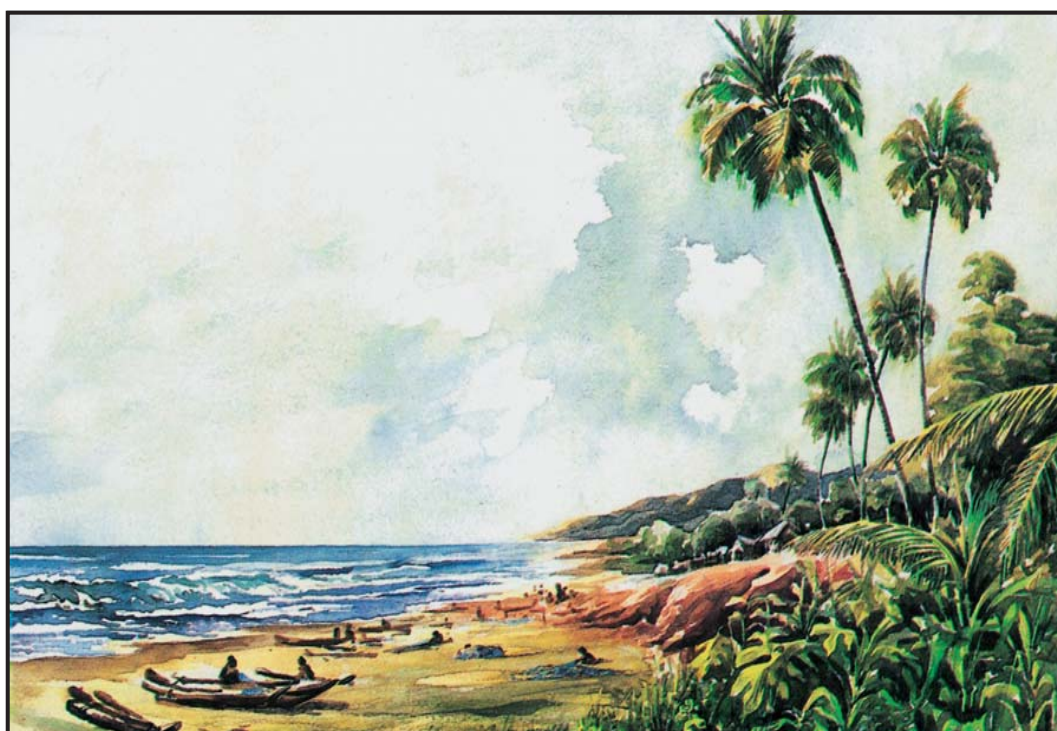


Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council



**REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

11 - 12 September 2012
Dhaka, Bangladesh

This document records the report of the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). The meeting was held on 11-12 September 2012, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The document contains a Progress Report of the BOBP-IGO for the year 2011-12 and Workplan for the year 2012-13. It also contains the Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO.

The Governing Council is set up as per Article 8 of the Agreement on the Institutionalisation of the Bay of Bengal Programme as an Inter-Governmental Organisation. It is composed of representatives of member-countries. The Council usually meets once a year by rotation in member-countries. Non-member Governments, Organisations and Institutions that are able to make significant contributions to the activities of the Organisation 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 organizations 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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Contents

Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council	5
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Appendices

A. List of Delegates	13
B. Remarks of Dr Shiham Adam, Director General, Marine Research Centre, Government of Maldives	17
C. Speech of Mr Ujjwal Bikash Dutta, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock, Government of Bangladesh	18
D. Speech of Mr Abdul Latif Biswas, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock, Government of Bangladesh	20
E. Agenda and Timetable	22
F. Arrangements for the Meeting	23
G. List of Documents	24
H. Report on the Activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (<i>April 2011 - March 2012</i>)	27
I. Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee 27-28 August, 2012, Colombo, Sri Lanka	53
J. A decade of BOBP-IGO: 2003-2013	67
K. Emerging Issues: Ensuring Safe Working Conditions	71
L. Emerging Issues: Presenting Views on Shared and Common Issues as a Group in International and Regional Forums	73
M. Work Plan for April 2012 – March 2013	75
N. Fixation of Exchange Rate	83



Delegates and guests at the Inaugural Session of GCM-8

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM-8) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 11 – 12 September 2012. The GCM-8 was attended by representatives of the four member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka), delegates from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and its Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project; South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) and the WorldFish Centre (WFC) as observers and the Secretariat staff of the BOBP-IGO. A list of delegates is attached as **Appendix A**.

2.0 The Inaugural Session of the meeting began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Hon'ble Mr Abdul Latif Biswas, MP, Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr Ujjwal Bikash Dutta, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) chaired the Inaugural Session. The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh, senior officials from the MoFL and the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) and Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC) attended the Inaugural Session. The Session was also covered by representatives of local print and electronic media.

3.0 Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO welcomed the dignitaries and the delegates on behalf of the BOBP-IGO and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh for having agreed to host the Meeting. He said that the GCM was being held in Dhaka for the second time, the first meeting being held in the year 2008. Dr Yadava said that the GCM was the apex body of the Organisation and provided directions to the work of the Secretariat through its annual meetings.

Dr Yadava placed on record his gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for sparing his valuable time to preside over the function and to the Secretary, MoFL for chairing the Session. He thanked the representatives from the member-countries, the observers from FAO, SACEP and WFC for attending the GCM-8 and the guests for participating in the Inaugural Session and for their support to the Organisation.

4.0 Mr Md Shamsul Kibria, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), MoFL welcomed the delegates from the member-countries, the partner Organisations of the BOBP-IGO and the guests. He said that Bangladesh is delighted to host the GCM-8 and thanked the Hon'ble Minister for gracing the occasion.

5.0 Dr Md Shiham Adam, Director General, Marine Research Centre, Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture, Government of Maldives and the chair of the Governing Council extended a hearty welcome to the delegates. He said that as outgoing chair of the Governing Council he was very pleased with the progress of work of the BOBP-IGO during the period April 2011 – March 2012. "Quite a large number of activities were planned for the year and I am happy to say many of them were implemented and or completed so far. Now we are all very aware that many of our coastal fisheries require management interventions; some of them serious and urgent. Issues relating to over-exploitation, degradation of critical habitats - not only from fishing point of view, but also from land-based sources of pollution and coastal developments need serious attention. These affect the productivity of the resources and thereby affect the livelihoods of the coastal fishing communities. The issues are too many and far-reaching and it may be important that we identify them and focus on the critical issues in our work-programmes", said Dr Adam. Closing his speech, Dr Adam thanked the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the GCM-8 and wished the meeting every success. The full speech of Dr Adam is placed as **Appendix B**.

6.0 Mr Ujjwal Bikash Dutta, Secretary, MoFL, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh welcomed the delegates and said that the Government of Bangladesh is very pleased to host the GCM-8. Mr Dutta said that currently, about 20 percent of the total fish production of Bangladesh comes from marine and coastal fisheries, of which about 90 percent is from small-scale fisheries. The small-scale fisheries sector comprises nearly 43 000 mechanized and non-mechanized fishing boats of various dimensions, with about half a million of fishers involved in the sector. In recent years, there is an increased demand for marine and coastal fish due to its rich nutrition and mineral contents. Further, there is also an incremental demand of marine fish from Europe and

North-American countries. Despite the fact that the global market is faced with recession, frozen shrimp and fisheries products still ranked second highest in the exports from Bangladesh, bringing revenue of about Taka 460 million during 2010-11.

“Due to common property resources, the unabated new entry of non-fishers has increased each day with concomitant increase in use of destructive and non-selective gear, making exploitation of marine fisheries resources non-remunerative. This has resulted in increased fishing capacity and effort with ultimate reduction of catch per unit of effort. We would appreciate the role of BOBP-IGO for providing continued technical and management advisory services for sustainable marine and coastal fisheries development and management in an integrated manner”, said Mr Dutta. The full speech of Secretary, MoFL is placed as **Appendix C**.

7.0 In his inaugural address, Hon’ble Mr Abdul Latif Biswas, MP and Minister, MoFL extended a warm welcome to the delegates. He said that it is an honor for him to open the GCM-8 of the BOBP-IGO. Welcoming the very distinguished members of the Governing Council and other guests, he congratulated the BOBP-IGO for arranging this august meeting where the activities for the period April 2012 - March 2013 would be framed and approved.

Reiterating the immense importance of fisheries sector towards the economy of Bangladesh- particularly in providing livelihood support to millions of poverty prone fishers, the Hon’ble Minister said that we the four nations are sharing the very vibrant and productive ecosystem of the Bay of Bengal for harnessing diverse resources where fisheries are the most important. The marine and coastal fisheries resources though have unique potential to contribute to the economy, but they must be managed and conserved so that the sustainable harvest could be obtained while at the same time protecting the environment and biodiversity.

The Hon’ble Minister mentioned the success achieved in the production of hilsa fish, the national pride and heritage of Bangladesh. He said that hilsa contributes about 12 percent of country’s total fish production. “Under the dynamic and charismatic leadership of our Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, we have succeeded in protecting the decline of this important fishery by implementing Hilsa Management Plan and by also conserving the livelihood opportunities of hilsa fishers. As hilsa is distributed along the BOBP-IGO countries, a cooperative management and conservation mechanism would be helpful in the rehabilitation of the stock. The BOBP-IGO could be an effective forum to work out ways and means to address the transboundary management issues of hilsa fish and of other common interest activities to protect the environment and the resources of the Bay of Bengal”, said the Hon’ble Minister. Wishing the delegates a pleasant stay in Bangladesh and all the success, Mr Biswas declared the GCM-8 open. The full text of the Hon’ble Minister’s speech is placed as **Appendix D**.

8.0 Mr Syed Arif Azad, Director General, DoF proposed the vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to the Hon’ble Minister for gracing the occasion and being a source of inspiration. He thanked the Secretary, MoFL for guidance in organizing the meeting and chairing the session. He also thanked the other dignitaries, guests and members of the press/media for attending the opening session of GCM-8.

Adoption of Agenda

9.0 The Governing Council adopted the agenda placed as **Appendix E** and agreed for the arrangements for the meeting as placed as **Appendix F**.

10.0 The documents considered and reviewed by the Governing Council are listed at **Appendix G**.

11.0 The chair (Maldives) opened the floor for election of the new chair. India proposed the name of Bangladesh to chair the Eighth GCM which was unanimously agreed upon. The Governing Council also noted its appreciation for the leadership provided by the Maldives to the Organisation during its tenure as chair of the Governing Council.

Performance of the Fisheries Sector in the Region

12.0 The Governing Council considered the document on performance of the fisheries sector in the region as placed under **Appendix H** (Part A). The Governing Council while discussing the performance of the fisheries sector in the region took note of the relatively higher growth rate in the region and observed that there is a need to monitor such growth, especially for shared fish stocks so that the observed growth remains sustainable.

13.0 The Maldives noted that the figures presented in the annual report 2011-12 for tuna production in the Maldives were misleading and do not reflect the actual tuna landings and requested the Secretariat to reconcile the position in consultation with the Ministry so that correct figures are reflected in the documents.

14.0 Bangladesh observed that volatility in the production of hilsa from inland and marine waters also could be due to global warming leading to changes in breeding behavior and migratory pattern as some recent research studies have shown. The Governing Council felt the need for in-depth studies to be carried out by the concerned research institutes in the member-countries and the findings of such studies could be shared with the BOBP-IGO and other agencies working on the sustainable development of hilsa fisheries in the region.

15.0 India observed that differences in fisheries growth in the region should be carefully evaluated, keeping in view both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the fisheries. While doing so the contributions of different sub-sectors of marine fisheries such as artisanal and small-scale fisheries and the larger industrial fisheries should also be carefully assessed. The Secretariat informed that in terms of size of the fishing vessels, lion's share of production in the region came from the artisanal/small-scale fisheries. In this regard, India further observed that size of the fishing vessels may not be the only criterion for defining small-scale fisheries and other criterion may also be kept in mind while defining these sub-sectors of the marine fisheries.

16.0 Sri Lanka, explaining the higher rate of growth achieved in marine capture fisheries production during the last year in the country, said that the increase in production was largely due to resumption of fishing in the northern areas where fisheries were affected due to the long civil strife that Sri Lanka faced in the past. To meet the growing aspirations of the fishers in the northern areas of the country and to ensure that their livelihoods are sustained, the Government of Sri Lanka has also allowed expansion of the fishing fleet. However, while doing so, the Government is fully committed to ensuring sustainability in the sector.

17.0 Concluding discussions on the performance of the fisheries sector in the Bay of Bengal region, and complementing the Secretariat for a very comprehensive presentation, the Governing Council observed that such appraisal of the fisheries sector in the region as analyzed in the agenda document should form an important basis to design and prioritize the activities of the BOBP-IGO.

Report on BOBP-IGO Activities for the Period April 2011 – 2012

18.0 The Governing Council reviewed the activities of the BOBP-IGO for the period 2011 – 2012 and appreciated the work carried out during the reporting year. The Governing Council also noted that the Secretariat with the limited resources at its disposal carried out a large number of activities within the framework of the Strategic Plan of Action and commended the excellent progress made during the reporting year. The Governing Council also discussed the issue of BOBP-IGO's participation in the meetings of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and it was informed that both the previous chair (Maldives) and India communicated with the IOTC in this regard. The delegate from India informed that the requirement/procedure for participation of BOBP-IGO needed some procedural formalities, which have been resolved. The Governing Council agreed that the chair (Bangladesh) would request the IOTC to invite BOBP-IGO at the meetings of the Commission. Report on the activities of the BOBP-IGO for the period April 2011 – March 2012 is placed as **Appendix H** (Part B).

Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee

19.0 The Governing Council reviewed the recommendations of the Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC-7) of the Organization, which was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 27- 28 August 2012. The report is placed as **Appendix I**.

20.0 The Maldives expressed its reservations on the suggestion of the TAC-7 that a management plan was necessary for tuna longline fisheries in the Maldives to reduce by-catch of sharks. It was informed that adequate regulatory measures are already in place and the Government of Maldives was committed to the protection of sharks while promoting longline fisheries.

21.0 With this observation, the Governing Council endorsed the report of TAC-7.



Inaugural Session in progress

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

22.0 The Governing Council accepted the recommendations of the TAC-7 that the Secretariat may hold further discussions with the research institutes in the member-countries to explore the possibilities for cooperation including signing of MoUs with the research institutions so that the required scientific information could be made available to the BOBP-IGO for sustainable development of fisheries in the region.

Statement from the Observers

23.0 Dr Chris O'Brien, the Regional Coordinator of the BOBLME provided the Council with an update on the Project. He described a range of collaborative activities being undertaken by BOBLME and BOBP-IGO that are meeting the respective objectives of both partners, and informed the Council that the activities are increasing in quantity, quality and overall improving the alignment of BOBLME and BOBP-IGO.

Dr O'Brien described the outcomes of the BOBLME's recent meetings of its hilsa and Indian mackerel technical working groups, and the Regional Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (RFMAC) and the newly drafted management advisories the RFMAC has developed for hilsa and Indian mackerel. These advisories include information on stock status, ecosystem impacts, socio-economics and governance, and are the first 'ecosystem approach to fisheries management' advisories to be developed in the region. He also requested the Council to consider the formation of a regional fisheries decision making forum for hilsa under the auspices of BOBP-IGO that would consider the advisories and possible joint management actions.

Finally, the Council was informed about the status of the draft BOBLME Project Strategic Action Programme (SAP). Dr O'Brien stressed that the SAP ought to be compatible with the BOBP-IGO Strategic Plan of Action (SPA), and that all efforts will be made by the Project to ensure these documents are complementary - given the current overlap between the BOBLME and BOBP-IGO activities and goals.

24.0 Dr S M D P Anura Jayatilake, Director General, SACEP said that his organization established in 1982 deals with both biodiversity and environmental factors. Presently, SACEP is mainly focussing on the South Asian Seas Programme, which includes several activities such as coral reef protection, marine biodiversity protection and invasive marine species coming through the ballast water. In the next 3-6 months new activities will start which are likely to include biodiversity, climate change, environmental aspects and ecosystem assessment. Dr Jayatilake said that SACEP and BOBP-IGO could cooperate in many areas including harmonizing biodiversity and fisheries.

25.0 Dr William Collis, Regional Director, WFC said that his Centre would be happy to help the monitoring programmes including MCS activities. Dr Collis said that Bangladesh is a pioneering country in co-management, especially in inland waters and the BOBP-IGO countries can be assisted by WFC on co-management, which would include help in designing a survey plan, both land based and sea based.

Finalization of Modalities for Developing Strategic Plan of Action: 2014-19

26.0 The Governing Council considered the proposal of the Secretariat to decide on the modalities of preparing the Strategic Plan of Action: 2014-19 (SPA: 2014-19) and also considered the recommendation of the TAC in this regard. The TAC had suggested that the SPA: 2014-19 could be prepared using a broad-based survey followed by constitution of an expert group which could visit the member-countries and have detailed discussions before formulating the draft SPA: 2014-19 for placing at the next meetings of the TAC and the GCM.

27.0 India observed that the process proposed by TAC-7 would not only be time-consuming but also costly and suggested that the Secretariat based on its vast experience may formulate the SPA 2014:19. Thereafter, the draft Plan could be submitted to the TAC at its next meeting and subsequently to the GCM for its consideration and approval. Agreeing to the proposal the Governing Council asked the Secretariat to initiate the process.

A Decade of BOBP-IGO: 2003 – 2013

28.0 The Governing Council was informed that the BOBP-IGO would be completing its tenth year in 2013 and presented a set of actions including retrospection and scoping of the activities carried out by the Organisation. The Governing Council suggested that the next meeting of the Council may be held for three days which should

include a detailed review of the performance of the Organisation. The Secretariat may consider organizing other functions subject to the availability of funds. A note on the proposal is placed as *Appendix J*.

Emerging Issues

Ensuring Safe Working Conditions

29.0 The Governing Council agreed that good working conditions are paramount for the safety of workers in the fisheries sector as presented under *Appendix K*. The Governing Council also felt that while adequate provisions did exist in the rules and regulations governing working conditions of workers in the sector, the issue required an understanding from various perspectives, especially in view of the specific circumstances, problems and challenges faced by the small-scale fisheries in the region. In this regard, the Governing Council asked the Secretariat to carry out a review of the conventions and resolutions of International Labour Organisation concerning good working conditions in the fisheries sector and identify the possible implications for the BOBP-IGO member-countries. The document may be presented at the next meeting of the Governing Council for further action in the matter.

Presenting Views on Shared and Common Issues as a Group in International and Regional Forums

30.0 The Governing Council advised that the Secretariat should analyze the agenda documents of important international meetings and identify issues which are of common concern to all the members of the BOBP-IGO. Thereafter, the Secretariat should circulate a brief on these issues to the members facilitating the development of a common position/stand in the concerned meetings. If required, a meeting of the members could be organized, prior to or during the international meet/event for greater understanding of issues of common interest. A note on the proposal is placed as *Appendix L*.

Proposed Works Programme and Activities: April 2012 – March 2013

31.0 The Governing Council reviewed the Work Programme of the Organization for the period 2012- 13 and endorsed the proposed Work Plan, which conformed to the agreed Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) 2010 -14 of the Organisation. The Governing Council also decided that from 2014 onwards the reporting would be on calendar year basis and not on the financial year basis as being practiced now.

