

Report of the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council



**REPORT OF THE NINTH MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

16 - 17 December 2013
New Delhi, India

This document records the report of the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). The meeting was held on 16-17 December in New Delhi, India.

The document contains a Progress Report of the BOBP-IGO for the period April 2012 – September 2013; Strategic Plan of Action for the BOBP-IGO for the period 2014-2018 and the Workplan for the period January – December 2014. It also contains the Report of the Eighth 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 Institutionalization of the BOBP-IGO. 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 organisations in the region and provide technical and management advisory services for sustainable coastal fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal region.

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Contents

Report of the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council	5
Appendices	
A. List of Delegates	15
B. Agenda & Timetable	20
C. Welcome and Opening Remarks of Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation	21
D. Speech of Dr Raja Sekhar Vundru, Joint Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India	22
E. Speech of Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India	25
F. List of Documents	29
G. Report on the Activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (April 2012-November 2013)	33
H. Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee 25-26 September 2013, Dhaka, Bangladesh	63
I. Draft Strategic Plan of Action of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation: 2014-18	77
J. Proposed Work Plan for January-December 2014	81



Delegates and guests at the Inaugural Session of GCM-9

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Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM-9) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in New Delhi, India from 16-17 December 2013. The GCM-9 was attended by representatives of the 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; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and the International Collective in Support of Fish Workers (ICSF). List of delegates is attached as **Appendix A**. the Agenda of the meeting is placed as **Appendix B**.

2.0 The Inaugural Session of the Meeting began with the traditional lighting of the lamp. Mr Anup Kumar Thakur, Secretary to the Government, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD&F), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

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 India for having agreed to host this important meeting and for all the support provided towards its organization. He said that the Ninth Meeting of the BOBP-IGO held special significance on a couple of accounts- first the meeting was being held in the backdrop of the Organisation having completed its first decade as an IGO and second, the Secretariat had successfully met most of the requirements of the Strategic Plan of Action or the SPA 2010-2014, the framework under which the annual activities were being implemented in the member-countries. He said that the last couple of years also brought us closer to many new partners, forging cooperative work programmes, supporting each other's agenda, and coming together for a common goal of improving the Bay's fisheries and the well-being of the millions of fishers who derived their livelihoods from the resources. Concluding his welcome remarks, Dr Yadava informed the Governing Council about the change in the reporting period from April-March to calendar year basis, *i.e.* January-December. He also wished the GCM delegates a pleasant stay in Delhi. Dr Yadava's welcome address is placed as **Appendix C**.

4.0 Dr Rajasekhar Vundru, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), DAHD&F, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India welcomed the delegates. Dr Vundru said that the coming into force of the United Nations 'Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)' was a blessing for the coastal countries. "It has established our rights to use marine waters adjacent to our territorial jurisdictions in furthering national objectives, of which fisheries is one of the most important as it relates to food, nutrition, livelihoods and also balance of trade. However, like every right, this right is also conditional. As we are aware, the Law of the Sea requires us to protect our marine resources and also to extend regional cooperation to ensure sustainability of shared ecosystems," said Dr Vundru. Congratulating BOBP-IGO on its 10th Anniversary, Dr Vundru said that there have been scores of multi-nation field projects implemented by FAO in the past, but only few of them have been institutionalized. The BOBP-IGO is completely a country-driven initiative, and we must thank our Governments for their foresight and understanding of the regional dimensions of the Bay of Bengal and agreeing to set up this Organisation. Dr Vundru further said that being an integral part of the global community, there is much concern about the failure of the countries to meet the deadlines of many decisions that the global community had taken in the past. Concluding his opening remarks, he said that during this Ninth meeting, the Governing Council will be able to not only set the agenda for the Organisation but also agree on measures to make it more effective and more relevant to address our common issues. He wished the delegates a very fruitful stay in Delhi. Full text of Dr Vundru's Opening Remarks is placed as **Appendix D**.

