for the countries and it is essential that their activities are synchronized. The TAC-6 suggested that possible areas of collaboration may include coordinating the Gulf of Manner joint management programme, promoting knowledge dissemination on climate change, provision of training (in fisheries statistics and CCRF), development of communication materials, and addressing issues related to small-scale fisheries. The Committee commented that the 2011 BOBLME Project work plan, developed in collaboration with the BOBP-IGO member-countries and other countries who are members of the BOBLME Project, contained a comprehensive range of activities to achieve these outputs. Therefore, the BOBP-IGO Secretariat and the Regional Coordinating unit of BOBLME Project should maintain close contacts to ensure that their efforts are complimentary and avoid duplication of work.

The Committee suggested that the Governing Council may also consider the work programme of the BOBLME Project while finalizing the work plan of BOBP-IGO for the year 2011-12.

Secretariat: Preparation of Work Plan April 2011 - March 2012

32.0 Based on the discussions on the activities and SPA: 2010-14, the Secretariat presented the Work Plan for the period April 2011 - March 2012. The major activities include regional training programme on CCRF and fisheries information; regional workshop on strengthening scientific cooperation; regional workshop on scope of small-scale fisheries and monitoring, control and surveillance; development of plans of action for hilsa and shark fisheries and programmes on safety at sea.

Discussing the Work Plan, the TAC-6 noted the following:

- *The TAC-6 welcomed the Secretariat's initiative to bring research institutions of the member-countries under a regional umbrella.*
- *The TAC-6 welcomed the proposed regional programmes on small-scale fisheries.*
- *The TAC-6 was happy to note that the Organization is taking forward the task of improving monitoring, control and surveillance in the member-countries.*
- *The TAC-6 congratulated the Secretariat for institutionalizing a Regional Training Course on Fisheries Data Strengthening and Stock Assessment (RTC-FDS) along with the same on CCRF and suggested that the RTC-FDS could be conducted twice a year to rapidly build in-house capacity in fisheries information.*
- *The TAC-6 also felt the need for continuing the training programme for fisheries officers on climate change at the regional level. The FAO delegate suggested that the BOBLME Project could provide support to conduct the programme. The TAC-6 also suggested to incorporate the outcome of an Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) Workshop on Climate Change in Nepal to be held in May 2011.*
- *The TAC-6 endorsed the collaborative arrangements between the BOBP-IGO and the BOBLME Project.*

Date and place for the seventh TAC meeting

33.0 The TAC-6 agreed to convene the Seventh Meeting of the Committee during early 2012 in Sri Lanka, subject to the concurrence of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Adoption of the report

34.0 In his concluding remarks, Director, BOBP-IGO thanked the chairperson for the smooth conduct of the meeting and to all the TAC members for their active participation and contributions.

35.0 In his concluding remarks, the chair said that the meeting was very productive and in tune with the traditions of the BOBP-IGO, the meeting arrangements were excellent. He thanked the delegates for their contributions and wished them a safe return journey.

36.0 The Report of the TAC-6 was adopted on 21 April 2011.

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Agenda & Timetable

Wednesday, 20 April 2011

Morning, 0900 hrs

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting
3. Election of the Chairperson
4. Report on BOBP-IGO Activities (April 2010 - March 2011)
5. Outcome of the First Meeting on BOBP-IGO as an RFMO

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

6. Strengthening Regional Networking of Research Institutions in the BOBP-IGO Member-Countries and their collaboration with the BOBP-IGO

Thursday, 21 April 2011

Morning, 0930 hrs

7. Development of Work Plan (April 2011 - March 2012)
8. Discussion and finalization of Work Plan for submission to the Governing Council
9. Presentation and adoption of the Report
10. Any Other Matter
11. Date and Place of the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee
12. Close of Meeting

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List of Documents

A. Working Documents

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/WP1 | Annotated Agenda and Timetable. |
| BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/WP2 | Report on the BOBP-IGO Activities (April 2010 – March 2011). |
| BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/WP3 | Report of the First Meeting of the RFMO. |

B. Information Documents

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.1</i> | List of Documents. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.2</i> | Programme. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.3</i> | List of Participants. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.4</i> | Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, Male, Maldives, 2 – 3 June, 2010. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.5</i> | Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, Colombo, Sri Lanka 15 – 16 July 2010. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.6</i> | Report of the Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Indonesia. Report of Phase Three (02 – 06 March 2010). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.7</i> | Report of the Third Regional Training Course on CCRF. Chennai/Mumbai, India, 20 June – 03 July 2010. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.8</i> | Training Manual on the construction of FRP beach landing boats (BOBP/REP/119). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.9</i> | Guide to simple repair of FRP boats in a tropical climate (BOBP/MAG/27). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.10</i> | Report of the Workshop on Improving Communication Skills in Fisheries. Chennai, India, 25 – 26 October 2010. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.11</i> | Report on the Modernization of the existing old Fish Market on Dycus Road in Nellore City, Andhra Pradesh, November, 2010. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.12</i> | Report of the International Workshop on Safety at Sea, 13-14 December, 2010, Mahabalipuram, India. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.13</i> | National Stakeholder Consultation on Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fishermen in Bangladesh, 19 December 2010, Chittagong, Bangladesh. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.14</i> | Booklet on Pearl Culture (in Divehi language). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.15</i> | 2011 Calendar of BOBP-IGO (Fishing Crafts of the Bay of Bengal). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.16</i> | Forms for reporting fishing-related accidents at sea. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.17</i> | Report on the Suitability of Mudasalodai Fish Landing Centre and Annankoil Beach landing Site in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu for Implementing Integrated Seafood Quality Improvement Programme, January 2010. |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.18</i> | Report on the Survey of Fish Markets in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India (Draft version). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.19</i> | CCRF Concise Version (in Malayalam language). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.20</i> | CCRF Technical Guideline (No.11) on Responsible Fish Trade (in Tamil language). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.21</i> | CCRF Technical Guideline (No.4 Suppl. 3) Fisheries management. Managing fishing capacity (in Tamil language). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.22</i> | Bay of Bengal News, Vol. IV No 17 – 18, Sep – Dec 2008. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.23</i> | Poster on Maintaining Marine Aquarium. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.24</i> | Poster on Maintaining Freshwater Aquarium. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.25</i> | Poster on Common Reef Fishery Species of the Maldives (excluding Serranidae Family). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.26</i> | Proposed Work Plan (April 2011 – March 2012). |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.27</i> | Registration Form. |
| <i>BOBP-IGO/TAC/2011/Inf.28</i> | Provisional Itinerary of Participants. |