32.0 On the proposed activity for organizing the second meeting of the Technical Committee (TC) on formation of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) for the Bay of Bengal Region, the Governing Council agreed to continue the process and explore the possibilities of improving the scope, function and reach of the Organisation. Such a review was also necessary as the BOBP-IGO was completing its tenth year of existence. The Governing Council also decided that keeping in view the task before the TC constituted for the purpose under the chairpersonship of the Minister of State for Fisheries & Agriculture, Maldives, it would be appropriate for the countries to depute senior officials in the second meeting of the TC. It was also proposed to convene the second meeting of the TC after discussing the dates and venue with the chairperson.

33.0 The Governing Council decided that the BOBP-IGO should carry forward the activities of BOBLME on the conclusion of the fisheries component of the Project. In this regard, the Council decided to strengthen the IGO and advised that the Technical Consultation should deliberate on this aspect also and suggest the way forward.

34.0 The Work Plan for the period April 2012 – March 2013 is presented as *Appendix M*.

Administrative and Other Matters

Report of the Auditors

35.0 The Governing Council accepted the report of the External Auditors on the accounts of the Organisation for the period January – December 2011. The Governing Council noted that the accounts of the Organization had been audited and presented in a comprehensive manner. While accepting the report of the External auditors, India also complimented the Secretariat for providing very succinct accounts for the separate funds that are provide by the Government of India for the maintenance and upkeep of the headquarters at Chennai.

Review of Employment Conditions of the Secretariat Staff – Fixation of Exchange Rate

36.0 The Governing Council reviewed the document on revision of exchange rate (USD to INR) for payment of salary and other benefits to the Secretariat as presented under **Appendix N**. Accepting the proposal of the Secretariat, the Governing Council recommended that either the exchange rate prevailing on the last working day of the month or a half-yearly average exchange rate can be considered for payment of salary and other benefits. The Governing Council also recommended that the Director, BOBP-IGO can take a decision in this regard upon consulting the Auditors of the Organisation.

Extension of Appointment of the Director, BOBP-IGO and Other Recruitment Matters

37.0 Noting the significant contributions made by Dr Y S Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO towards the working of the Organization, the Governing Council approved extension of his appointment for the post of the Director, BOBP-IGO till March 2015 under the existing terms and conditions.

38.0 The Governing Council was informed of the lack of suitable applications for filling up of the position of the Senior Programme Officer (SPO) in the Secretariat. It was also informed that keeping the present budgetary position of the Organisation, it may not be desirable to recruit the SPO.

39.0 The Governing Council enquired the possible reasons for the lack of applications for the said position. It was informed that the salary scale applicable for the position and the proposed tenure of three years were the main deterrents. The Governing Council recommended that the tenure fixation should be flexible and the Director, BOBP-IGO may take a decision on the tenure of the appointments to staff positions depending on the merits of the candidates and requirements of the Organisation.

40.0 The Governing Council also decided to increase the retirement age to 65 years to ensure retention of good staff and continuity of work.

Enhancement of Country Contributions

41.0 The Governing Council recalled the decision taken in the Seventh Meeting of the Council held at Maldives in June 2011 where in it was resolved that the contribution of the members be enhanced by 25 percent. Members were urged to take urgent steps for implementation of this decision in view of expansion in the activities of the organisation on one hand and precarious financial position on the other. In this regard, the Maldives informed that the Government of Maldives has provided for enhanced contribution of 25 percent in the budget, and it will take effect subject to approval of the Parliament.

Date and Place of the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council

42.0 The Governing Council accepted the invitation of India to hold the Ninth Session of the Governing Council in India subject to approval of the Government of India.

Adoption of the Report

43.0 The Governing Council expressed its deep sense of gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for excellent hospitality and courtesies extended to the delegates and observers and also for the excellent arrangements made for the conduct of the meeting.

44.0 The report of the Eighth meeting of the Governing Council was adopted on 12 September, 2012.



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**Remarks of Dr Shiham Adam, Director General, Marine Research Centre,
Government of Maldives**

Chief guest, Hon MP and Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh, Mr Mohamed Abdul Latif Biswas; His Excellency the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh; State Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture Maldives, Dr Hussain R Hassan; Observers from FAO, BOBLME Project, SACEP, World Fish Centre; Director of BOBP-IGO, Dr Yugraj Yadava; Distinguished members of the Governing Council;

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the outgoing chair of the Governing Council, I would like to make few observations. At the outset, let me say that I am very pleased with the progress of work of the IGO during the period April 2011 – March 2012. Quite a large number of activities were planned for the year and I am happy to say many of them have been implemented and or completed so far. Like the previous years, the work programmes for the year also focused on four work themes of the Organization – capacity building, information dissemination, fisheries resources management and improving safety at sea of small-scale fishers in the member states.

As Dr Yadava had earlier mentioned, following the mandate given to the Secretariat during the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council, activities related to restructuring the IGO towards some form of regional fisheries management organization were undertaken. Engaging with the BOBLME Project and a number of related activities in the member-countries were also carried out. Taking stock of these new developments and engagements, and as the outgoing chair, I feel it would now require convening a meeting of the Technical Committee that has been established to oversee this issue.

As usual, a number of publications were made last year complementing the broader theme of creating awareness and also one of IGO's flagship work area – taking the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to the grassroots level. Some of these were results of direct collaboration with the fisheries and resource management institutes in the four member-countries.

I have seen this work in the Maldives in the form of a number of activities; from posters on important commercial species of groupers, on guidelines of culturing black- pearl oysters to field officers' guides on the length frequency sampling programmes. I have no doubt, similar, but many more activities have taken place in the other member-countries too in this front.

Now we are all very aware that many of our coastal fisheries require management interventions; some of them serious and urgent. Issues relating to over-exploitation, degradation of critical habitats - not only from fishing point of view, but also from land-based sources of pollution and coastal developments need serious attention. These affect the productivity of the resources and thereby affect the livelihoods of the coastal fishing communities.

We know that countries also have different requirements due to the nature of the coastal ecosystems they have. For instance, coral reefs in Maldives and Sri Lanka, mangroves and river systems in Bangladesh and India and we have to address them to meet our needs. Some of these issues are also trans-boundary, like the sharks, Indian mackerel and hilsa. The role of a regional fishery organization in managing these will become more important. The issues are too many and far-reaching and it may be important that we identify them and focus on the critical issues in our work-programmes. I have no doubt the Governing Council and with the new chair will be considering Dr Yadava's report on formulating the work programme for the coming year.

Again, let me say that I am very pleased with the progress of the work carried out during this reporting period. As the chair I have enjoyed working with the Director, Dr Yadava, and his very efficient team in Chennai – Jayaraj, Mukherjee, Sreenivasan and Cheryl. Thank you very much Dr Yadava for all the support and cooperation.

Thank you.

**Speech of Mr Ujjwal Bikash Dutta, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock,
Government of Bangladesh**

Honorable Chief Guest Mr Md Abdul Latif Biswas MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh; His Excellency Dr Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives; Honourable members of the Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO; Respected Director BOBP-IGO, Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava; Distinguished Observers from National and International Organizations; Respected representatives from print and electronic media; Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure and also an opportunity to participate in this prestigious Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM-8) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). We extend our thanks to the BOBP-IGO for choosing Bangladesh for hosting the GCM-8. Considering the significance of the Bay of Bengal for social, environmental and economic emancipation of the bordering nations, the erstwhile BOBP had worked over the past 25 years before the establishment of BOBP-IGO during April 2003. BOBP was a pioneer in the region in many areas of small-scale fisheries development like implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), women in fisheries, sea safety issues for fishers, post-harvest technologies, socio-economics of coastal fishers, capacity enhancement of fisheries officials, fishers and management advices, etc. The BOBP-IGO is ensuring the logical progress of BOBP as a regional fisheries forum to assist member-countries *viz.* Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives and enabling their capacity for undertaking sustainable fisheries development and management.

Distinguished delegates,

We are aware of the objective and mandate of the BOBP-IGO to enhance cooperation among member-countries as well as other countries, organizations and projects like the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOB-LME) in the Bay of Bengal region, particularly for the development and management of artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Currently, about 20 percent of the total fish production of Bangladesh comes from marine and coastal fisheries, of which about 90 percent is the share from small-scale fisheries. The small-scale fisheries sector comprises nearly 43 000 mechanized and non-mechanized fishing boats of various dimensions, with about half a million of fishers involved for their livelihoods and food security. In recent years, there is an increased demand for marine and coastal fish due to its rich nutrition and mineral contents. Further, there is also an incremental demand of marine fish from Europe and North-American countries. I would like to mention that despite recession in the global market, frozen shrimp and fisheries products still rank second highest in our exports bringing revenue of about Taka 460 million during 2010-11.

Due to common property resources, the unabated new entry of non-fishers has increased each day with concomitant increase in use of destructive and non-selective gear, making the exploitation of marine fisheries resources non-remunerative. This has resulted in increased fishing capacity and effort with ultimate reduction of catch per unit of effort. We would appreciate the role of BOBP-IGO for providing continued technical and management advisory services for sustainable marine and coastal fisheries development and management in an integrated manner. I would also request BOBP-IGO to initiate comprehensive implementation mechanisms through programme development involving the member-countries.

Respected delegates,

I hope BOBP-IGO will fill the gap through adoption of a more proactive role in Bangladesh. Bangladesh marine fisheries still lack effective management arrangements. This includes implementation of sound Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) mechanisms for small-scale and artisanal fisheries, which are often responsible for destruction of juveniles and pre-adults of many marine fishes. BOBP-IGO in cooperation with FAO may work towards facilitating a comprehensive management of marine fisheries through implementation of MCS. It is also now necessary to determine the fishing capacity and effort that is required for maintaining fisheries

resources at sustainable levels. Capacity building of human resources, especially in the fields of CCRF, combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, successive replacement of destructive and detrimental fishing gear, climate change adaptation measures, post-harvest technologies, etc. could be undertaken through training needs assessment.

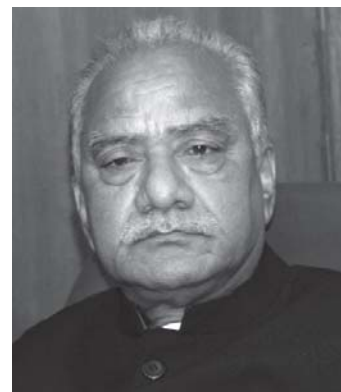
I had the opportunity to go through the recommendations of the GCM-7 held in Maldives last year and their implementation progress in our context. We strongly believe that GCM-8 will provide us with pragmatic and practical recommendations with definitive activities that could help in sustainable management of our marine and coastal fisheries resources, particularly focused on the livelihoods security of the teeming fishers.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to our Hon'ble Minister Md Abdul Latif Biswas MP, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock for being with us and gracing the meeting as chief guest despite his intense busy schedule. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to His Excellency Dr Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all the respected members of the BOBP-IGO Governing Council for being here with us.

Thanking you all once again.

**Speech of Mr Abdul Latif Biswas, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock,
Government of Bangladesh**

Respected Chairperson Mr Ujjwal Bikash Dutta, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh; His Excellency Dr Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives; Hon'ble members of the Governing Council of BOBP-IGO; Respected Director BOBP-IGO Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava; Distinguished Observers from National and International Organizations; Representatives from electronic and print media; Ladies and Gentlemen,



It is indeed a great pleasure and honor for me to be present here in this Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM-8) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) being organized in Bangladesh. I would like to welcome you all and congratulate the BOBP-IGO for arranging this august meeting where the activities for the period April 2012 - March 2013 would be framed and approved.

I would like to reiterate the immense importance of fisheries sector towards the economy of Bangladesh- particularly in providing livelihood support to millions of poverty prone fishers engaged in fishing in the marine and coastal waters, contributing the prime source of animal protein, earning foreign exchange and contributing to other allied businesses and industries.

Respected delegates,

I am delighted to mention that we are arranging the Eighth Meeting of the GCM with the participation of very distinguished members of the Governing Council from the four BOBP-IGO member-countries- India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Bangladesh. We the four nations are sharing the very vibrant and productive ecosystem of the Bay of Bengal for harnessing diverse resources where fisheries are the most important. The marine and coastal fisheries resources though have unique potential to contribute to the economy, but they must be managed and conserved so that the sustainable harvest could be obtained while at the same time protecting the environment and biodiversity. Without concerted and comprehensive efforts, the potential fisheries resources of the Bay of Bengal cannot be preserved for future. The BOBP-IGO, as a unique regional fisheries body, would assist the member-countries to undertake prime activities to protect the shared resources like- hilsa, sardine, mackerel, tuna, etc. for sustainable exploitation.

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to mention the success so far achieved in the production of hilsa fish, our national pride and heritage, contributing about 12 percent of country's total fish production. Under the dynamic and charismatic leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, we have succeeded in protecting the decline of this important fishery by implementing the Hilsa Management Plan and also by conserving the livelihood opportunities of hilsa fishers. Through this programme we have protected the juveniles of hilsa named *Jatka* where a ban is imposed from November to May each year. During the ban season, the affected fishers are supported with food grains within our social safety net schemes, and also provided with cash incentives and inputs to engage them into alternative income generating activities (AIGA's). As a result, both hilsa production and its export have been enhanced during the last few years. As hilsa is distributed along the BOBP-IGO countries, a cooperative management and conservation mechanism would be helpful in the rehabilitation of the stock. The BOBP-IGO could be an effective forum to work out ways and means to address the transboundary management issues of hilsa fish and of other common interest activities to protect the environment and the resources of the Bay of Bengal.

Distinguished delegates,

I hope the BOBP-IGO will fill the gap through adoption of a more proactive role in Bangladesh. Bangladesh marine fisheries still lack effective management arrangements and the BOBP-IGO may work toward facilitating a project formulation through FAO for comprehensive management of marine fisheries. There are also other works which may be focused upon, such as determining the fishing capacity that is needed to maintain the fisheries resources at sustainable level.

On behalf of my Ministry, I would like to extend my thanks to the Director, BOBP-IGO for organizing this meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh. I would also like to express my heartiest thanks to His Excellency the Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives and respected members of the Governing Council of the BOBO-IGO and other distinguished delegates for attending the GCM-8.

I hope you will find your stay here both rewarding and enjoyable.

Thanking you all.

Agenda and Timetable

Tuesday, 11 September 2012

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 for the Period April 2011 - March 2012
5. Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee
6. Remarks from Partner Organizations

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

7. Modalities for Developing Strategic Plan of Action: 2014-2018
8. A decade of BOBP-IGO: 2003 – 2013
9. Emerging Issues
10. Proposed Work Programme and Activities: April 2012 - March 2013
11. Administrative Matters

Wednesday, 12 September 2012

Morning, 1030 hrs

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

Arrangements for the Meeting

Date & Time (in hrs)	Activity	Person/Venue
<i>Mon, 10.09.12</i>	Arrival of the Delegates	<i>Ruposhi Bangla Hotel</i>
<i>Tue, 11.09.12</i>	Meeting	
0900 - 0905	Recitation from Holy Quran	
0905 - 0910	Welcome and Introductory Remarks	<i>Director, BOBP-IGO</i>
0910 - 0915	Welcome	<i>Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Government of Bangladesh</i>
0915 - 0920	Opening Remarks	<i>Chairperson, Governing Council</i>
0920 - 0925	Opening Speech	<i>Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock, Government of Bangladesh</i>
0925 - 0935	Inaugural Address	<i>Chief Guest</i>
0935 - 0940	Vote of Thanks	<i>Director General (Fisheries), Government of Bangladesh</i>
0940 - 1000	Tea/Group Photo	
1000 - 1005	Adoption of the Agenda	<i>Delegates</i>
1005 - 1010	Election of Chairperson	<i>Delegates</i>
1010 - 1140	Reporting and Discussion on the BOBP-IGO Activities: April 2011 - March 2012.	<i>Secretariat/Delegates</i>
1140 - 1210	Reporting and Discussion on the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee	<i>Secretariat/Delegates</i>
1210 - 1230	Remarks from Partners (FAO/ BOBLME Project/SACEP/ WorldFish Centre/SAARC Agricultural Centre)	<i>Representative of the Partner Organization</i>
1230 - 1400	Lunch	
1400 – 1430	Finalization of modalities for Developing Strategic Plan of Action: 2014-2018	<i>Secretariat/Delegates</i>
1430 – 1500	A decade of BOBP-IGO: 2003 – 2013	<i>Secretariat</i>
1500 - 1530	Emerging Issues	<i>Secretariat</i>
1530 – 1600	Tea/Coffee	
1600 - 1630	Proposed Work Programme and Activities: April 2012 - March 2013	<i>Secretariat</i>
1630 - 1730	Administrative Matters	<i>Member-countries only</i>
<i>Wed, 12.09.12</i>	Meeting	
1030 – 1100	Tea/Coffee	
1100 - 1120	Any Other Matter	<i>Delegates</i>
1120 - 1130	Date and Place of the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council	<i>Delegates</i>
1130 - 1200	Adoption of the Report	<i>Secretariat/ Delegates</i>
1200 - 1230	Close of Meeting	<i>Secretariat/ Delegates</i>
1230 – 1400	Lunch	
1400- onwards	Departure of the Delegates	

List of Documents

A. Working Documents

BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/WP1	Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/WP2	Report on the BOBP-IGO Activities (April 2011 - March 2012).
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/WP3	Modalities for developing the Strategic Plan of Action of the BOBP-IGO: April 2014 – March 2019.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/WP4	A decade of BOBP-IGO: 2003 – 2013.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/WP5	Emerging Issues
	1. <i>Ensuring Safe Working Conditions.</i>
	2. <i>Presenting Views on Shared and Common Issues as a Group in International and Regional Forums.</i>
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/WP6	Administrative Matter.

B. Information Documents

BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.2	Tentative Programme.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.3	Provisional List of Participants.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.4	Annual Report: 2011 – 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.5	Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 27-28 August 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.6	Report of the Regional training Course on Strengthening Fisheries Data Collection- 25 April to 7 May 2011.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.7	Report of the Regional Workshop on “Establishing a Cooperative Mechanism for Protection of Met-Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean Region”, Chennai, India, 6-7 May, 2011.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.8	Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, Malé, Maldives, 22-23 June, 2011.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.9	Report of the Fourth Regional Training Course on CCRF. Chennai/Kochi, India, 10-23 July 2011.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.10	Report of the First Bi-National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar Ecosystem and its resources, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, 5 – 6 September, 2011.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.11	Status Report on the Project on Integrated quality Improvement Programme in Mudasalodai, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.12	Report of the Working Group on Preparation of national response to BOBLME TDA Document November-December, 2011.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.13	CMFRI Abstract.

BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.14	Report of the International Symposium on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem, 21 December 2011.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.15	MRC Publication on Tuna Handling.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.16	2012 Calendar of BOBP-IGO (Fishing Crafts of the Bay of Bengal).
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.17	Poster on Data Buoys.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.18	Leaflet on data Buoys.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.19	Posters on Biodiversity.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.20	Report on the Survey of Fish Markets in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India (Web version).
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.21	Report on the Survey of Fish Markets in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.22	Proposed Work Plan (April 2012-March 2013).
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.23	Registration Form.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2012/Inf.24	Provisional Itinerary of Participants.