5.0 Mr Abdul Malek, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh and the current chair of the Governing Council extended a hearty welcome to the delegates. He thanked the Government of India for hosting the meeting and the hospitality provided. He said that the Bay of Bengal is contributing to the development of the countries surrounding it from time immemorial. However, countries do not have only rights over the Bay and its resources but some responsibilities also. Since the Bay is a shared



Inaugural Session in progress

resource, there is a need to share the responsibilities also. Mr Malek said that the BOBP-IGO is an important mechanism to address regional issues and the Organization is building bridges between the member-countries and accelerating solutions to various regional issues such as management of hilsa and shark fisheries. He said that the member-countries should tap the IGO's potential as a catalyst of information, knowledge and action on fisheries management. He lauded the effort of the Organisation in promoting the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the region through training programmes, translation of the original set of documents in vernacular and awareness material and hoped that the process would result in ensuring sustainability of fisheries sector in the region. Closing his speech, Mr Malik wished the meeting every success.

6.0 In his inaugural address, Mr Thakur extended a warm welcome to the delegates. He said that this is best time to visit Delhi. Complementing Mr Abdul Malek for making a very comprehensive presentation, he said that cooperation was the way forward, especially for management of natural resources. In economic activities, there were many areas where competition would ruin everything. Lauding the vision and efforts of the member-countries a decade and half back when the Inter-governmental Organisation was conceived and later set up in the region, Mr Thakur said that it is now a success story. Emphasizing on sustainability, he said that our generation and the one before us has been very greedy. "Today the most important fact is sustainability. Marine fisheries and in particular the coastal areas are heavily exploited. Are we replacing what we are catching? We need to fish in a responsible manner," said Mr Thakur. He hoped that sustainability would be at the core of the new Strategic Plan of Action of the BOBP-IGO.

Concluding his address, Mr Thakur said that the BOBP-IGO's work on hilsa and shark fisheries were good initiatives. He also suggested that the Organisation should bring out a compendium of good practices, which would allow sharing of the lessons learnt in the region. Wishing the delegates a pleasant stay in Delhi and all success for the meeting, Mr Thakur declared the GCM-9 open. Mr Thakur's full speech is placed as **Appendix E**.

Adoption of Agenda

7.0 The Governing Council adopted the agenda and agreed for the arrangements for the meeting. The documents considered and reviewed by the Governing Council are listed at **Appendix F**. The present chair (Bangladesh) opened the floor for election of the new chair. Delegates unanimously elected India to chair the GCM-9. Thanking Mr Malek, the Governing Council also placed on record its appreciation for the leadership provided by Bangladesh to the Organisation during its tenure as chair of the Governing Council.

Performance of the fisheries sector in the region

8.0 The Governing Council considered the document on performance of the fisheries sector in the region as placed under **Appendix G (Part A)**. While discussing the performance of the fisheries sector in the region, the Governing Council took note of the relatively higher growth rate in the region and observed that there was a need to monitor such growth, taking both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the fishery.

9.0 Maldives observed that while fish landings were declining, this was due to the transition taking place in the Maldives from a relatively small-scale to semi-industrial scale. The yellowfin tuna handline fishery was fast expanding and moving in parallel with the skipjack fisheries. This transition was also showing a positive growth in terms of income, as the fishers were getting higher values for their catch.

Maldives suggested that this changing fisheries scenario should be taken into account. Besides, it was also informed that the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures were being further strengthened through registration and licensing of fishing vessels, their tracking using appropriate means such as the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and also the on-going efforts in proper categorization of the fishermen in the country.

Maldives further noted the lack of any inter-governmental body to provide technical guidance for management of fisheries in the northern Indian Ocean. While the BOBP-IGO provided services to its member-countries in many respects, the management advisory services of the Organisation needed further strengthening keeping in view the fast changing dynamics of fisheries in the region. Therefore, it was time that the Organisation considered expanding its mandate and functions to cover the entire northern Indian Ocean and in the process also expanding its membership to include all the countries surrounding the Bay of Bengal and also those located on the Arabian Sea part of the northern Indian Ocean.