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Formalization of Cooperation between BOBP-IGO and Fisheries Research Institutes in the Region

1.0 Rationale

In recent years there is an increasing demand on the Secretariat of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) to provide management inputs to its member-countries. However, to develop such inputs, rigorous scientific research is necessary. Historically, the former BOBP or its successor, the present BOBP-IGO has not included basic or applied research in its mandate. The Organisation has rather used research findings from the research institutions within and outside the region to further its developmental agenda.

On account of this increased focus on resource management, especially the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM); the BOBP-IGO is facing constraints in respect of quality research inputs that can be used to develop and deliver its management services to the member-countries. This problem was also discussed in detail in the recently concluded Meeting of the Technical Committee for Establishment of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation in the Bay of Bengal region. The Secretariat suggested that member-countries may consider directing their research institutes to allocate a portion of their resources (in terms of manpower and finance) to research activities prioritized by the member-countries keeping in mind their fisheries management needs and the shared nature of the Bay.

In our attempts to meet the specific management functions for sustainable development of fisheries in the Bay, it is also felt that the research institutions in the region have limited their domain of activities within the national boundaries. There are no or very few examples of regional collaboration in research although many issues are of high transboundary nature (*e.g.* studies on highly migratory and straddling fish stocks, EAFM, climate change adaptation research, etc.). While regional research entities are sometimes collaborating with research institutions located outside the region, there are no examples of intra-region collaboration, which otherwise is becoming need of the hour.

Given the ecological integrity of the region, such transboundary studies can provide more robust research findings. A good example in this regard is the emerging scientific model for analyzing the attributes of the ecosystem through the Comparative Analysis of Marine Ecosystem Organization (CAMEO) research programme. This programme is implemented as a partnership between the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and National Science Foundation Division of Ocean Sciences, USA. Taking cue from the above example and also of the excellent collaborative mechanism pursued by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, it is seen that cooperation makes much more sense in terms of time, money and robustness of the findings.

2.0 The proposal

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the BOBP-IGO is the formal link between the research fraternity and the Organisation. However, this relationship is unidirectional. While TAC reviews the activities of the Organisation and provides scientific inputs, they are not required to share their resources with the Organisation. This is to say that the Organisation cannot automatically access the expertise and resources of the constituents of TAC.

This issue was raised during the Sixth Meeting of the TAC. While the TAC members (Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Bangladesh; Fishery Survey of India, India; Marine Research Centre, Maldives and National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency, Sri Lanka) agreed to the need of developing a regional platform, it was also observed that with multi-dimensional nature of the activities of the Organisation all expertise may not be available within the constituent members of the TAC and other relevant research entities in the member-countries may be required to be brought under the proposed collaborative arrangement. In this regard the following is suggested for consideration of the Governing Council.

3.0 Suggested course of action for approval of Governing Council

- The working arrangements between the Secretariat and the TAC constituents may be reviewed and reorganized to make it a symbiotic relationship. This requires that TAC constituents will earmark resources for activities undertaken by the Secretariat vide approval from the Governing Council. Initially, it may cover activities within the national boundaries or regional or sub-regional activities.
- A questionnaire-based survey will be administered during 2011 covering all fisheries-related research institutions and also training institutions. The Secretariat will circulate the Questionnaire through the focal points in the member-countries to the research institutions.
- A Regional Conference (RC) of research institutions will be organized during 2012. It is expected that the participating research organisations will bear the cost of participation.
- The objective of the (RC) will be to develop a code for regional cooperation in scientific research in the Bay of Bengal region. The BOBP-IGO may be considered as the depositary of the code.
- The Governing Council may advice on probable date and place for the RC.

* * *

Extending the activities of the BOBP-IGO to the West Coast of India

1.0 Background

The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP: 1979-2003) executed by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations covered seven coastal countries surrounding the Bay. In case of India, it was limited to four coastal states (West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu). During institutionalizing the BOBP as an Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO), in the case of India, the same geographical limits of the Organisation were accepted.

Within many fisheries organizations/agencies/NGOs in the country, there is a strong opinion that by limiting itself to east coast, the west coast States/Union Territories (located on the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean: Kerala, Goa, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra and Gujarat) are being deprived of the services of the Organisation (Reference: Sixth Meeting of Technical Advisory Committee; Report of the National Workshop on Implementation of MCS in India). Towards this, the National Workshop on Implementation of MCS in India, which was initially planned only for the east coast States/UTs by the Secretariat, was extended at the behest of Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India to cover the west coast States and the UTs.

2.0 Scope of expansion

It is true that any effort by the Organisation in India cannot truly become national unless all the coastal territories are covered. However, in the case of BOBP and its successor the BOBP-IGO, the genesis of the Organisation has been on the basis of an exclusive marine ecosystem, with set boundaries, and a mandate of cooperation between countries sharing the same ecosystem. The west coast States/UTs of India, as they are located on the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, are outside the geographical boundaries of the Bay of Bengal and have different socio-ecological requirements. Therefore, inclusion of these States/UTs within the BOBP-IGO fold will throw open a much larger ocean area and in the process the compactness of the Bay will be lost and the ecosystem services that are presently provided to the member-countries may be diluted. Further, additional number of countries bordering the Arabian Sea and those adjacent to the Arabian Sea-Indian Ocean Rim Countries (Pakistan, Oman, Iran, Somalia, etc) will also be eligible to be members of the BOBP-IGO.