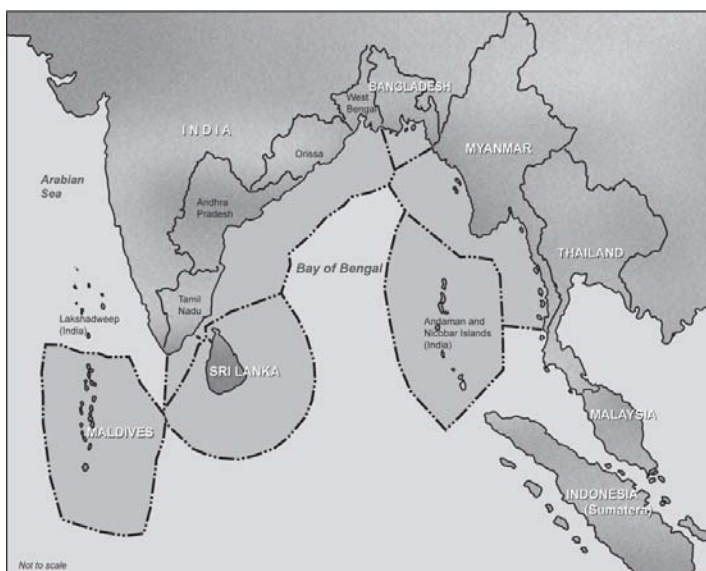
Report on the Activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (April 2011 - March 2012)

Part A¹: Status of Marine Fisheries in the BOBP Region

1.1 The BOBP region², 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 (Map). 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 (BoB).

Map: The BOBP region

1.2 The total fish production from the BOBP region has increased to about 12.92 million tonnes (mt) during 2010, recording a growth of 15 percent over the previous year. The region now supplies 9 percent of global fish supply, which has increased from 8 percent during the last year. The per capita daily availability of fish has also increased from about 21 grams to 26 grams in 2010. The fisheries sector is a net exporter. The total fisheries export from the region has increased from USD 2 493 million in 2006 to USD 2 804 million during 2006-2010. Correspondingly, its share in the global export has also increased from 2.88 percent to 2.90 percent (Table 1 on page 29).



Map³: The BOBP region

1.3 This growth in fish production is largely attributed to the phenomenal increase in aquaculture production in the region, which is estimated at 23 percent during the same period

(Fig. 1 on page 28). Aquaculture, which accounted for about 1/4th of the total fish production till the early 1990s, now contributes to about half of the production. This is in tune with the trend observed globally and it is likely that supply from aquaculture will far outstrip supply from capture fisheries in the next five years. Sri Lanka and Maldives are now taking measures to strengthen and or introduce aquaculture, while in Bangladesh and India, where aquaculture is well-established, only about half of the full potential is being achieved.

1.4 While the impressive growth of aquaculture can contribute in addressing the increasing food security needs in the region and facilitating fisheries trade, the larger question that remains to be solved is how to use aquaculture to divert excess effort from capture fisheries in a productive manner. Although, theoretically and during some pilot-scale activities, aquaculture has shown its potential in addressing the problems of capture fisheries, especially those related to livelihood sustainability, a broad-spectrum macro-level adoption of the activity by small-and artisanal fishers is still a distant dream. A host of factors, including landless nature of fishers, needs to be considered to adopt aquaculture as a meaningful alternative livelihood strategy for fishers engaged in capture fisheries.

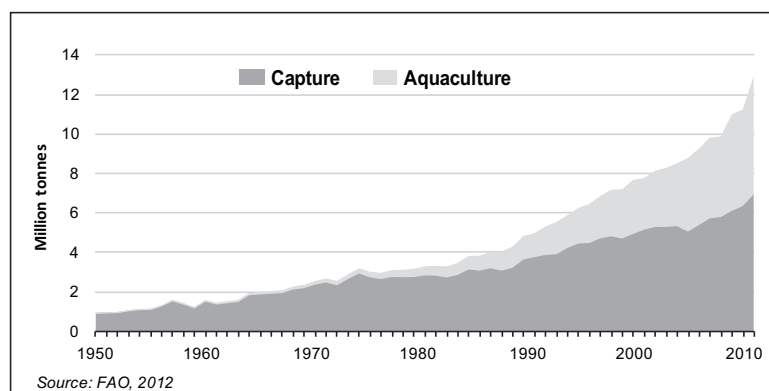
¹ This Report is presented in two parts.

² This definition is purely functional related to area of operation of the BOBP-IGO and has no legal implications whatsoever.

³ The EEZs depicted in the map are only indicative and not as per scale.

Table 1: Fisheries production and trade in the BOBP region

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Production (million tonnes) & availability					
<i>Capture</i>	5.74	5.81	6.12	6.36	6.95
<i>% of World</i>	6.38	6.43	6.82	7.10	7.85
<i>Aquaculture</i>	4.08	4.07	4.87	4.87	5.97
<i>% of World</i>	8.63	8.15	9.20	8.74	9.97
<i>Region (Total fisheries)</i>	9.82	9.88	10.99	11.23	12.92
<i>% of World</i>	7.15	7.04	7.71	7.73	8.70
<i>Population (in millions)</i>	1 275	1 294	1 313	1 332	1 351
<i>% of World</i>	19	20	20	20	20
<i>Per capita daily fish availability (gram)</i>	21.11	20.91	22.93	23.11	26.21
Trade (million USD)					
<i>Export</i>	2 493	2 589	2 472	2 804	NA
<i>% of World</i>	2.88	2.75	2.41	2.90	NA
<i>Import</i>	164	183	211	227	NA
<i>% of World</i>	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.22	NA

**Fig. 1: Fisheries production in the BOBP region**

1.5 During 2009-10, capture fisheries in the region recorded a growth of 9 percent, which mostly came from inland capture fisheries. However, on a positive note, marine capture fisheries in the region is showing a positive trend, unlike the global trend, which seems to be tapering off. During 2009-10, marine capture fisheries grew at 3.38 percent. However, at the country-level, while Sri Lanka achieved a remarkable growth of 24 percent, other countries have achieved only negligible (Bangladesh, 01%) or negative growth [India, East Coast, (-) 1.51% and Maldives (-) 19%] in marine capture fisheries (Fig.2 on page 29).

1.6 Decline in fish production in Maldives may be due to a combination of factors, both positive and negative. On the positive side, there is a decline in the number of fishing fleet. While the size of the fishing vessels is on the increase, it is not clear what is happening to the total fishing capacity. Also, the size of the workforce in fisheries has declined significantly. Due to lack of locally available workforce, some fishing companies now are engaging migrant workers in their fleet. In addition, the pole and line method of fishing, which is the dominant method of tuna fishing, depends much on personal skill and knowledge. Considering this

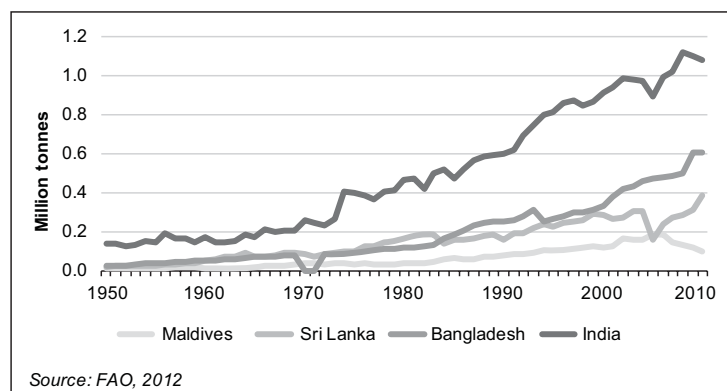


Fig. 2: Growth in marine capture fisheries

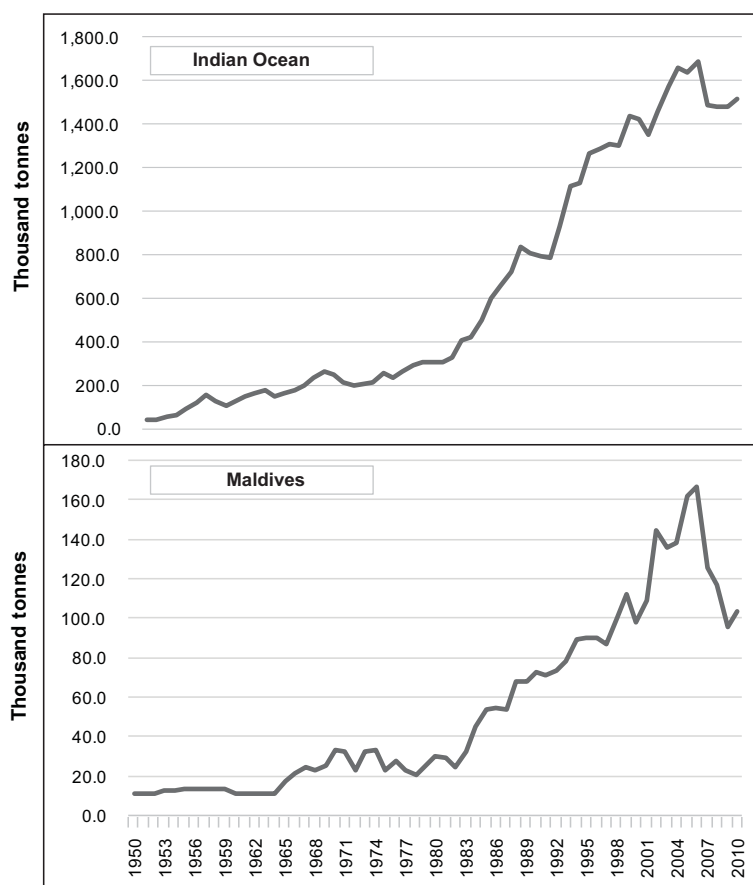


Fig. 3: Tuna fishing in Indian Ocean and Maldives

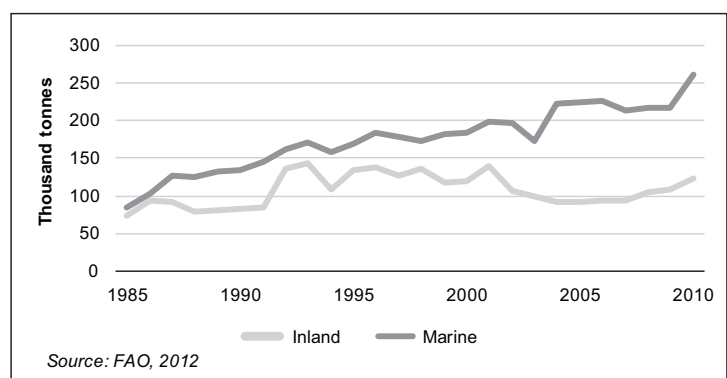


Fig. 4: State of hilsa fishery

the Government of Maldives is now promoting tuna long lining for Maldivian fishers⁴, it is expected that tuna catch may increase in the future.

1.7 However, there is an overall decline in the availability of tuna in the Indian Ocean. Landings of tuna and tuna-like species from the Indian Ocean reached its peak in 2004 and since then a downward trend is seen, except a marginal improvement in 2010 (Fig. 3 on page 29). At present about 56 nations are engaged in tuna fishing and among the countries in the region, Sri Lanka and India are placed in the top five exploiters (2010). Other major tuna fishing countries are Indonesia, Iran and Spain. In India, tuna landings reached its maximum in 2007 at 149 452 tonnes and since then it is gradually declining. In 2010, the country landed 134 616 tonnes of tuna (down by 10%). However, tuna landing is steadily increasing in Sri Lanka. During 2007-10, tuna landings in Sri Lanka increased from 133 902 tonnes (2007) to 197 438 tonnes (2010), recording a growth of 41 percent.

1.8 State of hilsa fishery

Hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*) forms an important commercial fishery in Bangladesh and northern parts of the Indian east coast (West Bengal). Hilsa is an anadromus species and transboundary stocks largely occur in the upper Bay of Bengal. Through the riverine network in Bangladesh, the species migrates upstream in the river Ganges and its tributaries and the river Brahmaputra in India. Hilsa fishery is by far the largest single species fishery in Bangladesh and also its national fish. It was also declared as the State fish in West Bengal, India. Due to its anadromous characteristics, hilsa is also an indicator of the state of land-ocean interface. The combined production of hilsa from inland waters reached its peak in 1993 and since then the production is on decline (Fig. 4 on page 29). Overall, during 2000-10, the total hilsa production in Bangladesh increased from 219 532 tonnes to 313 753 tonnes and in India (East Coast) it has declined from 84 733 tonnes to 69 296 tonnes. Recent reports show that in West Bengal, hilsa catch has declined drastically. According to the Department of Fisheries of the Government of West Bengal (DoF-WB), hilsa catch during the first fortnight of July declined from 25 tonnes per day in 2010 to about 10 tonne per day in 2011.

The reasons behind this stress in hilsa stock are attributed to factors exogenous to the sector such as infrastructural projects, which are primarily affecting water flow in the rivers as well as endogenous factors. In West Bengal, a study by the DoF-WB shows that rampant use of destructive fishing gear such as set bag nets, gill nets with very small mesh size (< 12 mm), locally known as mosquito nets, trawling and obstructing river mouths with set

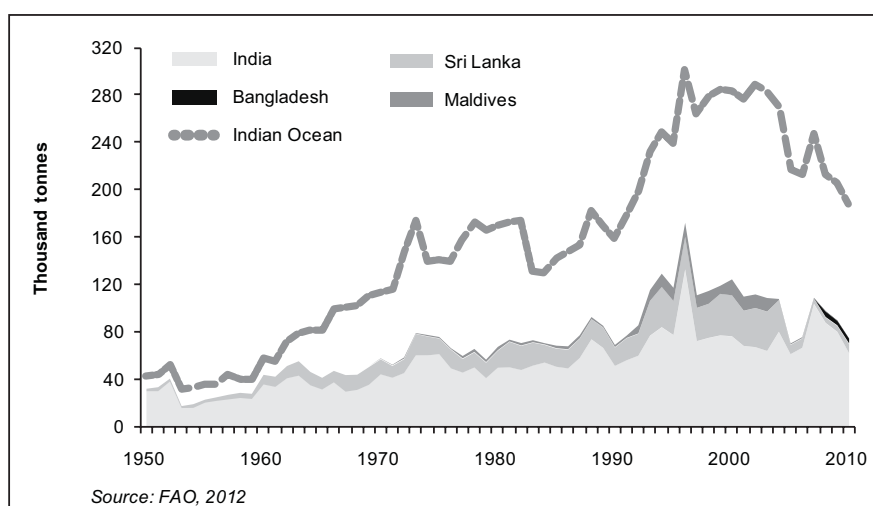


Fig. 5: Shark landings in Indian Ocean

⁴ Minivan News. 31 March, 2010. Cabinet approves long line fishing for Maldivian vessels <<http://minivannews.com/environment/cabinet-approves-long-line-fishing-for-maldivian-vessels-5385>>

bag nets is destroying the fishery. Further, while there is a seasonal fishing ban in the marine sector, the same is not observed in the inland sector, thus making the objective of the ban futile. On the other hand, siltation in the river mouth and reduced water flow is hampering the migration of hilsa from marine to inland waters. In terms of fishing effort, different studies carried out in Bangladesh show that the existing fishing effort is both unsustainable and unprofitable and there is a need to reduce fishing effort by 2/3rd of the existing level to make hilsa fishing both environmentally and economically viable. Although there is lack of data to clearly establish the status of the fishery given its transboundary nature, there is now growing concern over the future of this fishery both in India and Bangladesh from precautionary perspective. Bangladesh has also adopted a National Plan for Hilsa and is largely successful in reducing catching of juvenile hilsa (popularly known as *jatka*). As a result, there is a marked improvement in hilsa landings in Bangladesh from inland waters. However, a regional effort and plan of action is necessary to ensure the health of the stock.

1.9 State of shark fisheries

In terms of economics, shark fishery is a minor player. However, it is important on account of its role in the ecosystem and its inherent vulnerabilities. Keeping the larger ecosystem functions in mind, the BOBP-IGO member-countries are working towards National Plans and also a Regional Plan to manage shark fishery. Maldives has already banned shark fishing within its EEZ including any trade in shark and shark products. Among the BOBP-IGO member-countries, India and Sri Lanka are major exploiters of sharks. Although, the endangered shark species are protected under law in both the countries, it is difficult to implement without a proper plan for monitoring shark fishing as a whole. Shark landings from the Indian Ocean reached maximum in 1996 (300 822 tonnes) and since then declined (Fig. 5 on page 30). Given the lucrative market for shark products and noting that the Maldivian efforts of complete ban are of recent origin, the trend indicates that shark stocks in the region are probably over-exploited. At the country level, shark landings in India have declined from 79 747 tonnes to 61 871 tonnes, while in Sri Lanka it has increased from 4 861 tonnes to 7 507 tonnes. Shark landings in Maldives, which used to catch between 11 000 -13 000 tonnes of sharks in early 2000s, declined to 128 tonnes in 2010. Bangladesh, which is not a traditional shark fishing country, is now increasingly landing sharks and between 2009 and 2010, the landings have increased from 3 933 tonnes to 4 033 tonnes. In the case of Maldives, with the permission of longlining being given to the national fishing vessels, a plan of action may be necessary for the by-catch of sharks that is normally associated with tuna longlining.

1.10 Biodiversity and ecology

The Bay of Bengal is a biological hotspot. The region hosts two major critical ecosystems, Sunderbans between India and Bangladesh and the Gulf of Mannar shared by India and Sri Lanka. Maldives due to its unique physical characteristics is rich in biodiversity. However, the concerns are mostly about protecting what exists and then recovering what has degraded. It is also well recognized that biodiversity conservation needs coordinated effort across the region. In this regard, India and Sri Lanka have now come together to work on a mutually acceptable and implementable management paradigm for the Gulf of Mannar under the aegis of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project. A similar coordinated effort is also necessary for Sunderbans.

In terms of catch composition, the story in the Indian Ocean is quite dramatic (Table 2 on page 32). The major highlights are rise of forage fishes like the Indian Oil Sardine (IOS). The sardine fishery was earlier prominent in the western Indian Ocean only, but is now increasing in the eastern Indian Ocean also, as shown in the fish landings of the region and also documented in various studies. IOS was rarely caught in Bangladesh waters, but the species is now being increasingly caught in Bangladesh. There are two possible reasons behind this geographical expansion of IOS, as indicated in the literature: first, and the worrying one is the reduction in the population of top predators, such as sharks; the second and uncertain one is the impact of global warming, which also indicates the possibility of IOS colonizing new areas. Given the strength of both the theories, it seems that a cumulative factor is at play in the Indian Ocean, further complicating the prediction models. From livelihood angle, since oil sardine fishery is not developed in new areas, fishermen are unable to reap optimum benefits from this fishery. Another concern is that how this colonization will affect the ecosystem, especially in terms of feed competition with species feeding in the same ecological niche like hilsa, whose mobility is also limited by its unique migratory characteristics.

At the same time, there is an urgent need to monitor pollution in the marine waters. A study carried out by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, India in 2010 found that the extent of heavy metal pollution along the Tuticorin coast in Tamil Nadu has exceeded the recommended safe levels. Tuticorin is a highly industrialized belt and most of these industries are located along the coastline. Therefore, a stronger monitoring and surveillance mechanism is necessary for industrial units, especially along the coast. This task of monitoring usually lies with the Union Government and the provincial Department of Environment in India and a similar business rule is also practiced in the other member-countries. However, at present the interaction of fisheries and environment is mostly unidirectional, tracking impact of fisheries on environment and ecology and not *vice versa*. Thus there is a need to strengthen the linkages so that the Ministry/Department in-charge of environment can play a more effective role in reducing exogenous impacts on fisheries.