Session in progress

10.0 Complimenting the Secretariat for a comprehensive presentation on the status of fisheries in the member-countries, India said that FAO had also been indicating about the discrepancies in the data and keeping in view the importance of data in planning and management of the sector, suggested organization of a regional workshop on this issue. Suggesting the need to retain genuine fishermen in the sector, if required by providing appropriate incentives, India emphasized on the need to reduce post-harvest losses and the destructive fishing practices that were damaging the fisheries resources as also the ecosystem and suggested that the BOBP-IGO may also focus on these aspects. On the MCS measures implemented in the country, India mentioned about the significant developments in areas such as vessel registration and identity cards for fishermen. India suggested that the lessons learnt from the BOBP-IGO's work on the east coast of India should also be taken to the west coast of the country as it would be very educative for the fishermen of that region and also to include co-management in the agenda of the BOBP-IGO.

11.0 Bangladesh informed that the increase of fishermen in the country was also due to the fact that there were seasonal and hired workers. The genuine fishermen were now being identified through government initiatives, which would also help in the meeting the needs of the food security programmes undertaken by the government.

12.0 Sri Lanka, complementing the Secretariat for an excellent presentation, informed that before the civil strife in the country, fish production from the Northern provinces was about 42 percent, which declined to as low as 8 percent during the troubled period of 30 years and has now bounced back to 23 percent. Stressing on the need to focus more on the northern and eastern provinces of the country, Sri Lanka informed that Provincial Councils were established in that region and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development was working with them. The fish distribution channels for domestic marketing were further strengthened, resulting in increased domestic consumption of fish. The country's fish exports were also showing good results.

13.0 The representative from ICSF appreciated the good overview of the region provided by the Secretariat and congratulated the Organisation for focusing on the importance of small-scale fisheries in the region. He said that the four BOBP-IGO member-countries not only accounted for 15 percent of the global fishermen population but also for 5 percent of the world's marine fish production. Citing ICSF's collaboration with FAO and the International Labour Organization (ILO), he said that the current statistics did not correctly capture the unorganized sector. The unorganized workers also need to be taken into account. However, from the ICSF's perspective all fish workers were organized as they belonged to one or the other fisher association/organization. In this regard, he suggested that the BOBP-IGO may consider a study that could provide information on the types of fisher organizations that exist in the region.

14.0 The representative of the BOBLME Project, thanking the BOBP-IGO in providing support and implementation of several activities of the Project in the member-countries, referred to the analysis on the fisheries statistics of the Bay of Bengal carried out by the University of British Columbia (UBC) under their sponsorship and said that the report would be available very shortly. He said that the report would shed more light on the various facets of fisheries in the region.

15.0 Representative from FAO said that his Organization was increasingly engaging with the countries to improve reporting. In India, FAO is working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to produce outlook on food security. He suggested that the Report from UBC could be a starting point and based on that BOBP-IGO could organize a workshop in collaboration with BOBLME to improve country reporting. In this regard, technical assistance from FAO could be sought. He also suggested greater involvement of BOBP-IGO in this work.

16.0 Concluding discussions on the performance of the fisheries sector in the region, Chair emphasized on the need to resolve the issue on discrepancy of data reporting. Chair also informed the Council that in India the fishworkers were included in a legislation called the 'Unorganized Sector Workers' Social Security Act, 2008'. This law also covered the welfare aspects of fishermen and their families. In conclusion, he said that the BOBP-IGO could be instrumental in facilitating and promoting regional cooperation and we could learn from each other's experiences.



Exhibit of BOBP-IGO's publications (2005-2013)

Report on BOBP-IGO Activities for the Period April 2012-November 2013

17.0 The Governing Council reviewed the activities of the BOBP-IGO for the period April 2012 to November 2013. A report on the activities is placed as **Appendix G (Part B)**. The Director, BOBP-IGO explained that during the last meeting of the Governing Council it was decided that the activity of the Organisation would be shifted to calendar year in tune with the audit period of the Organisation and for better management. Therefore, this report is presented for the period April 2012 to November 2013 and from the coming year (2014), the activity report will be presented for the calendar year.