Notwithstanding the above arguments, it is suggested that the BOBP-IGO can still assist the coastal States/UTs located on the west coast of India in areas such as capacity building and information dissemination. Such services may cover capacity building in implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, safety at sea, improving monitoring, control and surveillance, climate change adaptations, etc. To support BOBP-IGO taking up these additional responsibilities, the Government of India may consider providing project-related funding support for activities concerning the west coast States/UTs.

3.0 Suggested course of action

The Governing Council may decide whether the activities of the Organisation should be extended to west coast States/UTs of India subject to the concurrence of the Government of India.

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Statement by South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

SACEP and its new Role in South Asia

The emergence of SACEP in 1982 marked a new era in the history of South Asia, as for the first time the countries of the region came together to form its foremost Inter-governmental Organization. Co-operation has been the basis, the foundation and the cornerstone of SACEP; as such its future activities, progress and its success are all dependent largely on the spirit of working together to achieve common regional goals. The countries which have signed the Articles of Association of SACEP are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The mission statement of SACEP was updated in 2002 to include the emerging global issues and is as follows:

“to promote regional cooperation in South Asia in the field of environment, both natural and human and on issues of economic and social development like poverty, which also impinge on the environment and *vice versa*; to support conservation and management of natural resources of the region; and to work closely with all regional, national and international institutions, governmental and non-governmental as well as experts and groups engaged in such cooperation and conservation efforts”

In its 29 years of existence, SACEP has addressed issues of regional significance that are aimed at complementing and supplementing the work being carried out by the member-country governments, with expressed focus in the following areas:

1. Assessment and Strategy Development,
2. Experience Sharing and Networking, and
3. Capacity Building.

The designation of SACEP as the Secretariat for implementing the South Asian Seas Programme in 1983, by its five maritime Member-States (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), further enhanced the role of SACEP as the Central Agency for Environmental Management Activities in the South Asian Region. Under this programme, an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine Environment and the related Coastal Ecosystems of the South Asian Seas Region was adopted in 1995.

The South Asian Seas Action Plan (SASAP) in addition to specifying the needs under the main components of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Management, Environmental Legislation and Institutional and Financial Arrangements, identified the areas where priority activities need to be developed for implementation under the Action Plan.

These priority activities are in four specific areas.

1. Integrated Coastal Zone Management.
2. Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Planning.
3. Human Resources Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence.
4. Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

Presently, SACEP is undertaking activities to address the recommendations of the 12th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP and the 4th Inter-Ministerial Meeting of SAS Programme.

Following issues have been identified as priority areas during the meetings:

- Biodiversity conservation, especially with regard to addressing the objectives of CBD;
- Natural disaster management;
- Adoption to climate change;
- Database on natural resources;

- Waste management;
- Marine and coastal protected areas; and
- Revising the SASAP to cater to the emerging regional and global trends and needs.

Activities for mutual cooperation:

In SACEP's revised mission statement, the development of partnerships is recognized as an intrinsic aspect of the Organisation's mandate. Therefore, SACEP is currently taking active measures to expand its partner network.

Following are some of activities for possible mutual co-operation between SACEP and BOBP-IGO:

- A. Protection of globally threatened marine species through synergizing recommendations given in both fishery related agreements (FAO Code of Conduct, etc) and biodiversity related conventions (CBD, CMS, CITES). In this regard, the following joint activities could be undertaken:
 - Assisting Member-States in developing and implementing regulations on minimizing fishery by catch - turtles, dolphins, whales and marine birds. Further education and awareness material could be developed targeting the fisher communities.
 - Addressing over-exploitation and destructive activities in ornamental fishery and coastal food fishery (dynamiting).
 - Addressing issues related to over exploitation of shark fishery (many species have now become globally threatened).
 - Establishment of marine protected areas - the region is presently protecting its near shore resources to a certain degree, but lags behind in conserving the open oceans and shared resources. Joint activities can be developed in protecting shared resources such as coral reefs and mangroves as well as hotspots for fish breeding and feeding sites of the region.
- B. Development of shared data bases on marine fish stocks, ornamental fishery, conventions, etc - this would assist in developing the next issue of the Marine Biodiversity Outlook Report for the South Asian Seas region.
- C. Development of facilities to handle fishery-based waste management - This will complement the work under marine litter Programme of SASAP.
- D. Addressing issues related to climate change adaptation with regard to fisher communities - *e.g.* Identification of alternative livelihoods, establishment of community based green belts, etc.

* * *

Statement by Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

Distinguished Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, Director and senior officials of the BOBP-IGO, Representatives of the Member-Countries, and international/regional organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I wish to express my gratitude to the BOBP-IGO for extending an invitation to SEAFDEC to attend this Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO. I also wish to join the other delegates of this Meeting in congratulating the BOBP-IGO for the successful conduct of its activities, which has substantially contributed to the improved understanding and management of fisheries in the Bay of Bengal area and has brought benefits to its Member-Countries. As you may be already aware, SEAFDEC has been supporting relevant fisheries activities in the Bay of Bengal area, especially through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem. We consider this significant because some of the member-countries of SEAFDEC considering their geographical locations have some fisheries activities in the Bay of Bengal area such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand.

During the past years, SEAFDEC has been collaborating with the BOBP-IGO in various aspects of mutual interest, especially during the Second SEAFDEC Regional Technical Workshop on Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Boats, which was conducted at our Training Department in Thailand in 2010. During that Workshop the SEAFDEC Member-Countries gained insights into the various aspects of safety at sea for small fishing boats based on the experience of BOBP-IGO. Moreover, on the request of Bangladesh, which is a member of the BOBP-IGO, SEAFDEC would make available our research vessel the M.V. SEAFDEC to conduct a collaborative fisheries resources survey in the Bay of Bengal area.