Table 2: Changes in catch composition of important fish species/stocks in the Indian Ocean

1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-10
IOS	NDS	IOS	CRK	SJT
NDS	IOS	NDS	SJT	IOS
CLP	BBD	CRK	YFT	YFT
BBD	INM	SJT	IOS	CRK
INM	CRK	CLP	NDS	NDS
SRS	CLP	YFT	INM	HIL
CRK	CAT	BBD	BBD	GTP
YFT	SRS	SRS	HIL	BBD
CAT	HSF	CAT	CLP	CLP
ANC	ANC	INM	GTP	CAT

Species	Code	Species	Code
Anchovies, etc. nei	ANC	Indian oil sardine	IOS
Bombay-duck	BBD	Natantian decapods nei	NDS
Clupeoids nei	CLP	Pike-congers nei	PKC
Croakers, drums nei	CRK	Sea catfishes nei	CAT
Giant tiger prawn	GTP	Sharks, rays, skates, etc. nei	SRS
Hairtails, scabbardfishes nei	HSF	Skipjack tuna	SJT
Hilsa shad	HIL	Yellowfin tuna	YFT
Indian mackerel	INM		

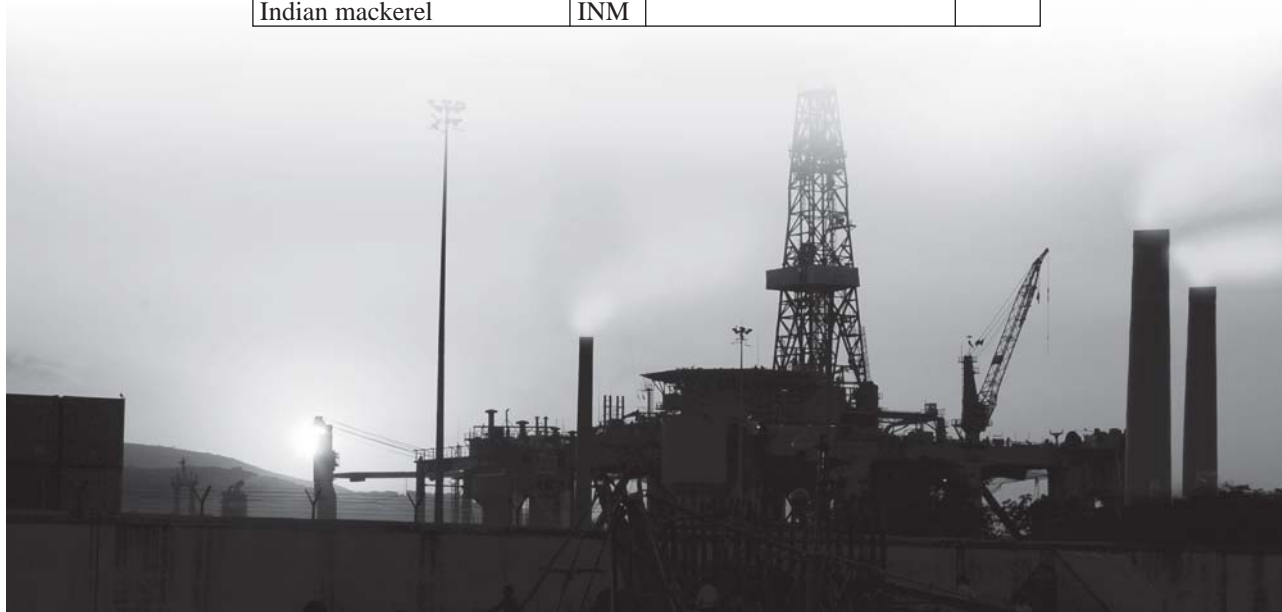


Table 5: Involvement of fishers in aquaculture

State/Union Territories	Fisher Families		
	Total	Practicing Aquaculture	Ratio (%)
West Bengal	76 981	4 688	6.09
Odisha	1 14 238	3 480	3.05
Andhra Pradesh	1 63 427	5 385	3.30
Puducherry	14 271	2	0.01
Tamil Nadu	1 92 697	352	0.18
Total	5 61 614	13 907	2.48

1.12 Fishing fleet

Recently available figures show a decline in the number of total fishing fleet in some States of India and in Maldives. In Maldives, the trend is towards making bigger fishing vessels and the same trend seems to be happening in India. In Sri Lanka, except motorized traditional fleet, other categories of fishing vessels are growing. This expansion in the fleet in Sri Lanka in a way is necessary to adequately cover the northern waters, which were earlier inaccessible due to the civil conflict and also for realizing its potential from the deep sea fishery. However, lack of information on the targeted fish stocks and their role in the ecosystem needs to be reviewed from a precautionary perspective to avoid any over-capacity of fishing fleet in the future. In Bangladesh also the fishing fleet in all categories (powered and non-powered and single day and multi day) is expanding, albeit at a slower rate (Table 6). However, as regular data collection mechanism is inadequate in Bangladesh, the Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh is carrying out a census of fisheries sector to fill up this gap. The result of this exercise, which is expected to be in public domain later this year, will give a better picture of the fishing fleet structure and fisher population in Bangladesh.

Table 6: Changes in fleet size in BOBP-IGO member-countries

Country/Type	1998 - 2001			2008 - 2010			Change (%)		
	P	NP	T	P	NP	T	P	NP	T
Bangladesh	21 513	22 257	43 770	27 226	23 329	50 555	27	5	16
India	44 268	51 940	96 208	1 43 872	50 618	1 94 490	225	-3	102
Maldives	1 197	119	1 316	901	78	979	-25	-34	-26
Sri Lanka	11 949	15 200	27 149	25 973	20 165	46 138	117	33	70
BOBP region	78 927	89 516	1 68 443	1 97 972	94 190	2 92 162	151	5	73

Note: P = Powered including mechanized fishing vessels, industrial trawlers and fishing vessels with inboard or outboard motors. NP = Non-powered, fishing vessels without any mechanical means of propulsion but including sailing boats. For Maldives, data shows average number of fishing vessels engaged. The number of registered fishing vessels in Maldives is 4 587 (2008) which has also declined from 7 154 in 2003. Data compiled from Annual Report of corresponding Ministries/Department in Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka and from CMFRI publication for India.

1.13 Catch monitoring

Catch monitoring and identification of various species landed remains a weak area. Although, a host of factors such as fishing in new areas and expansion of fisheries are responsible for clubbing a large portion of catch as marine fishes, it is a greater concern from an ecological perspective. Such species are often of low commercial value, thus further discouraging their identification and recording the magnitude of their landings. However, from ecological perspective every species has its unique place and role in the marine ecosystem and by clubbing them the probability of missing the trends in their stock becomes very high. In terms of monitoring, lack of trained taxonomists at the field-level is a major constraint. In addition, fishers are not educated about new varieties of species when the fishery is extended. Thus even anecdotal information on a large number of species is and will remain unavailable. On an average, 21 percent of the catch in the region was clubbed under marine fishes in 2009 and 2010. At the country level, a large portion of the catch in Bangladesh, India and Maldives is clubbed under the marine fish category in the FAO database. The situation is relatively better in Sri Lanka (Table 7 on page 35).

Table 7: Proportion of catch clubbed under ‘marine fish’ category

Year	Bangladesh	India (East)	India (West)	Maldives	Sri Lanka
2009	43.06	17.68	19.41	17.74	4.40
2010	43.81	11.15	26.35	17.08	5.08

1.14 Moving towards sustainability

Sustainability is a state of affair where cost-benefit matrix from fisheries is in balance. However, with growing inter-linkages between sectors and economies, sustainability in a particular sector is difficult to achieve unless there is sustainability at the macro-level. What is more important here is to first organize our own house (by bringing in responsible fisheries within the sector) and then campaigning for responsibility in the closely interlinked sectors (such as coastal industry and tourism) and in this way moving towards sustainability.

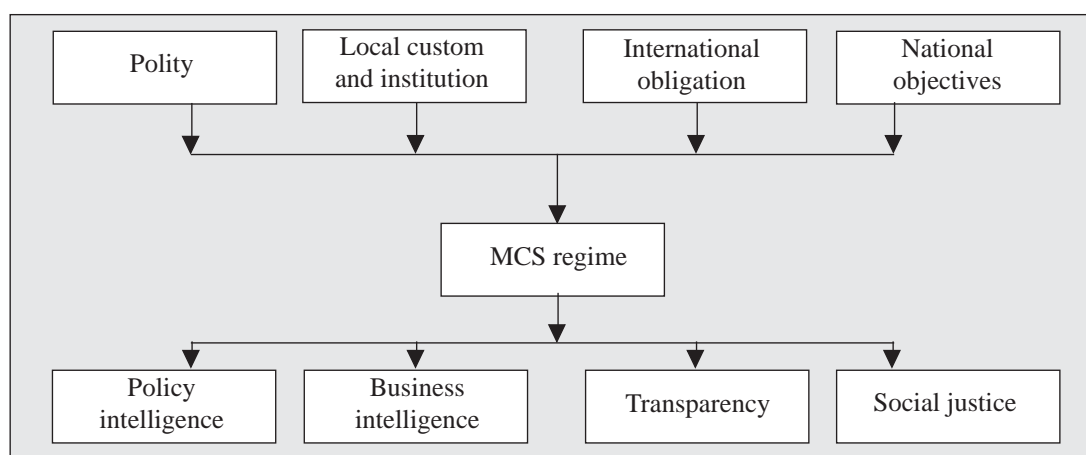
The fishery, at this point of time in the BOBP region as well as in global arena, is suffering from both endogenous and exogenous factors, probably in equal numbers. Being a primary activity carried out mostly outside the limits of sight of the civilization, it is often difficult to address the exogenous problems. However, being a natural resource dependent sector, fishery can set an example before other sectors in behaving responsibly and targeting sustainability, thus encouraging a movement in the economy, ultimately benefitting all the stakeholders. The first step towards this can be by improving monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in marine fisheries.

1.15 State of MCS

A pre-requisite for effective MCS is an adequate legislative framework, clearly defining management objectives, means and penalties. It is of utmost importance for all MCS managers that laws and regulations are enforceable, which is not always the case. The ability to enforce a regulation depends on its contents and resources available to the enforcement authority. Unenforceable regulations drain credibility from MCS systems and affect the overall effectiveness. It is thus important that MCS managers are consulted when laws and regulations are formulated. It is also important that laws and regulations are generally accepted by major stakeholders.

The reality is that fishers are a set of entrepreneurs engaged in one of the riskiest occupations of the world and creating livelihoods for millions of people, both upstream and downstream. Therefore, the ultimate objective of MCS tools for small-scale and artisanal fisheries is not just to protect the resource but to stabilize the sector, minimize occupational hazards and optimize policy benefits. The small-scale fisheries sector can get immediate benefits from successful MCS measures through (i) effective demarcation of fishing areas, (ii) better insurance deal from data strengthening, (iii) target fishing through resource mapping, (iv) sea-safety, (v) reflecting their stakes in fishing policy, (vi) stabilization of catch per boat and hence income and (vii) possible jobs in land and sea-based monitoring systems (see the scheme below).

Management plans should likewise be clear, concise and understood by stakeholders. Management plans for small-scale fisheries should focus on effort control and other measures such as gear restrictions, minimum sizes,



Scheme: Ingredients of a MCS regime and its possible benefits

closed areas and closed seasons. Catch quotas are largely unenforceable in small-scale fisheries, except when sustainable co-management has been introduced. Management plans can and should include elements of decentralization, when and wherever possible, towards co-management and community management to be effective (Table 8).

The governments, especially the Ministry/Department of Fisheries have a major role to play in this movement. Firstly, by enforcing existing rules and regulations and then by bridging gap between research and development with actual practitioners. Given the size of the budget available with the fisheries agencies, it is necessary to develop a holistic plan by setting the goals and then coordinating all the activities towards these goals through a participatory approach, which is unfortunately still missing in the region.

Table 8: Some management measures and their applicability in small-scale fisheries

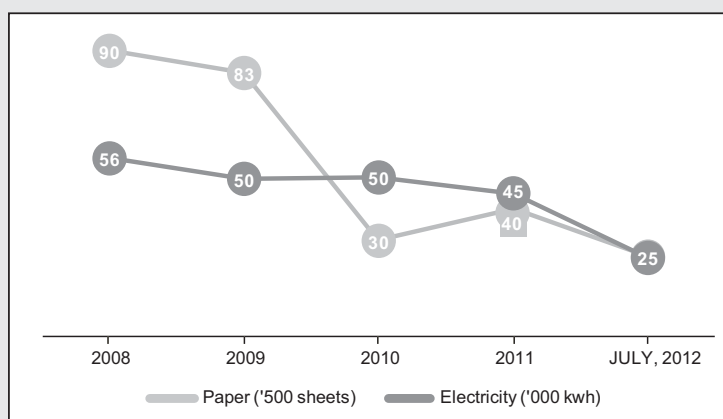
Management measures	Relevant MCS tool	Applicability in small-scale fisheries
Access regulation	Monitoring system and surveillance at sea and by air	Adequate data base and transparent processes for licensing is a requirement. If clear markings of licensed fishing vessels are provided, surveillance can detect illegal fishing. Cost a factor.
Closed seasons	Surveillance	Same as above
Closed areas	Surveillance	Same as above
Quota regulations	Monitoring systems and landing inspections Self control in community management	Has to depend on random data and an adequate framework in terms of a database over fishers and fishing gear. The scattered nature indicates that quota control is not a relevant management measure for small-scale fisheries. Sustainable community management can rely on quota regulations.
Fishing effort	Monitoring system and surveillance	Relevant in terms of regulation of number of vessels in an area (licensing system). Regulation of days at sea ineffective.
Gear restrictions, mesh sizes, etc	Inspections at landing places and boarding at sea	Necessary measure and applicable but limited effectiveness because of the scattered nature of small-scale fisheries and costs.
Minimum sizes of fish	Same as above	Same as above

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Greening the BOBP

Since the last few years, the BOBP-IGO is taking measures to make its office greener. Electrical equipments with higher energy saving rating are being installed. Thus, the Organisation is able to reduce electricity consumption by 20 percent since 2008 without trading off the working environment. During this period, the Secretariat has on an average worked for 19 000 hours per year implying that consumption of electricity per working hour has been cut down to 2 kilowatt-hour (kwh) from 3 kwh.



Apart from saving power, the office is also taking measures to go paperless, initially, for internal records. While, we still underline the importance of hard copies, especially keeping in mind a relatively low rate of penetration of computers in the sector and low bandwidth, for communication and draft reports we are now increasingly using electronic formats. Also, the staff is trained not to waste paper unless it is completely utilized. One-sided printed papers are used for making draft copies and preparation of notepads for internal use. The Organisation is further moving towards using recycled paper in its publications. However, the process is slow due to higher costs of such paper. With the growing use of email for communication, the Organisation is able to cut down mailing cost from INR 0.32 million in 2010 to INR 0.22 Million in 2011, which again indicates saving of paper through higher use of e-communication.

The BOBP-IGO is also taking measures to reduce plastic and e-waste from its meetings and seminars, which until recently were a necessary evil. Slowly, the Organisation is replacing personal plastic water bottles with centralized water dispensers and eliminating the use of CD-ROMs for distribution of meeting documents.

Not only environment, the BOBP-IGO is also health-friendly. It was declared as a 'no smoking office' way back in 2000 even before the law regarding prohibition on smoking in public places was implemented in India and other countries in the region.

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Part B: Activities and Performance: 2011-12

2.0 The activity framework

2.1 The Governing Council at its Seventh Meeting held in Malé, Maldives in June 2011 had approved 20 activities apart from 3 special programmes and other complimentary services. These 20 activities are spread in three domains: capacity building and information dissemination; fisheries resource management and improving safety at sea for small-scale fishers in the region.

2.2 The Governing Council also advised the BOBP-IGO Secretariat to prepare a cost-benefit matrix towards institutionalizing the BOBP-IGO as a regional fisheries management body and present the same in the Second Meeting of the Technical Committee set up for this activity; provide advisory services to the member-countries on agenda of the meeting of the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (COFI) and its sub-committees; and further emphasized on the need for the BOBLME Project and the BOBP-IGO to work in close cooperation in the region and to formalize the relationship. Towards this, both the organizations discussed their work plan and agreed on common areas where the BOBLME Project and the BOBP-IGO could work together.

2.3 Apart from these core activities other activities approved by the Governing Council include:

- *Collaboration and support to organizations/individuals from member- countries/region/international fisheries organizations.*
- *Participation in international activities to promote the cause of the BOBP-IGO member-countries.*
- *Regional networking.*

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

The Governing Council at its Sixth Meeting in 2010 constituted a Technical Committee (TC) under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives to consider the need for establishment of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the BoB region. The First Meeting of the TC 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 as observers. The TC observed that such restructuring of the BOBP-IGO needs complete overhauling of its mandate, activities, budget and staffing. Considering this, the TC will further review the tangible and intangible costs and benefits of such restructuring to chart out a developmental path for the Organisation.

To identify the scope, needs and constraints in restructuring of the BOBP-IGO to assume management functions, the Organisation during the reporting year involved itself in programmes with management implications. The Organisation is now working with BOBLME Project and the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) in the Gulf of Mannar, which is a shared ecosystem between India and Sri Lanka. During the reporting year, BOBP-IGO took steps to bring these countries together and also to bring institutions within these countries together. Apart from the Gulf of Mannar, the BOBP-IGO is actively contributing to the work of the Regional Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (RFMAC) spearheaded by the BOBLME Project. The Organisation has also had interactions with a couple of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) elsewhere in the world to learn from their experiences and the processes they went through in setting up of their RFMOs. Through these exercises, the BOBP-IGO is moving ahead in the learning curve. Analysis of experiences from these activities will be presented in the form of a corroborated cost-benefit matrix during the Second Meeting of the TC.

4.0 Capacity building and information dissemination

4.1 *Taking the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) to the Grassroots*

Promotion of CCRF as a tool to encourage responsible fishing practices by the stakeholders is a flagship programme of BOBP-IGO. Growing familiarity of the stakeholders in the member- countries can be attributed to the continuous awareness and capacity building programmes undertaken by BOBP-IGO since 2004. Apart from ensuring the access of the stakeholders to the collective wisdom of CCRF through vernacular versions of the main document and its Technical Guidelines and conceptual posters, the Organisation is also actively engaged in training of fisheries officials from the member-countries and other countries in the region in adopting CCRF in their working environment.

4.2 *Regional Training Course on Strengthening Fisheries Data Collection and Stock Assessment, 25 April- 7 May 2011*

The Regional Training Course on Strengthening Fisheries Data Collection and Stock Assessment (RTC-SFDC) instituted in 2011 is aimed at providing necessary skills and exposure to junior and middle-level fisheries personnel working at the field-level in latest scientific methodologies in collection, collation and analysis of fisheries data; basic taxonomy and modeling information to draw inferences for fisheries sector of their respective countries.

The first RTC-SFDC was conducted during 25 April- 7 May 2011 in Kochi, Kerala, India in association with the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), a premier marine fisheries research institute in the region and the Fishery Survey of India (FSI), nodal agency for survey of India's fishery resources. 16 participants, 4 each from the member-countries took part. The course covered (i) species identification: theory and practical; basic statistics, sampling; (ii) biological data collection: theory and practical; growth models; holistic models; growth estimation; (iii) stock assessment: theory and stock assessment through cruise survey. The Institute provided the classroom and lab facility and faculty and FSI extended the cruise facility and faculty. After attending the course, the participants found it enriching and comprehensive. However, some participants observed that an orientation course preceding the actual course could make the programme more useful as the participants had varied levels of skill and experience.