18.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO said that the Secretariat had carried out a range of activities during the reporting period, which were placed under three dimensions: capacity building, fisheries resource management and safety at sea. These activities were also contributing to the mission of the Organisation and the prevailing fisheries scenario in the region.

19.0 In capacity building, the Organisation continued with its flagship Training Programme on the 'FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)' for junior and middle-level officials in cooperation with the BOBLME and translation of CCRF in vernacular. Further, during the period, the Secretariat also engaged with the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India in improving ocean observation system and awareness programmes that were contributing to vulnerability reduction of coastal communities.

20.0 In fisheries resource management, three national workshops on governance of small-scale fisheries (SSF) were organized, one each in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India, which were helpful in scoping of the SSF in national context and understanding issues associated with it and also moving towards a regional framework on governance of small-scale fisheries. The Secretariat made further progress in preparation of national management plans for sharks and hilsa fishery, which would ultimately contribute to development of regional plans of action for sharks and hilsa fisheries. The Organisation was also cooperating with BOBLME and IUCN/MFF to understand and address issues in governance of Gulf of Mannar, a shared critical ecosystem between Sri Lanka and India, by initiating a bi-national dialogue process and conducting field studies. Three new programmes were also undertaken during the reporting period, including cooperation with the World Bank Group (WBG) to develop business cases for sustainable exploitation of fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ); exploring potentiality of deep sea fishery and coordinating with FAO and WBG in initiating activities for second phase of Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods (FIMSUL).

21.0 In the domain of safety at sea, the major intervention of the Organisation included the successful advocacy for introducing a group insurance scheme for fishermen in Bangladesh, which could assist over half a million fisher families escaping debt trap and pauperization when faced with a calamity. The Government of Bangladesh had taken initiatives for identifying genuine fishermen and issuing identity card to them, which would be helpful during crisis period and Alternative Income Generation (AIG) support from the Government.

22.0 On cooperation with the World Bank Group (WBG), the Council was informed that the WBG had recently approved a project to be implemented by the BOBP-IGO for development of highly migratory fisheries within national jurisdictions and in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – ABNJ (or high seas). The larger objective of the project is to develop business cases for funding by public or private entities to demonstrate a process and mechanism to establish sustainable and productive fisheries for highly-migratory fish species such as tunas, which are distributed and move between, both inshore (EEZ) and offshore (ABNJ) areas of BOBP-IGO member-countries. The fisheries established will contribute to sustainable development in three main ways: by generating significant economic benefits, through a range of profitable private enterprises, which will contribute to growth; by contributing to social dimensions including providing opportunities for employment and livelihoods for the associated communities; and by contributing to environmental sustainability, through the establishment of sustainable and productive fish stocks, and the conservation of bio-diversity. The Project recognizes benefits and services provided by healthy ocean ecosystems and the threats to sustainability, especially wide-scale weaknesses of governance and institutions for effective fisheries development and management.

23.0 In the discussions that followed on the activity report of the Secretariat, the representative from ICSF said that human dimensions required further integration in fisheries and suggested that the BOBP-IGO may engage in more activities in line with the proposed FAO Guidelines on SSF, especially from the human rights angle. Commenting on the working conditions of fish workers, he said that this was becoming a serious issue, especially in view of the increasing in-migration to the sector. Apart from intra-country migration, workers from India were migrating to Gulf countries for working in the fisheries sector and their abject conditions were often reported. He said that the Organisation may consider bringing in the concerned ministries/departments and the ILO together to address these issues.

Recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee

24.0 The Governing Council reviewed the recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC-8) of the Organisation, which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on September 2013 and accepted the SPA: 2014-18 and Work-plan 2014 for its consideration. The report is placed as *Appendix H*.

The Strategic Plan of Action 2014-18

25.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO introduced the revised SPA: 2014-18 for endorsement of the Governing Council. The Governing Council noted that the SPA: 2014-18 was comprehensive and corresponding to the prevailing issues and needs of the region.