On behalf of SEAFDEC, I therefore wish that our collaboration would be continued and enhanced in the future. We can assure you that SEAFDEC could mobilize our staff and facilities including the availability of our research vessels, the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the conduct of activities of mutual benefit and interest between the BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC in the Bay of Bengal area.

Furthermore, please allow me to inform you that SEAFDEC in collaboration with ASEAN and all the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member-Countries has just organized the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment” on 13 – 17 June 2011, in Bangkok, Thailand. We received a number of delegates from the Bay of Bengal area including the Director of the BOBP-IGO, who himself served as a resource person. I, therefore, would wish to acknowledge with appreciation your contribution and inputs to the Conference.

The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference successfully concluded with technical recommendations from the Technical Session, as well as the endorsement of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for fisheries. Such instruments would serve as regional policy framework and priority action in enhancing the contribution from fisheries to food security and the well-being of people in the ASEAN region.

As follow-up to the outcomes of this Conference, SEAFDEC is scheduled to convene an Inception Workshop, on 4 – 5 July 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, in order to facilitate the planning and implementation of programs and activities in line with the Resolution and Plan of Action. In this regard, we would wish that the BOBP-IGO would be actively involved in this Workshop, as well as in further implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action in the aspects of the marine fisheries, especially in the Bay of Bengal area.

Before closing, I wish to once again express our appreciation for the continued cooperation extended by the BOBP-IGO to SEAFDEC during the past years. I also wish that such cooperation would be strengthened for the benefit of the countries involved in fisheries in the Bay of Bengal area.

Thank you very much and Good Day.

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Work Plan for April 2011 – March 2012

Title: 2nd Meeting on the Need and Scope of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation in the Bay of Bengal Region and suitability of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation in this regard.

Member-Countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka), Myanmar and the Bay of Bengal Programme Large Marine Ecosystem Project.

Objective:

A Technical Committee was constituted under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives to prepare a comprehensive report on the need and scope of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) for the Bay of Bengal region. The Committee had the First Meeting in Chennai in November 2010 and suggested further documentation. The outcome of the meeting will be presented to the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council to be held in Maldives.

Work Plan:

Documentation on cost and benefit of institutionalizing the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) as an RFMO, especially in view of the importance of ongoing activities and scope of their sustainability within a modified institutional mechanism and evaluation of extending the scope of the BOBP-IGO to the entire oceanic area of the member-countries.

Date of the Second Meeting of the Technical Committee on RFMO will be finalized in consultation with the chairperson. The Meeting is expected to take place during the latter part of 2011.

Title: Capacity-Building and Information Services for Fisheries Development and Management in the Bay of Bengal Region.

Member-Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka.

Duration: April 2011 - March 2012

Objectives:

The immediate objectives are to increase awareness and knowledge of the need, benefits and practices of fisheries management among institutions and people concerned at all levels and in all sectors of major relevance to marine fisheries and coastal fishing communities.

Within the overall objectives, the aim is to take the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) to institutions and stakeholders at all levels, and create better awareness amongst fisherfolk and the government about adoption of the provisions of the CCRF; strengthening of fisheries information system in the member-countries and Myanmar; improving hygiene and sanitation in fisheries production and supply chain, improving communication skill in fisheries and dissemination of knowledge on the impact of climate change in fisheries.

Work Plan:

As a part of BOBP-IGO's mandate on assisting the member-countries to strengthen their national capabilities in development and management of marine fisheries, the following activities will be implemented during April 2011 – March 2012:

- Translation of the Technical Guidelines of the 1995 FAO CCRF on marine fisheries in the national languages of the member-countries and printing of copies of the translated versions for circulation to concerned institutions/agencies/fishermen associations, etc.
- Training Programme for Junior and Middle-Level Fisheries Staff of member-countries on implementation of the CCRF.

- Regional Workshop on Establishing a Cooperative Mechanism for Protection of Met-Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean Region (National Institute of Ocean Technology, India and the BOBP-IGO collaborative programme).
- Regional Conference on Formalization of Cooperation between the BOBP-IGO and Fisheries Research Institutes in the Region to deal with the emerging regional issues such as resource depletion, climate change, post-harvest and developing small-scale fisheries. This includes setting up of mechanisms for exchange of information, collaborative research programmes, training of staff, etc.
- Capacity building of stakeholders at various levels in fisheries data collection methodologies and stock assessment and capacity building for improving traceability of fisheries product from point-to-point, including a Regional Training Programme.
- Capacity building for improving food safety in marine fisheries in the member-countries, which includes improved hygiene and sanitation conditions in fishing boats (including fish handling) and fishing harbours/fish landing centres.
- Information dissemination through the Bay of Bengal News, reports and other publications to inform, enthuse and bind governments and other fisheries stakeholders of the region.
- Preparation of interactive map of fisheries/islands in the Maldives.

A Work Plan detailing various activities is enclosed in ***Annexure 1***.

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Progress towards adoption and application of responsible fishing principles and practices.
- Progress towards an operational regional scientific cooperative mechanism, a necessity in view of the ecological integrity of the region, resilient fisheries livelihoods and identification of coping strategies and understanding of the impact of climate change on marine fisheries.
- Developing regional cooperation and creating awareness for protection of met-ocean data buoys, which are crucial for tsunami early warning system in the region and monitoring climatic variables.
- Improved fisheries information system including improvement in identification of various species at the landing point.
- Progress towards field-level adoption of globally accepted standards and norms in fisheries production and supply.
- Women empowerment and gender mainstreaming through increasing the knowledge level and portfolio of fisherwomen through better fish handling and value addition.
- Addressing the national needs of the member-countries.
- Information dissemination through publications (Bay of Bengal News, etc.) and electronic networking (website and Information Networking).