4.3 *Regional Training Programme on CCRF, 10 - 23 July 2011*

The Regional Training Programme for training junior and middle-level fisheries officials on CCRF (RTC-CCRF) was instituted in 2008. The 4th RTC-CCRF was conducted during 10 - 23 July 2011 in association with CMFRI. Under this two-week long programme, 16 participants; 4 from each member-country were trained. This interactive programme envelopes a series of lectures covering theoretical aspect of CCRF, lectures on trends, problems and prospects of fisheries in the region, personal and group exercises, interaction with fishers and fisheries associations and sharing and analysis of experiences of participants from their respective countries.

Along with the course activities, participant were exposed to the vibrancy of Indian coastal areas as they traveled to different parts of southern India, visiting fishing hamlets and meeting with fishers and their associations. In evaluating the programme, all the participants recommended the programme to their parent organizations with a request to BOBP-IGO to extend the duration of the course. So far, a total of 68 participants from the member-countries and Myanmar have been trained under the programme. The RTC-CCRF is now receiving wide acclaim and will continue till a critical mass of fisheries cadre is available in the member-countries and other countries in the region to popularize responsible fisheries at the grassroots.

Continuing its activity of translating and publishing the CCRF documents in vernacular, Technical Guidelines (TGs) on Integration of Fisheries into Coastal area Management (TG-3); Fisheries Management (TG-4) and Guidebooks on 'Stopping illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing' and International Plans of Action for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries, conservation and management of sharks and the management of fishing capacity were translated and published in Sinhala language. These TGs and other guidebooks including international plans of action will be useful for Sri Lanka. The translation of these and other TGs in Dhivehi, Sinhalese and in Telugu (for the Indian East Coast State of Andhra Pradesh) are in

progress. Last year, the Organisation had printed a set of TGs in Tamil and Malayalam language and provided to the corresponding Departments of Fisheries for distribution in India and Sri Lanka.

4.4 Improving health and hygiene in fisheries

Video documentation

Since 2009, the BOBP-IGO has taken a programme on 'Safe Fish' that aims at improving health and hygiene in fisheries in the member-countries. The strategy for this programme is to first document the existing fish handling practices in the member-countries audio-visually, analyze the information to identify critical areas of improvement and then structure training programmes and policy interventions to address them. During June 2011, documentation was carried out in the Maldives. The BOBP-IGO team visited L. Maandhoo Island and nearby Islands during 23 – 26 June 2011. During visit to Maandhoo, the team carried out documentation of tuna processing in Maandhoo Fisheries Complex of Horizon Fisheries. The team also visited L. Maavah Island where small-scale fish processing is carried out. The visit was facilitated by the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives. The team also took part in a pole and line fishing trip from 24 – 25 June 2011 and documented bait fishing, pole and line fishing and onboard handling of tuna catch. With this documentation, now BOBP-IGO has archived fish handling process in all its member-countries and the Organisation is now involved in processing of video footage to prepare an educational video of fish handling practices in the region.

4.5 Implementing Integrated Seafood Quality Improvement Programme in Mudasalodai Fish Landing Centre and Annankoil Beach Landing Centre in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu

Fish is safe when harvested in a clean environment and handled hygienically till the point of consumption. However, lack of knowledge, poor management practices in critical areas and absence of suitable regulations to curb unhygienic practices in the fisheries sector are largely responsible in post-harvest losses as also marketing of poor quality fish and fish products in the domestic sector, a scenario quite common in the region. The BOBP-IGO had earlier made interventions in onboard handling of fish and distribution of fish through introducing ice boxes and specially designed containers. It has also taken a different initiative to promote cleaner fishery harbors, which again has contributed towards improving post-harvest practices. The objective of this present pilot-scale programme is to bring all these experiences together to develop a safe supply channel from boat to plate. The BOBP-IGO in conjunction with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) of the Government of India had identified two prospective sites: Mudasalodai and Annankoil in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu for implementing the pilot project. However, after conducting preliminary studies it was decided that the project will be implemented only in Mudasalodai.

The Mudasalodai Fish Landing Centre (FLC) has the basic infrastructure facility including a wharf, auction hall, drying yard, compound wall and water supply, sanitation and drainage. This facility is being used by about 80 mechanized vessels. The association of mechanized vessel owners is also responsible for maintenance of the FLC and uses it for landing, parking and auctioning of catch. About 200 motorized boats use this facility for auctioning of catch and procurement of inputs. Besides, about 60 fisherwomen are involved in the FLC in auctioning and fish drying.

After consultation with the stakeholders including the primary users, village community, Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu (DoF-TN) and NFDB it was decided that a total package comprising software (skill, knowledge, training, exposure) and hardware (necessary infrastructure and equipment) will be provided at the FLC. The project will be implemented through a project management committee comprising the stakeholders with backstopping from BOBP-IGO. It was decided that BOBP-IGO will prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR), for which detailed socio-economic and engineering studies were carried out during July-October, 2011, in consultation with the DoF-TN, NFDB and the local stakeholders.

The project cycle, which is now at the DPR stage, will be submitted to the NFDB for funding and its subsequent development will be shared and implemented in the member-countries to improve post-harvest practices in marine capture fisheries. The experience also sheds light on needs of different stakeholders, gender dimensions and conditional access for different groups of stakeholders. These experiences will be helpful in designing all-inclusive projects at a later stage.

4.6 Study visits and training programme

During the reporting year, BOBP-IGO received request from the Maldives to visit training institutions/facilities in India regarding boat building, fish aggregating devices and post-harvest activities. The Organisation is now networking with prospective institutions and organizations to facilitate the visit.

4.7 Technical support

The BOBP-IGO is providing technical know-how to NFDB in formulating and implementing its activities, especially in marine fisheries sector. Earlier, the Organisation assisted NFDB in modernizing a fish market in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.

4.8 Mapping fish markets in Chennai, Dhaka, Colombo and Malé

Wholesale and retail markets act as critical control point in fisheries supply chain. Due to their defined geographical characteristics and countability, it is easier to utilize them to influence both ends of the supply chain. However, lack of information on these nerve centres render them ineffective as policy tools. Towards this, the BOBP-IGO since 2012 has taken up a project of mapping fish markets in its member-countries. After discussions with the member-countries, it was decided that initially mapping will be carried out in Chennai, India; Dhaka; Bangladesh and Colombo; Sri Lanka.

Subsequently, the BOBP-IGO carried out a detailed study in Chennai during 2010-11 and a preliminary study is also completed in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Similarly, one fish market in Colombo (Peliyagoda Fish Market) and the lone fish market in Malé city have also been documented under the study.

In Chennai, the mapping was initiated with a list of 34 markets received from the DoF-TN. However, on completion of the survey, it was found that there are about 96 fish markets in Chennai functioning as wholesale, retail and street markets (markets without any permanent structure). The study indicates that while wholesale and retail fish markets are developed on traditional demographic clusters, more and more street markets have sprung up to match with the growing cosmopolitan nature of the city and fading away of the traditional clusters. In addition, while in earlier days, Chennai was mainly catered by the near-by fish landing centres, now it is a hub of fish arriving from all parts of the country. The study also shows that this growth in fish markets has far outstripped the supply of infrastructure. Especially, the government-run fish markets are suffering from many infrastructural problems such as lack of water for washing, proper drainage, garbage disposal, etc. Privately run markets are relatively better in terms of hygiene and sanitation. A visual archiving was also carried out with the survey and an interactive map has been prepared. This interactive map provides information on location and background of the market, its domain, management structure, products offered and business practices, product inflow and outflow, volume of business, hygiene and cleanliness and infrastructure requirements. This interactive map hosted in BOBP-IGO website can be accessed at: <http://www.bobpigo.org/fishmarket/index.htm>.

Mapping of fish market in Dhaka

The preliminary study for mapping Dhaka fish markets was initiated in early 2012. The geographical limits of the study correspond to the area of Dhaka Corporation. The Corporation established in 1983 has an area of 360 sq. km and a population of about 17 million. It is now divided into two administration units- North and South. The study found that there are 122 fish markets in Dhaka comprising 10 wholesale and 112 retail fish markets. North Dhaka has 4 wholesale markets and 84 retail markets, while South Dhaka has 6 wholesale markets and 28 retail markets. Most of the markets are under private (including associations) ownership. The study indicates that about 5 000 people are involved in wholesale and retail trade. Presently, validation and photo documentation work is being carried out on Dhaka fish markets. Subsequently, an interactive map for Dhaka will also be prepared.

Mapping of fish markets in Colombo and Malé

In Colombo city, the work has been initiated by mapping Peliyagoda Fish Market, a state-of-the-art fish market set up in early 2011. The other fish markets in the city would be covered during 2012-13. In Malé city, the only fish market, has also been mapped and the information shall be soon placed on the website.

4.9 *Technical assistance to the member-countries*

In accordance with the directions of the Governing Council, the Secretariat analyzed the agenda for important international and regional conferences and provided advisory services to the member-countries.

During the reporting year, member-countries took part in four international events. The Thirteenth Meeting of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade was held from 20 - 24 February, 2012 in Hyderabad, India. The BOBP-IGO has provided advisory services to NFDB, India for organizing the event. In addition, the Secretariat also prepared and circulated a detailed note on agenda items highlighting the regional trade and related issues needing international support, such as the issue of integrating small-scale fisheries with global fisheries trade.

The Sixth Meeting of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture was held from 26 - 30 March, 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa. The BOBP-IGO assisted the member-countries in raising issues on inflation of feed prices and interaction of capture and culture fisheries. In this regard, the Organisation prepared and circulated a detailed note on the agenda items, highlighting possible options and issues for the region.

The Sixteenth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held in Freemantle, Australia from 22 to 26 April 2012. Except Bangladesh, the other three member-countries attended the Session. Decisions taken at the IOTC are having far reaching implications for the member-countries as they are consolidating their tuna fisheries. The BOBP-IGO Secretariat analyzed the agenda for the 16th Session in the background of the objectives and the role played by IOTC and resource potential and prepared a detailed note on the agenda items. This service was utilized by the Government of India. The Organization also assisted the Government of Sri Lanka in preparing its draft National Plan on Sharks for placing at the IOTC Session.

The Thirtieth Session of COFI was held from 9 - 13 July, 2012 in Rome, Italy. The COFI is steadily emerging as a global forum for policy directions in fisheries. The BOBP-IGO completed a thorough analysis of the agenda items of COFI and shared it with the member-countries in accordance with the directions of the Governing Council.

4.10 *Celebrating the International Year of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity*

To mark the 'International Year of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity' (2012), the BOBP-IGO published a set of two posters. The posters depict the importance of biodiversity in sustaining nature and importance of traditional knowledge in conservation of biodiversity. The first edition of these posters are published in English, Bengali and Tamil. The Sinhala and Dhivehi versions will follow once the translations are complete.

4.11 *Training of students*

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 2011-12, two students from Stella Maris College, Chennai worked on international fisheries treaties, rules and regulations and their impact on Indian Fisheries. During 2011, a group of student from the College of Fisheries in Tripura, India visited the Organisation to discuss about the prospects of marine fisheries sector in India. The Organisation also provided them publications and study material free of charge.

4.12 *Information dissemination & social networking*

BOBP-IGO@YouTube

The YouTube channel of BOBP-IGO is gradually gaining popularity. Since, 23rd October, 2010, the channel has attracted 11 374 views and during the reporting year the channel attracted 6 401 views. The viewers are distributed not only in South Asia but also in the Gulf countries and USA. While initially engine maintenance videos attracted the viewers, recently videos on Therukoothu, a Street Play in Tamil and video documentary on Seaweed Culture in Mandapam, India are attracting more views. Among the engine maintenance videos, vernacular versions in Tamil, Bengali and Telugu are attracting more views than the English Versions. This highlights the importance of communication in vernacular to reach the people. The BOBP-IGO channel in YouTube can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/BOBPIGO>.

Top 10 videos in BOBP-IGO@YouTube

1.	Therukoothu (A Street Play)
2.	Seaweed Culture in Mandapam, India
3.	Improving Safety and Health of Fishing Communities (Safety at sea) : A Bay of Bengal Initiative
4.	Use of Ice Aboard Fishing Boats of Andhra Pradesh
5.	Maintaining Long tail Engines use by Fishermen in India and Sri Lanka (Tamil Version)
6.	Maintaining Marine Engines in Fishing Boats of Bangladesh (Bangla version)
7.	Cleaner Fishing Harbours in the Maldives
8.	Technology for Shrimp Fry Nursing
9.	Pollution in Fishing Harbours
10.	Maintaining Long tail Engines used by Fishermen in India (Telugu version)

BOBP-IGO@Facebook

In our endeavor to keep in touch with our colleagues around the world, the BOBP-IGO joined Facebook in February, 2012. The Facebook page is now acting as our dashboard highlighting events organized by BOBP-IGO, fisheries news, and also a daily news analysis. You may like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BOBPIGO>.

4.13 Library services and distribution of publications

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 sets of publications (extra copies received from time to time from FAO and various other organizations on exchange basis or as gratis) to various fisheries organizations in the member-countries.

4.14 Creation of digital library of visuals

The unparalleled visual heritage of the BOBP and its successor the BOBP-IGO from the region and also from around the world is undergoing digitization for some time. This visual archive chronicles the development of fisheries (and also aquaculture) in the region and is possibly the last place to see some of the artisanal fishing vessels and gear, which no longer exist. About 22 250 visuals have been archived so far with details on their location, topic and other important features from a set of over 50 000 visuals. The BOBLME Project has now considered joining hands with BOBP-IGO in this archiving project. Accordingly, it is decided that digitization will be up-scaled to reproduce print quality images. Work is also going on to create an e-library of the images so that it can be placed in public domain.

4.15 Publication

The BOBP-IGO since its beginning is using publications as a means to reach to people and create awareness. The annual table calendar for the year 2012 is based on the theme ‘Small-Scale Fishers: Sustaining Livelihood’. The 12 images in the calendar vividly depict the various activities performed by the fishers in the Bay. A list of the publications brought out during the year is given at the end.

4.16 Art Exhibition on ‘Lives and Livelihoods of Fisherfolk’

As a part of its awareness building programme on the importance of fisheries and social outreach initiatives, the BOBP-IGO teamed up with reputed artists from Chennai on the occasion of the World Food Day (16 October 2011) through an Art Exhibition entitled ‘Lives and Livelihoods of Fisherfolk’ from 16 – 23 October 2011. To mark the occasion a ‘Live Painting Event’ was also organized on 16 October 2011 for budding artists from the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and the Union Territory of Puducherry. The art works are now available in the BOBP-IGO website.

5.0 Fisheries resource management

5.1 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. The following activities were approved by the Governing Council for implementation during April 2011 - March 2012. However, due to paucity of time, activities in italics could not be undertaken.

- Strategic Consultation on the Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region: Organization of Regional Strategy Meet on Reviewing the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region. The output of the workshop will go towards building of a Report on the Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region.
- Organisation of the Second Regional Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and further assistance to member-countries on implementation of the National Plans of Action (NPOA).
- Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries in the member-countries.
- 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)
- 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.

5.2 *Organization of Regional Strategy Meet on Reviewing the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region*

Toward run-up to the regional meeting, the BOBP-IGO in association with its member- countries is organizing National Workshops on Governance of Marine Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF). The first workshop in this series will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 29 -30 April, 2012. The Second workshop is scheduled in Colombo, Sri Lanka from August, 2012. The other two national workshops in India and Maldives will be held later in 2012. These workshops, *inter alia*, will highlight the problems in defining the SSF – its attributes and scope; integration of SSF with national and international economy; technology and capacity building; implementation and information gaps in fisheries governance and to reach an understanding on global positioning of the SSF.

5.3 *Organisation of Second Regional Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and further assistance to member-countries on implementation of the National Action Plans*

The BOBP-IGO has developed comprehensive guidelines for the Government of India for preparation and implementation of the national MCS Plan. Accordingly, project components were developed and will be implemented during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012-17). The Indian experience will be helpful in designing the MCS Plan for other member-countries.

5.4 *Preparation of Management Plans for Sharks and Hilsa Fishery* ***Shark fishery***

The BOBP-IGO assisted Sri Lanka in development of its national shark-plan. The Organisation is also preparing the plan for carrying out a study on understanding the economics of shark trade in India. The study will serve as a foundation for preparation of management plan on sharks. The study will include case studies in two areas where major landings of sharks and rays take place. These include Thoothoor [Tamil Nadu/Kerala] and Veraval [Gujarat]. The outcomes of this work will help understand the shark fishery and its trade dynamics and inform future policy making about the potential consequences of catch restrictions and may, therefore, improve management decision-making capabilities. A questionnaire based rapid survey will also be undertaken to gather information on fishing operations, knowledge of fishermen concerning shark resources and post-harvest activities of shark fishers and their families.

Hilsa fishery

In respect of hilsa fishery, a civil society-led initiative spearheaded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN, Bangladesh and India) further strengthens the ongoing initiative of BOBP-IGO toward formulating NPOA in India and Myanmar (Bangladesh already has a national plan which will be reviewed) and later developing a Regional Plan of Action for Hilsa Fishery (RPOA-Hilsa). The BOBLME and BOBP-IGO have also consolidated their work programmes and will now be working closely in achieving the objectives.

5.5 First Bi-National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar Ecosystem and its Resources, 5-6 September 2011, Rameshwaram, India

A Bi-National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar (GoM) Ecosystem and its Resources was organized from 5-6 September 2011 in Rameshwaram, India involving stakeholders from India and Sri Lanka. The Consultation was jointly organized by the BOBLME Project and the BOBP-IGO. 54 participants representing governmental agencies; research institutes and universities; fisher associations of both the countries and concerned international organizations, including the Organizers took part. The aim of the Consultation was to bring the stakeholders together and initiate a process of dialogue, which is expected to culminate in an ecosystem-based management framework for the GoM – a critical habitat. The objectives were to evaluate policy, science and information regarding the GoM and raising its profile in regional discourses. Based on the deliberations in the Workshop, five activities were agreed for implementation with the support of the BOBLME Project: (i) Collaborative effort in conservation and management of charismatic species (*e.g.* Dugong, etc); (ii) Capacity building and training (*e.g.* stock assessment, water quality monitoring and use of GIS and remote sensing); (iii) Education and awareness building; (iv) Strengthening of data collection and processing mechanism; and (v) Sharing of information and networking. It was also agreed that the support of the BOBLME Project to implement the above activities will be in the form of capacity building. At the next Consultation, which was agreed to be held in mid- 2012 in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, these activities will be developed into projects and programmes. Once developed, these projects and programmes will be finalized at the next Consultation due in late 2012. It was also agreed that these projects will be implemented under the aegis of the BOBLME Project and its partner organizations such as the BOBP-IGO and Mangroves for the Future. At the next Consultation, institutional arrangements for bilateral cooperation between India and Sri Lanka will also be developed.