26.0 Representative from the MFF suggested that the proposed activity under Output 1 to promote cooperation in management of shared ecosystems may be extended to important national ecosystems also. Representative from the ICSF suggested that the proposed activities on fisheries livelihoods and safety at sea may be in line with the ILO's Work in fishing Convention (C.188). Delegate from Sri Lanka suggested that activities towards ensuring nutritional security of fisherfolk may also be included.

27.0 With these observations, the Governing Council endorsed the SPA: 2014-18. The final SPA: 2014-18 is placed as *Appendix I*.

Proposed Works Programme and Activities: January-December 2014

28.0 The Governing Council reviewed the Work Programme of the Organisation for the period January-December 2014 and in general agreed to the Work Plan, which conformed to the agreed Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) 2014-18 of the Organisation.

29.0 Sri Lanka suggested that the Organisation could play a significant role in a proposed national programme of strengthening nutritional well-being and food security of fishing communities through social empowerment for selected regions. It was informed that the programme was endorsed by the Steering Committee headed by the President of Sri Lanka where Minister of Fisheries was a member and also a budget had been sanctioned for the programme for the year 2014.

30.0 The Secretariat, while agreeing to the suggestions of the delegates from Sri Lanka, said that the BOBP-IGO team would visit the country to further develop the programme and chalk out the role that BOBP-IGO could play. This was agreed by the Governing Council.

31.0 Delegates from Maldives said that the fisheries sector in the country was passing through a transitory phase and the BOBP-IGO could assist the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MOFA), Government of Maldives in information and knowledge management and capacity enhancement with respect to fishermen's welfare programme planned for 2014 by the Government. The Governing Council agreed to the proposal.

32.0 Delegates from India suggested that certain programmes of the Organisation could be extended to the west coast states of India. The Governing Council agreed that any such programme on the west coast may be undertaken by the BOBP-IGO, subject to local funding provided for such activities.

India also suggested that a stock assessment programme for the BOBP region could be undertaken. The Secretariat suggested that while taking a full-scale stock assessment programme was beyond the means of the Organisation, the Organisation could carry out a desk review on status of the stocks in the region. The Governing Council agreed to the proposal.

33.0 The Governing Council complemented the Secretariat for securing grant assistance from the WBG to work on highly migratory species and placed on record its thanks to the World Bank for considering BOBP-IGO as a recipient of the grant.

34.0 The revised and final work plan for 2014 is placed as *Appendix J*.

Administrative 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 2012. While accepting the report, the Governing Council suggested that the temporary investment(s) made by the organization should be reflected in the report.

Enhancement of country contributions

36.0 The Governing Council took note of the decision of the GCM-7 and its subsequent reiteration in GCM-8 to increase country contributions by 25 percent and resolved that the Chairman of the GCM-9 may formally communicate with the member-countries to take necessary measures at the earliest.

Staff recruitment matters

37.0 Noting the decision of the GCM-7 to keep the position of the Senior Programme Officer in the Secretariat vacant, and considering the fact that the Organisation was recipient of a World Bank grant that would considerably increase its work load and responsibilities, and appreciating the significant contributions made by Dr Y S Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO towards the working of the Organisation, the Governing Council agreed to the extension of the present term of his appointment for the post of the Director, BOBP-IGO for a further period of five years, ending in March 2020.

Date and Place of the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council

38.0 The Governing Council accepted the invitation of Sri Lanka to hold the Tenth Session of the Governing Council in Sri Lanka subject to approval of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Adoption of the Report

39.0 The Governing Council expressed its deep sense of gratitude to the Government of India for excellent hospitality and courtesies extended to the delegates and observers and also for the excellent arrangements made for the conduct of the meeting.