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Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
(Work Plan for April 2011 – March 2012)

Geographical Area: BOBP-IGO member-countries (Bangladesh, India*, Maldives, Sri Lanka)

Programme: Capacity-building and Information Services for Fisheries Development and Management in the BoB Region.

| | Activity | April 2011 - March 2012 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| A | Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1. <i>Translation of the Technical Guidelines of the CCRF in National Languages</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2. <i>Training of Junior and Middle-level Fisheries Staff in implementation of CCRF @</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3. <i>Printing of the Guidelines</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | Information Networking | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Regional Conference on Formalization of Cooperation between the BOBP-IGO and Fisheries Research Institutes in the Region (including strengthening of livelihoods and climate change adaptation) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | Regional Workshop on Establishing a Cooperative Mechanism for Protection of Met-Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean Region | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Capacity building in fisheries data collection and stock assessment @ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | Capacity building in food safety in marine fisheries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

* Includes the Bay of Bengal States of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

@ In partnership with the BOBLME Project. To include participants from Myanmar.

Title: Fisheries Resource Management

Member-Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Myanmar

Duration: April 2011 – March 2012

Objectives:

The objectives of this Programme are to stem resource depletion in the marine waters and to promote the principles of responsible fishing practices in the member-countries. The programme also aims at community mobilization by involving fishermen and women in resource monitoring.

Work Plan:

As a part of BOBP-IGO's mandate on developing programmes for promotion of sustainable fishing practices in the member-countries, the following activities will be implemented during April 2011 – March 2012:

- Strategic Consultation on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region: Organization of Regional Strategy Meet for Reviewing the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region. The output of the consultation will go towards building of a Report on the Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region.
- Organisation of Second Regional Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and further assistance to member-countries on implementation of the National Action Plans.
- Organisation of the Third Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries in the member-countries.
- Organisation of the Third Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries in the member-countries.
- Bi-National Workshop on the Gulf of Mannar Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME Project and BOBP-IGO collaborative programme)
- Stakeholder Consultation on preparation of management plan for important national fisheries (Maldives).
- Scoping study on small-scale tuna fisheries and fleet development plan (including suggestions for management of bait fisheries).
- Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp brood stock fishery.

A Work Plan detailing various activities is enclosed in *Annexure 2*.

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Understanding suitable fisheries management techniques in a multi-species, multi-gear scenario and their documentation.
- Formulation of a Regional Plan for implementation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance programmes for management of marine fisheries in the member-countries.
- Bringing stakeholders from India and Sri Lanka to a common platform on management of the Gulf of Mannar ecosystem.
- Progress towards the National Plans of Action for Hilsa fisheries in the member-countries (Bangladesh, India) and Myanmar and to further progress towards formulation of a Regional Plan of Action for sustainable exploitation/conservation of hilsa fisheries.
- Progress towards National Plans of Action for Shark fisheries in the member-countries and to further progress towards formulation of a Regional Plan of Action for sustainable exploitation/conservation of shark fisheries.

- Enabling member-countries to manage their important national fisheries and stakeholder management.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report based on the scoping study on tuna fisheries by small-scale fishing fleet (including suggestions for management of bait fisheries) management.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report based on the scoping study on status of shrimp brood stock.

* * *

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
(Work Plan for April 2011 – March 2012)

Geographical Area: BOBP-IGO member-countries (Bangladesh, India*, Maldives, Sri Lanka); Myanmar (Observer Country)

Programme: Fisheries Resource Management

| | Activity | April 2011 - March 2012 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| A | Strategic Consultation on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1. Regional Workshop on small-scale fisheries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | Organisation of 2 nd Regional Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Preparation of Reports | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | Preparation of Management Plans (Hilsa Fisheries) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Preparation of Management Plans (Shark Fisheries) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | Gulf of Mannar Bi-National Workshop | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | Stakeholder consultation on preparation of management plan for important national fisheries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | Scoping study on tuna fisheries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | Scoping study on tiger shrimp brood stock management | | | | | | | | | | | | |

* Includes the Bay of Bengal States of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Title: Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries

Member-Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka

Duration: April 2011 – March 2012

Objectives:

The objectives of this Programme are aimed at improving the livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities by decreasing the number of accidents at sea and the effects of such accidents. Within the overall objective, the programme will specifically focus on fisherwomen and children to mobilize them for onshore monitoring and pre-voyage checks to ensure real-time reporting and reduction of accidents due to personal negligence.

Work Plan:

- Organization of the Fifth International Conference on Fishing Industry Safety and Health (IFISH-5) in Sri Lanka.
- Construction of the improved model of fishing boats and their extension to additional areas in Tamil Nadu, India.
- Provision and analysis of data to identify the cause of accidents.
- Technical support to member-countries to implement sea safety programmes through awareness building, outreach programmes and training of trainers, extension workers, fishers and inspectors in safety requirements and good working conditions in fisheries sector.

A Work Plan detailing various activities is enclosed in *Annexure 3*.

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- An enhanced awareness of sea-safety within the fishing community, especially empowered fisherwomen and children, operating in the small-scale sector.
- An improved system of reporting and analysis of incidents at sea causing loss of life or serious accidents to fishers and fishing craft.
- Popularization of the improved design of boats.
- Integration of 'Safety at Sea' as an important element of fishery management.

* * *

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
(Work Plan for April 2011 – March 2012)

Geographical Area: BOBP-IGO member-countries (Bangladesh, India*, Maldives, Sri Lanka); Myanmar (Observer Country)

Programme: Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries

| | Activity | April 2011 - March 2012 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| A | Organization of the Fifth International Conference on Fishing Industry Safety and Health | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | Construction of the improved model of fishing boats and their extension to additional areas in Tamil Nadu, India | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | Provision and analysis of data to identify the cause of accidents | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | Technical support to member-countries to improve safety at sea | | | | | | | | | | | | |

* Includes the Bay of Bengal States of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

Review of Employment Conditions: Salary and Allowances

1.0 Performance of the Secretariat

Started in a modest way in its present journey, the BOBP-IGO has now positioned itself as the most trusted and efficient regional fisheries advisory body in its region of competence according to its member-countries. After evaluation of the performance of the Secretariat, the GCM-4 (held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in May 2008) observed that the Organisation had made significant contributions in the region and complimented the Secretariat for undertaking programmes highly relevant to the region. The GCM-5 also observed that performance of the Organisation was best amongst the relevant regional fisheries advisory bodies in terms of deliverables to the member-countries and suggested that the Organisation could now be taken to the next level and assigned with management functions. The GCM-6 further endorsed this suggestion while observing that the Organisation's performance was highly satisfactory and congratulated the Secretariat for continuation and improvements in its work quality and performance.