5.6 Meetings of Expert Group on Finalization of the Response of India on the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project, 24 November 2011, Chennai, India

On invitation of the Government of India, the BOBP-IGO joined an Expert Group drawn from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Universities and regulatory bodies to finalize the response of India on the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the BOBLME Project. The TDA is a basic requirement for the project and was expected to guide the process of preparation of Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for institutionalizing the Project activities. The draft TDA document was prepared and circulated by the Regional Coordination Unit of the BOBLME Project among the Project Countries for its endorsement at the national level and in the process evaluating it. In India, a series of national consultations were organized along the east coast and the outcome of these consultations was presented before the Expert Group for drafting the response. The Group met twice in Chennai on 24th November and 29th December, 2011 to finalize its response. The BOBP-IGO also facilitated these meetings. While reviewing the TDA document, the Group observed that some transboundary issues portrayed in the report were more of a conjecture than scientifically reached conclusions. While these conjectures may or may not be valid, it would be hard to translate them into policy measures as it required certain amount of trade off. The Expert Group was also of the view that while the region shares a common ecosystem, it is highly diversified in terms of customs, policy and style of governance and a common instrument may not be possible to derive. The Group concluded that the TDA is a commendable attempt to draw attention to the regional nature of fisheries and environmental issues. However, it is partially successful in doing so due to data vacuum and lack of clarity in understanding the nature of diversity and inter-dependency in the region. The Expert Group suggested that while developing SAP such partial knowledge can be detrimental. However, since, the Project is already at halfway mark, updating of the TDA may not be possible.

Therefore, it is necessary that the information gaps are filled-up to the maximum extent possible while the SAP process is underway.

6.0 Improving Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fishers

6.1 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 specifically focuses 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.

- Organization of the Fifth International Conference on Fishing Industry Safety and Health (IFISH-5) in Sri Lanka (postponed to 2013 by the co-organizers).
- Construction of improved model fishing boats and their extension to additional areas in Tamil Nadu, India.
- Provision and analysis of data to identify the causes 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.
- Organizing Regional Workshop on 'Establishing a Cooperative Mechanism for Protection of Met-Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean Region', 6-7 May 2011, Chennai, India.

6.2 Construction of the improved model fishing boats and their extension to additional areas in Tamil Nadu, India

The BOBP-IGO concluded trials of the prototype fishing vessels IND-30 and IND-30A built under the Global Project on Safety at Sea adhering to international safety standards in Devaneri, a fishing village about 60 km south of Chennai city. The early feedback from the user group shows that the prototype vessel is relatively heavy and it is difficult to use the vessel for beach landing. Based on this feedback, a new trial will be conducted in Mudasalodai fishing village in Cuddalore, District of Tamil Nadu where ramp for landing catch is available. The BOBP-IGO is now finalizing the trial formalities with the targeted user groups in association with DoF-TN.

6.3 Demonstration of FRP Float in Maldives

The low-cost, high-efficacy Fibre-reinforced Plastic (FRP) floats developed during the Global Project on Safety at Sea are getting popular across the region. While one obvious factor is its cost compared to conventional methods, the other advantage is the saving of storage space. In Maldives, where fishing boats are getting bigger and voyaging deeper into the sea, this float seems to be a viable alternative. Towards this, the BOBP-IGO provided a prototype FRP float for demonstration in fishing vessels to the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives in October 2011. The feedback is awaited.

6.4 Provision and analysis of data to identify the causes of accidents

The surveillance programme initiated at the Marine Checkpost of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh at Patenga, Chittagong in 2008 is still continuing. The objective of this surveillance programme is to collect and collate data on fishing related injuries and mortalities.

6.5 Regional Workshop on 'Establishing a Cooperative Mechanism for Protection of Met-Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean Region', 6-7 May 2011

Time-series observations are vital to improving our understanding of ocean dynamics, variability and are used to monitor the marine environment and to improve weather and ocean state forecasts. Systematic real-time meteorological and oceanographic observations are also necessary to improve oceanographic services and predictive capability of short and long-term climatic changes. The existing systems for collecting ocean related information are remote sensing, ships of opportunity and moored/drifted/profiling platforms. Among these the moored buoys play an important role by providing time-series information on meteorological variables and

surface/sub-surface observations of a specific location. However, globally, about 10 percent of the data buoys are lost annually due to human interventions. The Ocean Observation Programme in India is passing through a challenging phase as the data buoys in the deep seas have been damaged due to acts of vandalism mostly during fishing. While the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), the nodal agency is working with fisher associations and the Coast Guard in India to address the issue of safety of data buoys in the national waters, there is an urgent need for regional cooperation and regionally coordinated effort to protect the data buoys in international waters. At the national level also, cooperation from all the coastal states and fisher associations is required. Towards this a Regional Workshop on 'Establishing a Cooperative Mechanism for Protection of Met-ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean Region' was organized by the NIOT and BOBP-IGO at the NIOT Campus, Chennai from 6 - 7 May 2011. A total of 83 delegates representing 53 organizations participated in the Regional Workshop. The delegates included Government representatives from eight countries surrounding the Bay of Bengal viz., Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand; Inter-Governmental Organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme; Industry representatives from USA, UK, Norway and India; and NGOs and Civil Society Organizations.

The main objective of the Regional Workshop was to promote awareness amongst concerned stakeholders in the Bay of Bengal rim countries on the importance of data and tsunami buoys and to evolve common strategies to tackle the issue of vandalism. The outcome of the Workshop includes following tiers of action to tackle the vandalism problem: (1) Ocean buoys network design and operating practice; (2) Technical innovations and improvements to protect data buoys; (3) Administrative measures to deter vandalism, including regional and international cooperation, and (4) Reaching the fishers (communications and engagement). The Regional Workshop agreed on focal points in each Bay of Bengal rim country, which would be further coordinated by the BOBP-IGO. The Workshop concluded that this initiative, first of its kind in the world, could be a role model for other regions to follow. This initiative also supports the global cause often raised in the UN General Assembly, wherein the UN member-states are asked to safeguard the floating buoys placed within their EEZs or in the high seas. The Regional Workshop also saw release of one poster and one leaflet on the issue and multiple copies were distributed to the delegates to create awareness in their respective areas of work. The outcome of the Regional Workshop is now being widely referred to in the UN and other inter-governmental organizations concerned with the ocean monitoring works.

7.0 Collaborative and supportive activities

BOBLME

International Symposium on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, 21 December 2011, Chennai, India

The BOBP-IGO assisted the India chapter of the BOBLME Project in organizing an International Symposium on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in BOBLME (EAF-BOBLME) on 21 December 2011. This Symposium was pegged as an important event at the 9th Indian Fisheries Forum (9th IFF) held at Chennai during 19-23 December 2011.

SEAFDEC

The BOBP-IGO assisted the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), Bangkok, Thailand in organization of the 'Regional Training Course on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) in Combating Illegal, unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Southeast Asian Region', held at the SEAFDEC Training Department, Samut Prakarn, Thailand from 05–17 March 2012. Copies of the BOBP-IGO publications on MCS and IUU fishing were provided to SEAFDEC for distribution to the trainees.

Government of Tamil Nadu

The BOBP-IGO assisted the Government of Tamil Nadu in preparation of their proposals for implementation during the Twelfth Five-Year Plan on Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Government of India

The BOBP-IGO assisted the Government of India in preparation of the report of the Working Group set up for finalization of the Twelfth Plan Programmes for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Management in India. The Working Group was constituted by the Planning Commission, Government of India including the BOBP-IGO as one of the members.

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

8.1 During the reporting year, the BOBP-IGO participated in several national and international workshops to share its experience, learn from the initiatives and to raise the profile of the region. The following Table gives a snapshot of these activities.

#	Type of Meeting/Training/Workshops	Date	Place
1.	National Consultation on Ecosystem Indicators in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME)	26-27 April 2011	Kochi, India
2.	ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on 'Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020: Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a changing Environment'	12 – 17 June 2011	Bangkok, Thailand
3.	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project - National TDA Consultation Workshop	30 June 2011	Visakhapatnam, India
4.	Workshop on Marine Fisheries in India	07 July 2011	New Delhi, India
5.	Observer Research Foundation International Conference on India- Sri Lanka Fishing Issues: International Experience regarding livelihood concerns	18 -19 July 2011	New Delhi, India
6.	FAO-Government of Sri Lanka Asia Regional Pre-Ministerial and Ministerial Meetings on Aquaculture for Food Security, Nutrition and Economic Development in Asia	28-29 July 2011	Colombo, Sri Lanka
7.	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers' National Symposium on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-Scale Fisheries	21 September 2011	Kolkata, India
8.	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission's Capacity-building workshop on 'Bridging the gap between IOTC Science and Environment'	17-18 November 2011	Chennai, India
9.	FAO-World Bank Final Result Sharing Workshop of the Project on 'Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods-FIMSUL Project'	12 December 2012	Chennai, India
10.	BOBLME Partners' Meeting	28-29 February 2012	Bangkok, Thailand
11.	BOBLME SAP Development Meeting	15-18 February 2012	Phuket, Thailand
12.	Thirteenth Meeting of the FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade	20-24 February, 2012	Hyderabad, India
13.	ICSF Workshop on Fishery-Dependent Livelihoods, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity: The case of marine and coastal protected areas in India.	March 2012	New Delhi, India
14.	BOBLME Regional Fisheries Management Advisory Committee Meeting	14-15 March 2012	Bangkok, Thailand

9.0 List of Publications of the BOBP-IGO: 2011-12

Reports

1. Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council, 22 – 23 June, 2011.

Books/ Guides/Translations

2. Leaflet on Protection of Data Buoys, 6-7 May 2011.
3. Brochure for Art Exhibition, 16 October 2011.
4. Booklet on Tuna Fish Handling, Marine Research Centre, Government of Maldives.
5. Integration of Fisheries into Coastal Area Management (CCRF TG No. 3) (Sinhala version), 2012.
6. Fisheries Management (CCRF TG No. 4) (Sinhala version), 2012.
7. Stopping illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing'. (CCRF TG No. 4) (Sinhala version), 2012.
8. International Plans of Action for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries, conservation and management of sharks and the management of fishing capacity. (Sinhala version), 2012.

Newsletter, Posters, Calendar, etc.

9. A 16-language poster on protection of data buoys, 2011.
10. Blue Ocean Themed Poster on Conservation of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity, 2011 (in English).
11. Warli Art Themed Poster on Conservation of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity, 2011 (in English).
12. Warli Art Themed Poster on Conservation of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity, 2011 (in Bengali).
13. Warli Art Themed Poster on Conservation of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity, 2011 (in Tamil).
14. Warli Art Themed Poster on Conservation of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity, 2011 (in Sinhala).
15. Warli Art Themed Poster on Conservation of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity, 2011 (in Dhivehi).
16. Small-Scale Fisheries: Sustaining Livelihood (2012 Calendar), 2012.

Staff position during April 2011 - March 2012

#	Staff	Designation	Date (month/ year)	
			Joining	Leaving
Professional				
1.	Yadava Y S	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	11/06	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.	M Sharifuddin	Assistant Director Marine Fisheries Office, Chittagong, Bangladesh	05/07	Till date

* When Actually Engaged



**Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee
27-28 August, 2012, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC-7) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 27-28 August 2012. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and observers from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the South Asia Co-operative Environmental Programme (SACEP). The List of Delegates and Observers is attached as *Annex 1*.

2.0 The Inaugural Session began with the lighting of the *Traditional Lamp*. Dr (Mrs) Damitha de Zoysa, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MFARD), Government of Sri Lanka, chaired 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 Sri Lanka for hosting the TAC-7. He said that the TAC-7 was long overdue as it is usually held during the month of April. However, this year the period clashed with other major international events such as meetings of the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations where both the member-countries and the Secretariat were actively involved. Highlighting the role of the TAC within the organizational set-up of the BOBP-IGO, Dr Yadava said that the TAC reviews the works of the Secretariat from a technical perspective and also provides inputs for developing the work plan. The recommendations of the TAC are then presented to the Governing Council for approval. He informed the TAC that apart from reviewing activities of the previous year and giving inputs for next year's programme, one of the important agenda before TAC-7 is to suggest modalities for preparation of Strategic Plan of Action 2014-19.

4.0 Mr R P Mathur, representing India (Chair country of TAC-6), welcomed the delegates and said that during the reporting year (2011-12), the Secretariat has made important contributions in development of marine fisheries sector in the region. Congratulating the Secretariat on the work done, he said that the Government of India would further strengthen its association with the Organisation.

5.0 In her welcome and inaugural remarks, Dr (Mrs) de Zoysa extended a hearty welcome to the delegates and wished them a pleasant stay in Colombo. She said that small-scale fisheries play a role of paramount importance in the region in terms of production, food security and employment. Dr Zoysa said that the BOBP-IGO is carrying out excellent work to improve the conditions of small-scale fisheries in the region. She congratulated the Director, BOBP-IGO for leading the Secretariat in effectively addressing the issues in small-scale fisheries. Taking note of the work carried out by the Organisation in popularizing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), she said that translating and publishing the CCRF documents in vernacular helped in increasing awareness and improving understanding of the responsible fishing practices in the region. She complimented India for efficiently leading the TAC during the reporting year. To mark the occasion, Dr Zoysa released four FAO CCRF Technical Guidelines in vernacular. These vernacular versions were translated by the Staff of the Department of Fisheries, MFARD and printed by the BOBP-IGO. She also released two multi-lingual posters on conservation of coastal biodiversity prepared by the BOBP-IGO.

Adoption of the agenda and election of the chairperson

6.0 The TAC-7 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 R P Mathur (India), the current chairperson of TAC opened the floor for election of the new chairperson. The Committee unanimously elected Dr (Mrs) Damitha de Zoysa (Sri Lanka) as the TAC-7 chair.

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

9.0 Dr (Mrs) de Zoysa thanked the delegates for choosing Sri Lanka to chair TAC-7 and invited the BOBP-IGO Secretariat to present the report on the activities for the period April 2011 - March 2012.

10.0 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 2011 - 2012.

Status of marine fisheries in the BOBP region

11.0 The Secretariat presented a detailed report on the developments in the fisheries sector in the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO (collectively termed as BOBP region) during 2009-10. The information collated on fisheries production, status of iconic fish stocks, fisher population, fishing craft and environment depicted a mixed panorama for the region. The total fisheries production in the BOBP region has grown at a relatively higher rate as compared to the rest of the world. This has resulted in increasing availability of fish for human consumption and record export earnings. However, this growth stems from the growth in aquaculture production and inland capture fisheries. Marine fisheries in the region presented a dismal picture and excluding Sri Lanka, the other three countries depicted a slowing down in marine capture fisheries production. In case of Maldives, this slowing down seems to have stemmed from the overall decline in tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean during the last decade. In case of shark fisheries, in which India and Sri Lanka are the leading exploiters, the stocks seem to be over exploited as the production so far has not recovered to the peak it attained in 1996. On the positive side, while Maldives became the second country in the world to declare its waters as shark sanctuary, the country needs a management plan for tuna longlining where shark is a major by-catch. In case of hilsa fishery, especially landings from the Indian side are showing a decline in catch rate and decreasing size. Rampant use of destructive fishing gear was a possible contributing factor along with other anthropogenic interventions such as infrastructure projects. Overall, in case of hilsa, which is an anadromous species, there was a fall in production from inland waters largely due to adverse impact of land-based developmental projects and weakening health of the rivers.

On the other hand, the region is home to about 15 percent of global fisher population and this large fisher population seems to be increasing further, except in Maldives. In tune with the growth in workforce, there is also an increase in fishing fleet and the trend is that more powered boats (fishing vessels with a motor or mechanical means of propulsion) are added to this growing fleet compared to non-powered boats. Overall, during 1998-2010, powered boats in the region have increased by 151 percent largely due to increase in India (225%) and Sri Lanka (117%), while non-powered boats have increased by 05 percent. However, in Maldives, there is a decline in number of fishing fleet during this period although their sizes have increased.

As observed globally, fisheries sector is also attracting people from other sectors in the region. Number of seasonal migrants and permanent migrants is steadily increasing. This in turn is creating more challenges for the fisheries sector as it is generally perceived that the sector is facing over-employment. Moreover, similar activities like aquaculture have so far failed to absorb fishermen from capture fisheries in a significant scale.

The fisheries sector is also observing changes in the bio-diversity, which is reflected in the catch composition. There has been an increase in production of low trophic level species such as Indian Oil Sardine. This could be the result of decline in higher trophic level species such as tunas and sharks and also from global warming. The sector is also under threat from industrial discharge and some studies have found high concentration of heavy metals in the sea water.

The report further highlighted the need for establishing a monitoring, control and surveillance system (MCS) in marine capture fisheries. It is highlighted that a major portion of the catch containing various species is not classified and is clubbed as 'others'. This although makes commercial sense as such species are mostly low value species and their role in ecosystem is also undervalued in the process. The report further noted that the situation observed in the marine fisheries sector is the product of outcomes in fisheries and other sectors such as pollution from industrial units along the coast. However, at present, little can be done by the fisheries sector to minimize impact of the other sectors on fisheries. The best course of action is to minimize the impact of fishing activities on fisheries and leading the way for a sustainable development.

12.0 Initiating discussions on the presentation, the representative from Sri Lanka informed that the country is in the process of implementing a shark management plan, which was developed earlier with cooperation from BOBP-IGO. Sri Lanka further informed that the country is also putting in place a management plan for offshore fishing fleet and a vessel monitoring system that will improve the MCS situation in the country. Representatives from India commented that earlier trawl fishery was mainly concerned with the shrimp catch. However, now they are bringing the entire catch and this has increased the share of unidentified species in the catch statistics. Representatives from Maldives shared that the country will be implementing a management plan for longlining soon. The delegates from Bangladesh congratulated the Secretariat for a comprehensive report and said that the country has taken several measures to ensure sustainability of hilsa fisheries within its waters. However, a regional cooperation in managing hilsa fisheries would further strengthen its effort.

13.0 The observer from SACEP congratulated the Secretariat for presenting a comprehensive overview. She said that along with pollution from industrial sources, ship breaking yards are also contributing to the pollution. The observer said that Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are an important instrument to conserve biodiversity and SACEP is working on it. However, while setting up MPAs, the issue of livelihood of fisheries should be kept into consideration. On the declining shark fishery in the region she observed that none of the BOBP-IGO member-countries are signatory to the Convention on Migratory Species of the United Nations, which could further strengthen the regional effort in conserving the sharks.

14.0 The observer from the FAO complimented the Secretariat for presenting an overview of fisheries from an ecosystem perspective. He said that although the ecosystem approach has been well grounded in fisheries management and research, however, in practice due to lack of information it was difficult to monitor even in the recent past. Commenting on the trends in fisheries production and status of iconic species in the region, he said that availability of data at present made it possible to measure the impact of fisheries in the ecosystem. Taking note of a large share of unidentified catch, the observer from FAO said that it is difficult to identify the smaller species being landed now and suggested that a sample survey could be carried out in major landing centres to identify such species as it would give a detailed snapshot of the catch composition. The FAO observer sought intervention of the BOBP-IGO Secretariat in this regard.

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 activities undertaken by the Secretariat during 2010-11, as approved by the Governing Council at its Seventh 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 apart from attending to three special programmes, viz., development of a cost-benefit matrix for institutionalizing BOBP-IGO as a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO; building synergies with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME); and providing technical inputs to the BOBP-IGO member-countries during important international conferences such as sessions of the Sub-committees on Trade and Aquaculture of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), 30th session of COFI and 16th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

Under the capacity building and information dissemination activities, along with the flagship training programme on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), a new programme on 'Strengthening Fisheries Data Collection and Stock Assessment' has been initiated. This programme is aimed at providing basic technical knowledge and exposure to cutting-edge methodologies in data collection, analysis and stock assessment to personnel from member-countries and other countries. It was conducted in association with the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and the Fishery Survey of India during 25 April- 7 May, 2011 in Kochi, India and 4 participants from each member-country participated in the programme. The other major activity under this domain is a pilot-scale programme to improve hygiene and sanitation in fishery in Mudasalodai Fish Landing Centre in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu, India with support from the National Fisheries Development Board of India.