40.0 The report of the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council was accepted on 17 December 2013.



Md Abdul Malek



DMRB Dissanayake



Anup Kumar Thakur



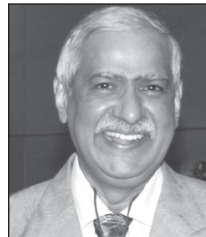
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Agenda & Timetable

Monday, 16 December 2013

Morning, 0900 hrs

1. Registration
2. Inauguration of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting
4. Election of the Chairperson
5. Release of the Annual Report, 2012-2013 of the BOBP-IGO
6. Report on BOBP-IGO Activities for the Period April 2012-November 2013
7. Presentation of the Recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

8. Finalization of the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA): 2014-18
9. Finalization of Work Programme and Activities: January 2014-December 2014
10. Administrative Matters

Tuesday, 17 December 2013

Morning, 1000 hrs

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

**Welcome and Opening Remarks of Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava,
Director, Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation**

Excellency, Mr Anup Kumar Thakur, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture; Mr Abdul Malek, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh and the current Chair of the Governing Council; Dr Raja Sekhar Vundru, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India; distinguished delegates from our member-countries-Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka; distinguished representatives from our partner Organizations; Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very good morning and a hearty welcome to the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO).

At the outset, I would like to place on record our sincere thanks to the Government of India for having agreed to host the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council in New Delhi and for all the support provided for organization of this important meeting of the BOBP-IGO.

Distinguished Delegates;

This Ninth Meeting of the BOBP-IGO holds special significance on a couple of accounts. First, the meeting is being held in the backdrop of the Organisation having completed its first decade as an IGO. Set up in April, 2003, the last ten years have been highly productive for the Organisation. Although we inherited a very strong foundation from our predecessor, the Bay of Bengal Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in this first decade of our existence as an IGO, we were able to further consolidate our position as a responsible and delivery-oriented regional fisheries body working for small-scale fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region. Second, the Secretariat has successfully met most of the requirements of the Strategic Plan of Action or the SPA 2010-2014; the framework under which the annual activities were being implemented in the member-countries.

Distinguished Delegates;

The Governing Council Meetings were usually held in the middle of the year, after the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Organisation. At the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council held in September, 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, it was decided to adopt the calendar year for reporting as against the existing financial year. Further, it was also decided to hold the Governing Council Meeting in the concluding part of the year so that the Council could review the progress achieved during the year and also set the agenda for the next year.

Going by this change in the reporting period, the Secretariat this year also has a larger period to report *i.e.* from April 2012 – November 2013. During this period, we have tried to complete the agenda of the SPA 2010-2014 to the maximum extent possible and also prepare the second SPA for the period 2014-2018. While the fundamentals of the second SPA remain the same, we have tried to bring in new thoughts to the work programme that could benefit the stakeholders in the region. Our predecessor, the BOBP was often complemented for thinking ahead of its times. Following the same legacy, we too plan to bring in more creativity in our work in the coming years.

Quoting John Donne's famous phrase that 'no man is an island', we also believe in working in close cooperation with our partners and sister organizations in the region and outside. The last two years have brought us closer to many new partners, forging cooperative work programmes, supporting each other's agenda, and coming together for a common goal of improving the Bay's fisheries and the well-being of the millions of fishers who derive their livelihoods from the resources. Some of our partners are present in this meeting today and we acknowledge their excellent cooperation.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank Mr Anup Kumar Thakur for having kindly agreed to be with us at this Opening Session of the Ninth Governing Council. I once again welcome our distinguished delegates from the member-countries and partner Organizations and wish all a pleasant stay in Delhi.

Thank you!

**Speech of Dr Raja Sekhar Vundru, Joint Secretary,
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries,
Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India**

Distinguished delegates from Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka and India; distinguished invitees; Dr Peter Kenmore, FAO Representative in India; representatives from partner organizations of the BOBP-IGO; Director BOBP-IGO; Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), which is being held in this historic city of Delhi. I thank you for taking this journey and also hope that you have found the arrangements satisfactory and will get some time to see Delhi at one of the best times of the year.

Distinguished Delegates,

It is also 30 years since the United Nations 'Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)' came into force. The Law, with the provision of 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone, was a blessing for coastal countries like ours. It established our rights to use marine waters adjacent to our territorial jurisdictions in furthering national objectives, of which fisheries is one of the most important as it relates to food, nutrition, livelihoods and also balance of trade. However, like every right, this right is also conditional. As one of the key responsibilities, the Law of the Sea requires us to protect our marine resources and also to extend regional cooperation to ensure sustainability of shared ecosystems.