The compliments earned over the years can be contributed to the close interaction and directions from the member-countries and the dedicated staff at the Secretariat. However, with the changing economic scenario, the Secretariat staff is facing problems in performing their task with increasing worries at the domestic front due to rising price level. The Secretariat had raised this concern earlier also in the meetings of the Governing Council pointing out that the Organisation was facing problems in attracting new talent and retaining existing employees. Based on the concerns raised by the Secretariat, the Governing Council had in the past agreed to provide relief in the form of Dependency Allowance and Living Allowance at a modest lump sum rate without any change in the salary scale.

2.0 Need to review salary structure

Information document BOBP/INF/18 spells out the Staff Regulation and compensation structure applicable to BOBP-IGO employees. Paragraph 3 of the Staff Regulation states: the salary scales and allowances of the Organisation shall be determined (i) in case of Director by the Council and (ii) in case of Employees, by the Council on recommendation of the Director.

The salary structure for the professional and general duty staff was determined in 2003 during the signing of the BOBP-IGO Agreement and has not been reviewed since then (while the salary scales were approved in 2003 during the signing of the BOBP-IGO Agreement, the rates were actually determined in 2000 when the initial documents for institutionalization of the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme as an IGO were prepared).

Existing salary structure and impact of inflation

The existing salary scale of the professional staff and general duty staff are as follows. Figures are monthly rates in US\$. The local staff are paid in INR at a fixed conversion rate of 1 US \$ = INR 44.55.

Table 1: Salary scale for Professional Staff

| Level/ Year | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VI | VIII | IX | X |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 800 | 820 | 840 | 860 | 880 | 900 | 920 | 940 | 960 | 980 |
| 2 | 1000 | 1025 | 1050 | 1075 | 1100 | 1125 | 1150 | 1175 | 1200 | 1225 |
| 3 | 1400 | 1440 | 1480 | 1520 | 1560 | 1600 | 1640 | 1680 | 1720 | 1760 |

Table 2: Salary scale for General Duty Staff

| Level/ Year | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VI | VIII | IX | X |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 1 | 150 | 170 | 190 | 210 | 230 | 250 | 270 | 295 | 320 | 350 |
| 2 | 200 | 220 | 240 | 260 | 280 | 300 | 320 | 345 | 370 | 400 |
| 3 | 350 | 370 | 390 | 410 | 430 | 450 | 470 | 495 | 520 | 550 |
| 4 | 600 | 620 | 640 | 660 | 680 | 700 | 720 | 745 | 770 | 800 |

The level of price rise since 2004 may be captured through the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). The Government of India has published a new Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series with 2004-05 as the base (2004-5 = 100). Since, the Organisation started its functioning in 2004 with the regular appointment of staff; this series is quite applicable to the BOBP-IGO situation. The data shows that since 2004, the wholesale price level has increased by **43 percent**. As a result, at the salary rates of 2004, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Secretariat staff to maintain their family in the present times. The data published by the Office of the Economic Advisor, Government of India on WPI shows the following scenario (Table 3):

Table 3: Price rise in India since 2004-05

| Indicator | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | Increase (%) |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| WPI | 100 | 104.4 | 111.4 | 116.6 | 126.0 | 130.8 | 143.3 | 43 |

It may be also noted here that the core contributions of the member-countries were fixed during 2003 (although the rates were determined in 2000 while finalizing the IGO documents for consideration of the countries) and are expected to remain at the same level unless the Governing Council decides to review the core contributions. At the same time, the services rendered by the Organisation have increased many-fold and the Secretariat is committed to maintaining the quality of services it has provided so far. Further, with the growing needs, the Secretariat is now also undertaking additional programmes, which are essential for sustainable development of fisheries in the region.

To balance the goals of the Organisation and also to ameliorate the economic hardships faced by the staff, it is proposed that that starting scale be increased by 25 percent across the board for both the Professional Staff and the General Duty Staff. Thereafter, the staff will get annual increments at the rates as specified below:

Professional staffs (annual rate of increment)

Level 1: US\$ 40 per annum

Level 2: US\$ 50 per annum

Level 3: US\$ 80 per annum.

General Duty Staff (annual rate of increment)

Levels 1 & 2: US\$ 40 per annum

Levels 3 & 4: US\$ 50 per annum

The Secretariat further proposes that the salary of all the Professional Staff and General Duty Staff (Levels 3 and 4) will comprise two components: a Fixed component - **85 percent** of the salary will be drawn from the core contributions of the member-countries and a Floating component (**15 percent** of the salary will be paid from the externally funded projects that may be handled by the Organisation during the year). In case, there is no externally funded project in a particular period, the staff shall draw only 85 percent of the salary during that period. This mode of salary structure will bring competitiveness and improve the performance of the staff. Further, the burden on the core contributions of the Organization will also be lesser. The proposed salary structure is given in Tables 4 to 5 (on next page).

3.0 Review of allowances payable to employees

During the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council it was decided that the Secretariat staff would be entitled to Living Allowance and Dependency Allowance. It was further decided that a Dependency Allowance of US\$ 350 per annum per dependant (maximum 3) will be admissible for all entitled staff of the Organisation and a Living Allowance restricted to US\$ 500 per annum for Level 1 and General Duty Staff; US\$ 750 for Level 2 staff and US\$ 1 000 for Level 3 staff will be admissible.

The reasons for giving allowances to an employee are to ensure the security of his/her social status and family welfare. This includes the cost of maintaining the family in a city like Chennai, providing for education of children, meeting the house rentals and transportation costs. However, during the last 4-5 years there is considerable increase in the cost of living. Since the existing rates of allowances are not sufficient to cover for such increases, the matter is placed before the Governing Council for review and consideration.