The Secretariat also completed a web-based interactive map of fish markets in Chennai City and is also in the process of completing maps of fish markets for Dhaka City Corporation, Bangladesh and Malé City in Maldives.

The year 2011 being the international year of coastal and marine biodiversity was an important occasion for BOBP-IGO. The year was celebrated with publication of two multilingual posters depicting centrality of ecosystem in our life and importance of traditional knowledge in conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity.

Under the fisheries resource management programme, the Organisation in association with the BOBLME Project organized the First Bi-National Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on ‘Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar and its Resources’. The major outcome of the Consultation was updated information on the status of the Gulf of Mannar and identifying priority action areas apart from initiating a snowball process towards agreeing in collaborative management of the Gulf of Mannar by India and Sri Lanka.

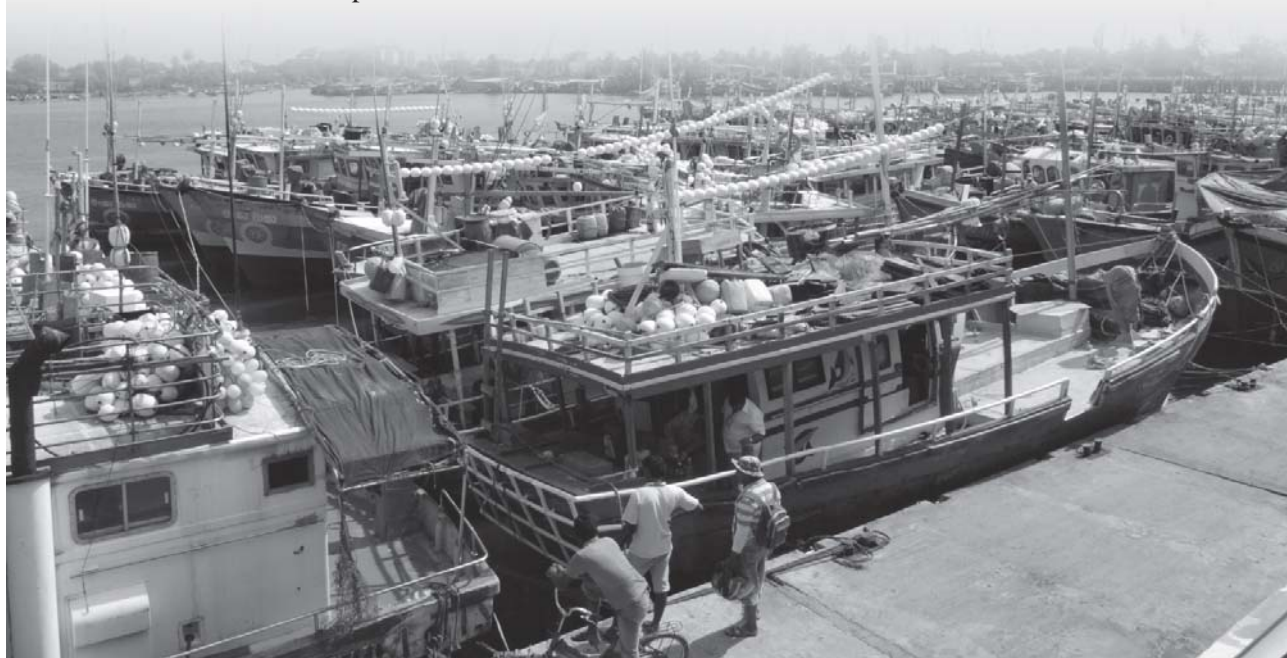
Under the Safety at Sea domain, the Organisation along with the National Institute of Ocean Technology and the World Meteorological Organisation organized the Regional Consultation on protection of met-ocean and tsunami data buoys. These buoys, an integral part of ocean surveillance and research system, are being vandalized often by the fishers during fishing. Although, initially the programme was undertaken under information dissemination and awareness-building activities, it was later taken under the safety at sea programmes as a bigger role envisioned for the BOBP-IGO in community mobilization, regional coordination and awareness building.

Discussion on BOBP-IGO activities

16.0 Appreciating the activities carried out by the Secretariat during the period 2011-12, the chair opened the floor for discussion.

17.0 Bangladesh congratulated the Secretariat for conducting approved activities during 2011-12 successfully. Bangladesh informed that stock assessment is a keystone in fisheries management and the Bangladesh Government is considering a proposal to buy a research vessel. They also complimented the Secretariat for initiating the work on development of a map of fish markets located in Dhaka City Corporation.

18.0 Sri Lanka appreciated the Secretariat for its work during the reporting year and commented that training programme on stock assessment would help the country in its on-going effort to revalidate status of important commercial stocks. Sri Lanka also informed that the National Aquatic Resources & Development Agency (NARA) is planning a socio-economic census in the fisheries sector. The earlier fisheries census conducted in 2007 could not cover the eastern part of the country due to civil strife and the same region would be covered now. Sri Lanka enquired how the BOBP-IGO could play a role in implementing the census, especially in terms of funding. The Secretariat informed that this issue could be further discussed during the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council scheduled in September, 2012. Sri Lanka also appreciated the pilot-scale programme in improving health and hygiene in fisheries and observed that sanitation in the fisheries sector, especially on-board fishing vessels in Sri Lanka needs improvement.



19.0 India, complimenting the work of the Secretariat on improving food safety, said that the government is keen on further association with the BOBP-IGO for expanding the scope and reach of such programmes.

20.0 Maldives complimented the Secretariat for successfully completing the scheduled activities and said that the Organisation can play a role in technology dissemination in areas such as on use of solar power in fisheries sector.

21.0 The FAO representative complimented the Secretariat and said that the activities carried out under fisheries resource management domain would help the Organisation in further appraising its role as a RFMO. Welcoming the training programme on data collection and stock assessment, he suggested that the BOBP-IGO and the BOBLME Project can cooperate in this programme to increase the intake of participants in the programme from the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO and other countries. He also suggested that the material produced during such training programmes could be uploaded in the website for consumption of a wider audience.

22.0 The Observer from SACEP complimented the Secretariat and said that both the organizations may work together in the areas of conservation. She further informed that scope of such collaboration could be discussed during the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council, which is expected to be attended by the Director General of SACEP.

Development of programmes and proposals

23.0 The Secretariat presented three programmes and proposals before the TAC for consideration, *viz.*, strengthening ties between BOBP-IGO and the Regional Fisheries Research Institutes (RFRIs) on conducting developmental research and development of a protocol for sharing of data; Modalities for Developing Strategic Plan of Action 2012-2019 (SPA: 2012-19) for approval of the Governing Council at its Ninth Meeting in 2013 and concept note on scoping study on tiger shrimp brood stock management.

24.0 The Secretariat informed that during last year, a decision was taken to organize a regional workshop involving RFRIs to discuss the role they can play in developmental research and information provision within the ambit of work of the BOBP-IGO, especially on regional collaborative work. However, subsequent discussions with the RFRIs and experience during the organization of the Gulf of Mannar meeting indicated that such collaboration is possible only when funding is provided by the BOBP-IGO and provision of data is not possible as the institutes are concerned about the ethical uses of the information. In this regard, the Secretariat sought guidance from TAC on whether a regional conference should be arranged during 2012-13 and whether a protocol for sharing information be implemented in the region.

25.0 The FAO representative suggested that the BOBP-IGO may have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with concerned research institutes within the BOBP-IGO framework requiring member-countries to allocate a portion of fund provided to research institutes for regional activities. However, the TAC remained inconclusive on this agenda and further deliberation with the research institutes is suggested before the matter is put before the Governing Council for guidance.

26.0 On modalities for developing SPA: 2012-19, the Secretariat informed the TAC that during the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council, the Secretariat placed a long-term plan of work (SPA: 2009-14) before the Governing Council for consideration. The SPA: 2009-14 was based on inputs received from the member-countries during the earlier years and following the approval of the Governing Council, the SPA: 2009-14 is now guiding the activities of the Organisation. However, since the current SPA is nearing its life cycle, consultations are needed to formulate the next strategic plan. The Secretariat suggested that a broad based questionnaire survey may be carried out involving representative stakeholders, experts and partner institutions or a team of experts may be constituted, which then can visit the relevant stakeholders to develop the SPA: 2014-19.

27.0 After deliberating on the issue, the TAC suggested that these processes are rather complimentary and suggested that a broad-based survey can be undertaken to identify the issues and then an expert team could be constituted to further explore those issues.

28.0 On the scoping study on tiger shrimp brood stock fishery, the Secretariat informed that the study was approved during the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council in 2009. It was then proposed that this study would be carried out in conjunction with Network for Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA). However, it could

not be materialized. In view of this the Secretariat reworked the activity plan for the study and presented the same before the TAC. The Secretariat proposed that the study now would include documentation of the current practices on sourcing of shrimp broodstock, the fleet involved in such wild fisheries and the hot spots of wild shrimp fishery in the EEZs of the concerned member-countries (Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka); the magnitude of broodstock capture and its use in hatcheries for production of PL; broodstock handling procedures on board fishing vessels; and the extent and magnitude of wild caught shrimp larvae and their trade dimensions. The Secretariat proposed that the study will be carried out in Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh, Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, which are the main centres of shrimp broodstock landings. The coastal districts of West Bengal will be covered under the study on wild caught shrimp larvae. At this stage the study would not cover Sri Lanka as it has no shrimp trawlers.

29.0 The TAC welcomed the development. Bangladesh, sharing the development of shrimp hatchery in the country said that there was rapid growth of shrimp hatcheries in the Cox's Bazaar area and this led to increasing demand for shrimp brood stock in the country. However, recent information shows that the catch rate of trawlers are falling and especially availability of healthy stock is questionable now. Bangladesh further informed that the hatchery owners believed that the white spot syndrome virus had already affected the wild stock thus increasing its mortality and availability. However, scientific studies and causation does not support this, rather indicates that the stock is over-exploited. India and Sri Lanka also shared the view and informed that the region has a niche in tiger shrimp production and a management plan is a necessity for its sustainability.

30.0 FAO sharing the view of the delegates added that production of white leg shrimp is increasingly becoming non-profitable due to decreasing price. He also cautioned the delegates about prevailing early mortality syndrome (EMS) in white leg shrimp in south-east Asian countries. He said that EMS is a function of environmental factors and pathogens for which no cure are available now.

Field Visit

31.0 On the early morning of the second day of TAC-7 (28 August 2012), the delegates visited the newly built state-of-the-art fish trade center at Peliyagoda on the outskirts of Colombo city. The erstwhile St. John's Fish Market in Colombo City has been relocated to this market from the perspective of providing better infrastructure facilities and lack of space in the old market. The new market was opened on 26 March 2011 by the Honorable President of Sri Lanka. The delegates were accompanied by the BOBP-IGO Secretariat and representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Sri Lanka.

After visiting the market, the delegates requested their Sri Lanka counterpart to share the experience in planning, construction and management of the market with other countries. The delegates also requested the BOBP-IGO Secretariat to facilitate the process.



Secretariat: Preparation of Work plan April 2012 - March 2013

32.0 Based on the discussions on the activities and the SPA: 2009-14, the Secretariat prepared and presented the Work Plan for the period April 2012 - March 2013. The major work programme includes the Second Meeting on the Need and Scope of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization in the Bay of Bengal Region and suitability of the BOBP-IGO in this regard; Initiation of consultative process for preparation of the Strategic Plan of Action of the BOBP-IGO for the period April 2014-March 2019; Capacity-Building and Information Services for Fisheries Development and Management in the Bay of Bengal Region; Fisheries Resource Management and Programmes on improving Safety at Sea for small-scale fisheries.

33.0 The delegates welcomed the Work Plan. Sri Lanka suggested that the Secretariat may consider training of Sri Lankan fishers in fish drying techniques for tuna fishery as practiced in the Maldives. Sri Lanka informed that while both the countries use the same species (Skipjack Tuna) as the raw material, quality of fish dried in Maldives is better than that of Sri Lanka. The Secretariat informed Sri Lanka that it would hold a discussion with the Government of Maldives in this regard.

34.0 Representative from FAO congratulated the Secretariat for continuing work on safety at sea for small-scale fishers even after the conclusion of the global project on safety at sea. He informed that the issue is not getting adequate priority and hence funding from prospective donor agencies and FAO may find it difficult to take the project to its natural conclusion. He also appreciated the synergy in the proposed work programme and the agenda of the BOBLME Project.

Any other matter: Emerging issues

35.0 On emerging issues in the region, the Secretariat informed that working condition of fish workers is becoming a matter of increasing concern in the international arena. While traditional relationship dominates the fisheries work culture in the region, with increasing inter-sectoral migration and changing nature of fisheries there is a need to ascertain that international guidelines are upheld in this regard.

36.0 The Secretariat also suggested that while member-countries of the BOBP-IGO shared common views on various issues in fisheries, particularly in respect of development of small-scale fisheries, they work in isolation. This has usually reduced their bargaining power in global forums such as COFI. However, many other countries have formed formal and informal groups and raised their issues as a single voice thus emphasizing their presence. The Secretariat suggested that possibilities could be explored to raise the voice of the region through a common platform.

37.0 The delegates welcomed the proposals and requested the Governing Council to further deliberate on these issues.

Date and place for the second TAC meeting

38.0 The TAC agreed to convene the Eighth Meeting of the Committee during 2013 in Bangladesh, subject to the concurrence of the Government of Bangladesh.

Concluding session: Adoption of the report

39.0 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. He thanked the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka for making arrangements for the meeting.

40.0 The delegates thanked the MFARD for their excellent hospitality and the BOBP-IGO for their work in making the meeting productive.

41.0 In her concluding remarks, the chair said that the meeting was very productive and it will assist in addressing the issues of the small-scale fisheries in the region. She thanked the delegates and observers for their cooperation and wished them a safe return to home.

42.0 The Report of the TAC was adopted on 28 August 2012.

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Agenda & Time-Table

Monday, 27 August 2012

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 2011 – March 2012)

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

5. Discussion on the outcome of the Bi-National Collaboration in Managing the Gulf of Mannar.
6. Report on the progress in mapping of fish markets in BOBP-IGO Member-Countries.
7. Discussions on strengthening ties between BOBP-IGO and Regional Fisheries Research Institutes on conducting developmental research and development of a protocol for sharing of data.
8. Discussions on developing a work plan for management of tiger shrimp brood stock shared by Bangladesh and India and India and Sri Lanka.
9. Discussions on developing modalities for review of Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) 2010-14 and preparation of SPA: 2014-19.

Tuesday, 28 August 2012

Morning, 0600 hrs

10. Field visit
11. Development and adoption of Work plan (April 2012 – March 2013)
12. Presentation and adoption of the Report
13. Any Other Matter
14. Date and Place of the Eighth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee
15. Close of Meeting

List of Documents

A. Working Documents:

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/WP1	Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/WP2	Report on the BOBP-IGO Activities (April 2011 - March 2012).
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/WP3	Note on strengthening ties between BOBP-IGO and Regional Fisheries Research Institutes (RFRIIs) on conducting developmental research and development of a protocol for sharing of data.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/WP3	Note on Development of a workplan for management of Shrimp Brood Stock.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/WP3	Note on developing modalities for review of Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) 2010-14 and preparation of SPA: 2014-19.

B. Information Documents:

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.2	Tentative Programme.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.3	Provisional List of Participants.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.4	Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, New Delhi, India, 20-21 April, 2011.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.5	Report of the Regional training Course of Strengthening Fisheries Data Collection — 25 April to 7 May 2011.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.6	Report of the Regional Workshop on “Establishing a Cooperative Mechanism for Protection of Met-Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean Region”, Chennai, India, 6 - 7 May, 2011.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf. 7	Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, Malé, Maldives, 22-23 June, 2011.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.8	Report of the Fourth Regional Training Course on CCRF, Chennai/Kochi, India, 10-23 July 2011.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.9	Report of the First Bi-National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar Ecosystem and its resources, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, 5 – 6 September, 2011.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.10	Status Report on the Project on Integrated quality Improvement Programme in Mudasalodai, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.11	Report of the Working Group on Preparation of National Response to BOBLME TDA Document November-December, 2011.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.12	2012 Calendar of BOBP-IGO (Fishing Crafts of the Bay of Bengal).

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.13

Report on the Survey of Fish Markets in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India (Web version).

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.14

Report on the Survey of Fish Markets in Dhaka, Bangladesh (PowerPoint).

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.15

Proposed Work Plan (April 2012-March 2013).

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.16

Provisional Itinerary of Participants.

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2012/Inf.17

Registration Form.





A decade of BOBP-IGO: 2003-2013

1.0 The birth of an idea

The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was institutionalized from the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The BOBP was a long-term regional fisheries programme (1979 – 2003) of FAO in which Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand were participating, with Myanmar occasionally joining in capacity building programmes and other related activities. In the first two phases (1979 – 1986 and 1987 – 1993), the BOBP aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of the small-scale fisher folk in the member-countries through development and promotion of new and innovative techniques and technologies and their extension to cover a critical mass of beneficiaries in the region. The third phase (1994 – 1999) of the Programme addressed more directly the serious management problems facing the Bay's fisheries. It assisted the national institutions responsible for fisheries management in setting directions and accelerating development of sound fisheries management policies and practices. During the latter part of the second phase and more pronouncedly in the third phase, the BOBP member-countries increasingly recognized the need to manage the coastal and marine resources, including the environmental threats to the resources, in a coordinated, comprehensive and integrated manner. Subsequently, at the 24th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC - equivalent to the Governing Council in the present set-up) held in Phuket, Thailand in 1999, the BOBP member-countries listed down the important problems and issues confronting fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) region and agreed that several of the problems could be addressed better through a regional mechanism. During the said meeting the BOBP member-countries also univocally accepted the Phuket Resolution¹ paving way for setting up of a regional mechanism².

2.0 The Institutionalization

After the adoption of Phuket Resolution, the then BOBP Secretariat facilitated negotiations amongst the member-countries to fasten institutionalization of the BOBP as an inter-governmental organisation. It was decided at that stage that the Organization could be outside the UN family primarily run and managed by the member states themselves for addressing regional problems with global cooperation as and when required. This also implied that the Organisation would be financed completely by the national governments. This was a departure from the existing mode of participation of the countries where the projects were mostly donor-driven and financial responsibilities of the member-countries were limited.

The Organisation was also envisioned to play an advisory role with limited management functions. Once the progress of negotiations started, four countries in the western BoB, namely Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Maldives signed the Agreement to form the inter-governmental organization. The other former BOBP countries on the eastern side of the Bay have so far remained undecided. It is likely that their larger requirements are being increasingly addressed by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), which was established in 1967 with major assistance from Japan. Myanmar, which is also a member of SEAFDEC, is yet to take a decision.

3.0 The beginning

The BOBP-IGO Agreement was formally signed by the Governments of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka at Chennai on 26 April 2003 and by the Government of Maldives at Chennai on 21 May 2003. However, the Government of Maldives agreed for the institutionalization on 26 April 2003.

¹ The full text of Phuket Resolution is available at www.bobpigo.org.

² The other outcome of this discussion was planning for Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project.

4.0 The journey

The BOBP-IGO started its journey with the unfinished agenda of the BOBP – ensuring sustainability of fishing operations and developing livelihoods of small-scale fishers in the region. However, with each encounter with reality, the multi-faceted nature of the issues became clearer and the task at hand branched out further.