Table 4: Proposed salary scale for Professional Staff

| Level/Year | Professional Staff | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|
| | I | | | II | | | III | | | IV | | | V | | |
| | Fixed | Float | Max/Total | Fixed | Float | Max/Total | Fixed | Float | Max/Total | Fixed | Float | Max/Total | Fixed | Float | Max/Total |
| 1 | 850 | 150 | 1 000 | 884 | 156 | 1 040 | 918 | 162 | 1 080 | 952 | 168 | 1 120 | 986 | 174 | 1 160 |
| 2 | 1 063 | 188 | 1 250 | 1 105 | 195 | 1 300 | 1 148 | 203 | 1 350 | 1 190 | 210 | 1 400 | 1 233 | 218 | 1 450 |
| 3 | 1 488 | 263 | 1 750 | 1 556 | 275 | 1 830 | 1 624 | 287 | 1 910 | 1 692 | 299 | 1 990 | 1 760 | 311 | 2 070 |
| Level/ Year | VI | | | VII | | | VIII | | | IX | | | X | | |
| 1 | 1 020 | 180 | 1 200 | 1 054 | 186 | 1 240 | 1 088 | 192 | 1 280 | 1 122 | 198 | 1 320 | 1 156 | 204 | 1 360 |
| 2 | 1 275 | 225 | 1 500 | 1 318 | 233 | 1 550 | 1 360 | 240 | 1 600 | 1 403 | 248 | 1 650 | 1 445 | 255 | 1 700 |
| 3 | 1 828 | 323 | 2 150 | 1 896 | 335 | 2 230 | 1 964 | 347 | 2 310 | 2 032 | 359 | 2 390 | 2 100 | 371 | 2 470 |

Table 5: Proposed salary scale for General Duty Staff

| Level/Year | General Duty Staff | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|
| | I | | | II | | | III | | | IV | | | V | | |
| | Fixed | Float | Max/Total | Fixed | Float | Max/Total | Fixed | Float | Max/Total | Fixed | Float | Max/Total | Fixed | Float | Max/Total |
| 1 | 188 | 0 | 188 | 228 | 0 | 228 | 268 | 0 | 268 | 308 | 0 | 308 | 348 | 0 | 348 |
| 2 | 250 | 0 | 250 | 290 | 0 | 290 | 330 | 0 | 330 | 370 | 0 | 370 | 410 | 0 | 410 |
| 3 | 372 | 66 | 438 | 414 | 73 | 488 | 457 | 81 | 538 | 499 | 88 | 588 | 542 | 96 | 638 |
| 4 | 638 | 113 | 750 | 680 | 120 | 800 | 723 | 128 | 850 | 765 | 135 | 900 | 808 | 143 | 950 |
| Level/Year | VI | | | VII | | | VIII | | | IX | | | X | | |
| 1 | 388 | 0 | 388 | 428 | 0 | 428 | 468 | 0 | 468 | 508 | 0 | 508 | 548 | 0 | 548 |
| 2 | 450 | 0 | 450 | 490 | 0 | 490 | 530 | 0 | 530 | 570 | 0 | 570 | 610 | 0 | 610 |
| 3 | 584 | 103 | 688 | 627 | 111 | 738 | 669 | 118 | 788 | 712 | 126 | 838 | 754 | 133 | 888 |
| 4 | 850 | 150 | 1 000 | 893 | 158 | 1 050 | 935 | 165 | 1 100 | 978 | 173 | 1 150 | 1 020 | 180 | 1 200 |

In Chennai city, increasing cost of living is mainly contributed by rising cost of rentals and increasing cost of schooling apart from near double-digit inflation in the price of food items, etc. Reports show that during 2006 to 2008 in prime residential areas of Chennai the average rental rates for a 1-Bedroom Flat had increased from INR 4 000-6 000 to INR 6 000-15 000¹. Another recent study carried out by a major real estate web portal (Sulekha.com) found that **house rents have increased by a (weighted) average of 13.5 percent in and around Chennai** with a sharp increase in 1BHK (bedroom, hall, kitchen) and 3BHK flats. The study compared the first three months of 2011 with the same three months in 2010².

In case of schooling, a recent study carried out by AVIVA Life Insurance and IMRB International found that cost of schooling per annum at the primary and secondary level has now **nearly tripled to INR 94 000 in 2010 from INR 35 000 in 2005**³. Similarly, the following table will illustrate the increase in cost of petrol since 2004:

Table 6: Increase in cost of petrol since 2004-05 in India

| 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | Increase (%) |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| 35.71 | 40.49 | 47.51 | 43.52 | 50.56 | 44.63 | 51.43 | 44 |

Apart from the rising cost of rentals, fuel and education, the cost of health care has also nearly doubled. Example: the cost of consultation in Apollo Hospital, Chennai has increased from INR 300 in 2008 to INR 500 at present. Similarly, there is an increase of 20-25 percent on an average in diagnostic tests also.

To maintain the level of welfare and social security of the staff, the following revisions in the allowances are proposed for consideration of the Governing Council:

Dependency Allowance: From the existing US\$ 350 to US\$ 500 per dependent per year (subject to a maximum of three dependents; unemployed spouse, 2 children unemployed and living with the staff)

Living allowance: Presently, the living allowance is restricted to US\$ 500 per annum for Level 1 Professional Staff and General Duty Staff; US\$ 750 for Level 2 staff and US\$ 1 000 for Level 3 staff. It is proposed that in view of the increasing cost of living since the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council, the Living Allowance across the board be doubled. The proposed rates of Living Allowance are given below for consideration of the Governing Council:

All General Duty Staff and Professional Staff of Level 1: From US\$ 500 to US\$ 1000;

Professional Staff (Level 2): From US\$ 750 to US\$ 1500; and for

Professional Staff (Level 3): From US\$ 1000 to US\$ 2000.

4.0 Date of implementation of the new scales/allowances

It is proposed that the proposed new scales/allowances be considered for implementation from **01 August 2010** onwards.

5.0 Financial Implications of the proposed revisions on the Organisation

(All figures in US\$)

| Contribution by member-countries and interest accrued from the Reserve Fund in 2010. | Existing salary and benefits | Proposed salary and benefits | Balance | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | Present | Proposed |
| 120 000 + 5 470 = 125 470 | 66 735 (53%) | 82 437 (66%) | 58 735 (47%) | 43 033 (34%) |

¹ http://www.ideamarketers.com/?Rental_Values_on_Rise_in_Chennai_&articleid=289532 and <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7322802.stm>

² <http://www.chennai1ivenews.com/Lifestyle/Pot-Pourri/20110108100158/Chennai-house-rents-go-through-roof.aspx>

³ <http://www.timeschennai.com/index.php?mod=article&cat=EducationandCareers&article=27474>

Review of Employment Conditions: Promotions

1.0 Proposal for modification in Intra-Organisational promotion policy of Staff

Employment of Professional Staff in BOBP-IGO is carried out at three levels. In Level 1, the starting professional level, equivalent to UN grade P1, a person is recruited with 2-3 years of professional experience and required educational training (post graduate degree and above). In level 2 (UN = P3 and P4), a person is recruited with 4-8 years of relevant experience and educational training comparable to Level 1. However, Level 2 staff is expected to work without any supervision and carry out independent scientific studies and contribute to the growth of the Organisation. Level 3 staff (UN = P5 and D1) are highest level professional positions in the Organisation and require 10-15 years of relevant experience (at international level) in research and administrative capacity.

All appointments are contractual for a period of three years and all positions are open with no preference for existing employees if they are suitable for such positions. This is important as it can help in infusing new talent in the Organisation and create a competitive environment for the existing employees, if they decide to apply for a higher position. However, due to financial constraints, the number of positions in the Organisation is limited. As of now, there are only four professional positions approved by the Governing Council: Director (01, Level 3); Senior Programme Advisor (01, Level 2); Fisheries Resources Officer (01, Level 2) and Policy Analyst (01, Level 1). The same situation exists for General Duty Staff also.

However, this framework is not conducive for building a long-term relationship between the performing employees and the Organisation. It is also inadequate in meeting their aspirations to grow with the Organisation. Since there are very few openings, a performing employee can only be rewarded by renewal of contract in the same position at the same level. This situation provides very limited motivation for an employee to contribute to the growth of the Organisation and for the Organisation to recognize and award the contributions of an outstanding employee.

In future this may result in high attrition rate of skilled employees. This is also harmful for the Organisation since retention of employees is critical as the Organisation is working in a specialized field.

In view of the above, the following is proposed for consideration of the Governing Council:

Professional staff

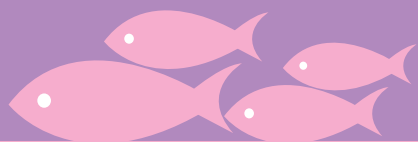
- After three years of service, a Level 1 employee may be considered for 'level up' during the next contract period. After six years of service, a Level 2 employee may be considered for 'level up' during the next contract period.
- A Level 1 position may be upgraded to Level 2 at the discretion of the Director and a Level 2 position may be upgraded to Level 3 on recommendation of the Director by the Governing Council. This upgradation will be in the corresponding scale at the higher level.
- In case of a Level 3 staff, since there is no scope of scaling up, it is proposed that the Governing Council may consider giving a double increment to the performing staff. The performance of Level 3 staff (other than the Director) may be reviewed by the Director and recommend to the Governing Council. In case of the Director, the Governing Council may review the performance.
- Such scaling up will be subject to strict performance scrutiny with a proven record of complete and satisfactory discharge of duties, demonstrated ability and willingness to perform the responsibilities associated with a position of higher level and contributing to the growth and performance of the Organisation.
- Such scaling up will be probationary for the first year of the contract period in the higher level. The contract may be renewed at this level for a second term if the performance of the employee is satisfactory as expected in the corresponding level. Otherwise, the employee will be given an option to renew the contract at the original level and salary scale.

- At present, the salary scale for all levels matures at 10 years. It is proposed that in case of Level 1 and Level 2 employees, if one reaches at the end of his/her scale, the employee automatically gets promoted to the corresponding scale in the upper level. In case of a Level 3 staff, if he/she reaches at the end of the salary scale, his/her salary will increase at *pro rata* basis unless the Governing Council awards a double increment to the staff.

General Duty Staff

- After three years of service, a Level 1 or Level 2 staff may be considered for a double increment. However, since the educational qualification needed for Levels 1 and 2 and higher levels of General Duty Staff are different, they will not be entitled for any promotion to higher levels.
- After three years of service, a Level 3 position may be upgraded to Level 4 at the discretion of the Director during the renewal of contract in the corresponding salary scale. After three years of service, a Level 4 position may be upgraded to professional Level 1 position in the corresponding salary scale during the renewal of contract at the discretion of the Director; provided that the employee has educational qualification necessary for performing fisheries development related activities of the Organisation. Otherwise, such staff will be entitled to a double increment.
- Such scaling up will be subject to strict performance scrutiny with a proven record of complete and satisfactory discharge of duties, demonstrated ability and willingness to perform the responsibilities associated with a position of higher level and contributing to the growth and performance of the Organisation.
- Such scaling up will be probationary for the first year of the contract period in the higher level. The contract may be renewed at this level for a second term if the performance of the employee is satisfactory as expected in the corresponding level. Otherwise, the employee will be given an option to renew the contract at the original level and salary scale
- At present, the salary scale for all levels matures at 10 years. It is proposed that in case one reaches at the end of his/her scale, his/her salary will increase at *pro rata* basis unless the Director awards a double increment to the staff.

* * *



**BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME
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