Beginning with activities focused on promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as a viable solution for ensuring sustainability of fisheries in the region, the Organisation became a strong advocate of improving occupational safety for fishermen – one of the most dangerous occupations in the world. The BOBP-IGO raised the profile of this issue in the region and by 2012, safety at sea is well-discussed and processes are slowly making in-roads in the member-countries. In terms of actual achievement, fishing is as risky as it was nine years ago. However, what achieved is breaking the silence and charting a path. We are happy to note that insurance of life and assets of the fishermen are progressing in all the four member-countries. Our training videos have helped thousand of fishermen in Bangladesh and India for troubleshooting their engine. The fishing community and non-governmental organizations working with fishermen have informed us that checking engine before a voyage is catching on and fishermen are also picking the habit of preparing voyage plans before leaving for the fishing trips.

It is also well recognized that without an effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) system, it is not possible to improve occupational safety of the fishermen. The Organisation was successful in initiating and developing national plans of action for improving MCS in the member-countries. Subsequent to this drive, a full-fledged MCS Unit has been established in Sri Lanka; a perspective plan for developing MCS has been adopted for implementation during the 12th Five-Year Plan in India; a registration and licensing drive being carried out in Bangladesh; and fleet management plans are being developed in the Maldives.

The other major objective of emphasizing on improving MCS were the reports received on falling catch rates for major commercial species such as hilsa and heavy exploitation of ecologically vulnerable species such as sharks. The Organisation embarked upon a regional initiative to develop targeted effort in promoting sustainable exploitation of these species. Keeping in mind the geographical spread of hilsa fishery, the Organisation successfully roped in Myanmar towards developing national and regional plans for managing hilsa fishery along with Bangladesh and India. Later, the BOBLME Project also joined the initiative and recently the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has started a civil society led initiative to manage hilsa fishery in the region.

In terms of shark fishery, the effort was initiated with India, Maldives and Sri Lanka and later Bangladesh also joined in view of its increasing shark landings in the country. Maldives became a shark sanctuary in 2010 and Sri Lanka has also developed the national shark-plan. The work is under progress in Bangladesh and India.

5.0 Suggested course of action for approval of the Governing Council to mark the occasion

- A. **Retrospection:** This journey of a decade envelopes many major development and also some areas where development is slow. A review of observations of our member-countries reflected through meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee and Governing Council show a high-level of satisfaction on our performance. However, in the background of the larger dreams of the region, this is the time to look back on the contributions of the Organisation in the region.
- B. **Scoping:** Where the region likes to go during the next decade and what obstacles need to be overcome to make that progress and how the BOBP-IGO can shoulder the responsibilities. While, a process has been initiated to look at the scope of the Organisation to evolve as a fisheries management organization, the objective of the scoping is much larger. It is to renew our commitments and create a vision for the region in the background of the developments that took place during this decade.
- C. **Workshop:** A regional high-level retrospective and scoping workshop will be organized towards addressing the above objectives. It is proposed that the regional workshop is convened in conjunction with any other proposed regional workshops for the sake of economy. The partner organizations of

the BOBP-IGO, research institutes, national and international NGOs and CSOs will be invited to attend this workshop.

- D. Reunion:** A virtual reunion of mentors, trainees and participants in our programmes and activities will be organized through platforms such as Google *Plus* or Facebook.
- E. Website and Photo-stories:** The website of the BOBP-IGO, which is also a decade old now is being redesigned and revamped to mark the occasion. In addition, from the BOBP archive, photo-stories on various activities of the Organisation will be published.
- F. Publication:** A visually enriched brochure will be published to mark the occasion. The 2013 Table Calendar of the BOBP-IGO will also be dedicated to the achievements of the Organisation during this decade.

The Governing Council may advise on celebrating a decade of the BOBP-IGO.





Emerging Issues: Ensuring Safe Working Conditions

1.0 The Issue

During the last decade one major development that affected fisheries management and trade in the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO is the increasing acceptance of environmental and ecological filters in fisheries trade. While initially export consignments were concerned only with hygiene and phyto-sanitary measures, during the last decade sustainability of catch or legality of catch has emerged as a major issue. However, since the fisheries management and businesses are conducted in this part of the world in a informal environment, member-countries have found themselves in a difficult situation to meet the documentation and physical needs of such measures. One recent example of this problem is the European Union's Regulation on Catch Certification to ensure the legality of catch. Member-countries found themselves in a difficult situation to meet the requirement of this regulation, especially in case of the catch sourced from small-scale fisheries.

From the recent discussions in various fisheries governance and trade related forum, it is becoming apparent that after the ecological sustainability of catch, social sustainability is emerging as a major issue. In terms of social sustainability, good working conditions for fish workers is now the most hotly debated issue, which is slowly making inroad as conditionality for fisheries trade.

On the other hand development of offshore fishery and migration of workers from other sectors is changing the traditional owner-labour relationship in fisheries. In addition to the fact that most of the fishing trips in the region are conducted without taking proper safety measures, the sector is regularly coming under review on issues of good working conditions for migrant fish workers.

It is, therefore, necessary to improve the working conditions of the fish workers on one hand, especially the fish workers engaged in larger (company-owned) commercial fishing vessels and also establishing a system of documentation to show status of the fish workers in the region.

2.0 Guidance of the Governing Council

The Governing Council may deliberate on this important issue and suggest a path to develop a regional initiative for ensuring good working conditions for the fishers.



Emerging Issues: Presenting Views on Shared and Common Issues as a Group in International and Regional Forums

1.0 The Issue

Within the framework of the United Nations (UN) it is now becoming increasingly common to raise issues that are of shared nature within a region by a group of countries working under one umbrella. At present member-countries of the UN are divided into five geo-political regional groups. These groups are: the African Group (54 members); the Asia-Pacific Group (53 members); the Eastern European Group (23 members); the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC, 33 members) and the Western European and Others Group (WEOG, 28 members). Besides these groupings, within the set up of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), Groups such the Group of 77¹ also operate to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the UN. Other than the UN platform, regional economic and political groups in the Asia-Pacific region also exist and the important ones are: ASEAN², SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) and the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation). While ASEAN has been relatively more active than the other two regional groupings in addressing fisheries issues of interest to their member-countries, SAARC and BIMSTEC have been more or less dormant on fisheries matters. Decisions taken under the aegis of ASEAN are often collectively voiced in the UN settings, including the meetings of FAO (meetings of the Committee on Fisheries and its two sub-Committees). SAARC has had practically no interest in the subject of fisheries, although a SAARC Centre on Agriculture does operate from its base in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Since its establishment in December 1985, SAARC has organized one fisheries meet on 'Fish Marketing' in 1993 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Similarly, BIMSTEC has also been dormant in the fisheries sector. Within the BIMSTEC family, Thailand has been designated as the lead country for Fisheries Sector and like SAARC, this grouping has also organized just a couple of meets in mid-2000 and since then no further initiative has been made to take up matters of mutual interest in fisheries sector. This could also be due to the fact that Thailand, which is the lead country for fisheries in the BIMSTEC set up, has its larger issues addressed under the ASEAN framework.

Coming back to the UN system, while the groups functioning under the UN umbrella are informal in nature, they exert considerable pressure in deciding policy and extracting other benefits from the system. For example, during the recently concluded 30th Session of the COFI in July 2012, the Latin American Countries have raised their issues together through the GRULAC. Similarly, in the meetings of the two COFI Sub-Committees (Fish Trade and Aquaculture) held in February and March 2012 respectively, GRULAC made several interventions exhibiting a collective voice of its members, and in most occasions culminating in distinctive benefits to its constituents. Further, in the Sessions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the European Union has been able to influence the decisions of the Commission on many occasions largely due to its collective position as a group of 27 member-states. Many other members of the Commission, despite their geographical positioning in the Indian Ocean and or being significant tuna fishing nations, have not been able to make their positions being felt and are at the receiving end of the decisions taken by the Commission. On the contrary, the Asia-Pacific Group has been ineffective in such forums, especially in respect of fisheries sector. It may also be

¹ The Group of 77 at the United Nations is a loose coalition of developing nations, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations. There were 77 founding members of the organization, but the organization has since expanded to 132 member countries. Practically speaking (as of 2011), the group can be described as comprising all of UN members (along with the Palestinian Authority) excluding the following:

1. All Council of Europe members (with the exception of Bosnia and Herzegovina);
2. All Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development members (with the exception of Chile);
3. All Commonwealth of Independent States (full) members (with the exception of Tajikistan);
4. Three microstates: Kiribati, Palau and Tuvalu.

² The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a geo-political and economic organization of ten countries located in Southeast Asia, which was formed on 8 August 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Since then, membership has expanded to include Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Its aims include accelerating economic growth, social progress, cultural development among its members, protection of regional peace and stability and opportunities for member-countries to discuss differences peacefully.

pertinent to mention here that wide diversity in many fronts (cultural, social, developmental, etc) has rendered the Asia-Pacific Group less effective than GRULAC, which exhibits more homogeneity amongst its members.

The moot point that emerges now is whether the South Asian countries or in other words the BOBP-IGO member –countries, which not only represent about 97-98 % of the total fisheries sector in the region but also a very sizeable percentage of the global fisheries and aquaculture should remain in the shadows of Asia-Pacific Group and not allow its voice to be heard in a collective manner. It is not denying the fact that the BOBP-IGO member-countries have been raising their issues in the global and regional meetings and on most occasions their viewpoints exhibit strong commonness, yet they are not as effective as the other countries that do not raise their issues individually, but through their regional forum or groups. In other words it may be said that the UN platforms, especially of FAO, have almost all the nations of the world as members and in such large global settings individual concerns attracts less attention than concerns emanating from a single forum as a common agenda of a group of countries. Even outside the UN system, such groups are becoming more important in environmental and trade negotiations.

2.0 Guidance of the Governing Council

The Governing Council may consider the above issues and explore possibilities to best address the growing needs of the member-countries. It is suggested that member-countries of the BOBP-IGO may consider themselves presenting as an informal group in the meetings within and outside the UN system to further emphasize their concerns. To facilitate this process, the member-countries can participate in regional consultation to take common stand on various issues. The BOBP-IGO Secretariat may facilitate this process. The other possible options are to discuss this issue within the framework of SAARC or the BIMSTEC. However, harmonization of views under these two grouping may perhaps not be as easy because of the diverse views and interests of some of the members due to their membership in other groupings and or their geographical locations extending beyond the Bay of Bengal.

Work Plan for April 2012 – March 2013

Special programmes

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 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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.

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.

Date of the Second Meeting of the Technical Committee on RFMO and venue will be finalized in consultation with the chairperson.

Title: Initiation of a consultative process for preparation of Strategic Plan of Action of the BOBP-IGO for January, 2014- December 2018.

Member Countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME), South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), fisher associations, concerned civil societies and NGOs and independent experts.

Objective:

To collect and analyze inputs for preparation of SPA: 2014-18 keeping in mind the need of the region, mandate of the Organisation and availability of resources.

Work plan:

- The Secretariat will prepare the draft SPA: 2014-18.
- The draft SPA: 2014-18 will be presented before the Eighth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for its suggestions and endorsement.
- The draft SPA: 2014-18 will be presented to the Governing Council at its Ninth Meeting for approval.

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 2012 - March 2013

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, dissemination of knowledge on 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 may be implemented during April 2012 - March 2013:

- 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.
- 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.
- Mapping of fish markets in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Preparation of interactive map of islands/atolls in the Maldives.

A Work Plan detailing various activities is enclosed in *Annex 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.
- 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 fisher women 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).

**Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization
Work Plan for April 2012 – March 2013**

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 2012 - March 2013											
		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												
C	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 be include participants from Myanmar.

Title: Fisheries Resource Management

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

Duration: April 2012 - March 2013

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 2012 - March 2013:

- Strategic Consultation on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region: Organization of Regional Strategy Meet on Reviewing the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region. The output of the workshop will go to the building of a Report on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region. Under this programme, national consultations will be organized in each member-country on scope and attributes of small-scale fisheries and will be presented later during the regional consultation.
- 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.
- Third Bi-National Workshop on Gulf of Mannar Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME Project and BOBP-IGO collaborative programme)
- Preparation of awareness material for implementation of grouper fisheries (Maldives).
- Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp brood stock fishery.
- Scoping study on small-scale tuna fisheries and fleet development plan (including suggestions for management of bait fisheries).

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

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Understanding suitable fisheries management techniques in a multi-species multi-gear scenario and their documentation.
- Bringing stakeholders from India and Sri Lanka on 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 (Maldives).
- Preparation of a comprehensive report based on the scoping study on status of shrimp brood stock.
- *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.*

**Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
Work Plan for April 2012 – March 2013**

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

Programme: Fisheries Resource Management

	Activity	April 2012 - March 2013											
		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. National workshop on Small-scale fisheries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	2. Regional workshop on Small-scale fisheries										—	—	
B	Preparation of Management Plans (Hilsa Fisheries).						—	—	—	—	—	—	
C	Preparation of Management Plans (Shark Fisheries)						—	—	—	—	—	—	
D	Gulf of Mannar Bi-National Workshop			—	—	—		—	—	—			
E	<i>Scoping study on tiger shrimp brood stock management.</i>										—	—	—
F	<i>Scoping study on tuna fisheries.</i>												

* Includes the Bay of Bengal States of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Activities in 'italics' will be taken this year (2012-13) subject to availability of time. Time period/activities already covered/done is shown in dotted line.

Title: Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries

Member Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka

Duration: April 2012 – March 2013

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 objectives, 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 accident..

Work Plan:

- Organization of the Fifth International Conference of Fishing Industry Safety and Health (IFISH-5) in Sri Lanka.
- International Technical Conference on “ Met-Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean Region” (World Meteorological Organization (WMO), National Institute of Ocean Technology, India and the BOBP-IGO collaborative programme)
- Trial of the improved model 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 & inspectors in safety requirements and good working conditions in fisheries sector.

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

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Review of progress and charting a global agenda for occupational safety in fishing industry.
- Measuring progress towards weather and climate related research and forecasting and ensuring community benefits from this.
- 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; and
- Integration of ‘Safety at Sea’ as an important element of fishery management.

**Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization
Work Plan for April 2012 – March 2013**

Geographical Area: BOBP-IGO Member Countries (Bangladesh, India*, Maldives, Sri Lanka)

Programme: Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries

	Activity	April 2012 - March 2013											
		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
A	Organization of Fifth International Conference of Fishing Industry Safety and Health												
B	International Technical Conference on “Met-Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in in the Northern Indian Ocean Region”												
	Construction of the improved model 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



Fixation of Exchange Rate

1.0 The Issue

In accordance with the BOBP-IGO Agreement, salary of the staff in the headquarters is fixed in US dollars (USD) where as the payment is made in local currency (Indian Rupee – INR) after converting it as per the relevant exchange rate. The rate of exchange applicable for conversion of USD to INR is now fixed at USD 01 = INR 44.55 vide the decision of the Governing Council during its fourth meeting in 2008 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The decision of the Governing Council was based on the request of the Secretariat to protect the basic level of economic security of the Secretariat against exchange rate fluctuations and weakened USD at that point of time. After deliberating over the issue, the Governing Council decided that the exchange rate may be fixed at the level as on 01 January 2007 and the same will be taken into account by the Secretariat for calculating the salaries of staff. The UN Operational Exchange Rate as published by the United Nations was considered for this purpose.

This issue is again put before the Governing Council for the following reasons. The Governing Council may note that:

- *The USD-INR exchange rate now stands at INR 55.45 (July 2012, RBI)*
- *The average exchange rate for the period January, 2011 to July, 2012 stands at INR 48.88.*
- *That is on an average the staff lose about Rs 5000 for an indicative salary of USD 1000.*
- *The salary and other benefits due to the staff are pre-determined and the staff are not entitled to social security measures such as dearness allowance or housing allowance.*
- *The weakening of rupee is largely due to high level of inflation, especially of food prices and housing prevailing in the Indian economy.*

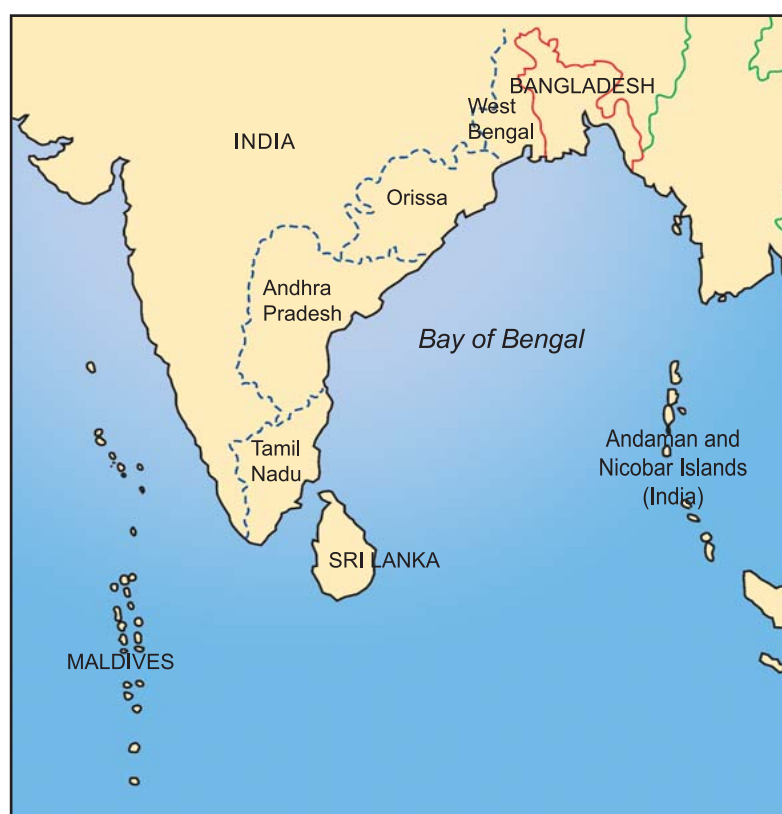
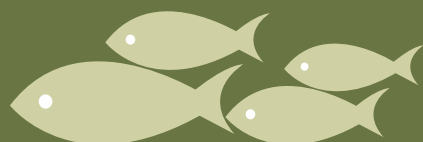
2.0 Proposed remedial measures for consideration of the Governing Council

The Governing Council may consider approving the following remedial measures necessary to ensure base level of economic security of the Secretariat staff:

- *For calculating salary and other benefits of the staff, half-yearly average exchange rate of preceding period be considered as reference rate. That is for calculating salaries for January to June in 2012, half-yearly average exchange rate of the period July-December, 2011 will be considered as reference rate while for calculating salary for each month of July to December, 2012, half-yearly average exchange rate of January to July, 2012 will be considered as reference rate and so on.*
- *To protect the existing level of economic entitlements of the staff, INR 44.55 be considered as lower limit or base-level exchange rate and in case half-yearly average goes below this limit, INR 44.55 will be considered as the applicable reference rate.*
- *For calculation of half-yearly average rate, reference rate published by the Reserve Bank of India or by the United Nations will be taken into account. The Secretariat may be authorised to hold a discussion with the bankers and auditors of the BOBP-IGO to settle this issue.*
- *In case the above proposals are recommended by the Governing Council, the auditors will monitor the implementation of the guideline and will file a separate report on this. The report will be presented before the Governing Council during its meetings.*
- *This modification may be authorised from January, 2011.*

3.0 Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council is requested to take note of the economic security concerns of the staff in the Secretariat and suggest best possible action.



**BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME
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