I am happy to learn that this is the 10th anniversary year of the BOBP-IGO. As we know, the present BOBP-IGO succeeded the Bay of Bengal Programme of FAO, which was implemented in the region from 1979-2003. There have been scores of multi-nation field projects implemented by FAO in the past, but only few of them have been institutionalized. The BOBP-IGO is completely a country-driven initiative, and we must thank our Governments for their foresight and understanding of the regional dimensions of the Bay of Bengal (BOB) and agreeing to set up this Organisation.

Distinguished delegates,

This Ninth Meeting of the BOBP-IGO is being held at a crucial time. In 2012, the global community met at the Rio+20 Earth Summit and agreed for an agenda for fisheries and marine environment. Subsequently, we had the XI Meeting of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora or CITES; and also the 30th Meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI). All these international events had major decisions concerning the fisheries sector.

Being an integral part of the global community, we have a detailed agenda set before us. At the same time, there is also much concern about the failure of the countries to meet the deadlines of many decisions that the global community has taken in the past. Therefore, we are not only required to stand up to these challenges but also to accomplish them in an urgent manner. In this regard, I would like to touch upon some concrete action points that emerged from the Earth Summit:

First, moving towards an ecosystem approach and precautionary approach to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, and to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations;

Second, ensuring conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

Third, implementing measures to prevent or manage as the case may be the impact of invasion of alien species, including adoption of the framework of the International Maritime Organization;

Fourth, intensifying efforts to meet the 2015 target set in the ‘2002 Johannesburg Plan’ to maintain or restore stocks to ensure maximum sustainable yield and implement science-based management plans with provisions such as reducing or suspending fishing catch and effort commensurate with the status of the stock and by eliminating destructive fishing practices;

Fifth, implementing the provisions of the UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the FAO International Plans of Action and Technical Guidelines.

Sixth, developing and implementing national and regional action plans in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing;

Seventh, eliminating subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing and overcapacity within the framework of the World Trade Organisation. However, also recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation;

Eighth, ensuring access to fisheries, especially access to markets, by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisher folk and women fish workers;

Ninth, supporting the decision X/2 of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, that by 2020, 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are to be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures; and

Tenth, reaffirming that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters.

Distinguished delegates,

There are other issues including climate change and acidification of oceans, which are affecting the fisheries sector. However, I feel that these are the areas where the Ministries and Departments of Fisheries have a larger role to play.

I may also touch upon the measures that the Government of India has taken on these issues. We are developing our fisheries monitoring system and have introduced schemes for developing an online database of fishing vessels and issuing identity card to fishermen. For larger vessels, we are planning to implement satellite-based tracking systems. We are also reviewing our marine fisheries policy to better address the changed scenario and new challenges.

In other related developments, a notification has been issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to define the coastal zone and regulating certain activities within the coastal zone. The notification also acknowledges the importance of the coastal zone to the fisheries sector and by prohibiting setting up of polluting activities provides protection to fisheries. The Government has also enacted the Biodiversity Act with the provision of setting up of grassroots organizations for recording and maintenance of biodiversity.

I am sure that such efforts are also going on in other countries and latter during the day we may have further discussions on their impact on fisheries sector.

Distinguish delegates,

However, we also need to contextualise these issues. The fisheries sector in the region is predominantly small-scale and artisanal. The landings take place in thousands of sites. Such organisation of the fisheries sector is a boon for the local economy and stakeholders like local retailers, who are mostly women. However, it also poses a challenge for effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). Comparatively, in developed

countries, there are few designated places as fisheries is mostly carried out at industrial scale with little place for a parallel local economy.

Regarding subsidies also, in our context, it is very difficult to classify subsidies as good or bad subsidies. As you may be aware, in the recently concluded WTO Ministerial Summit in Bali, Indonesia, the issue of subsidy was discussed in detail and India vehemently opposed such move from food security concerns.

Coming to the fisheries scenario in the BOB region, as FAO 2012 Review of Fisheries and Aquaculture shows, this region is one of the few last marine waters with scope for expansion of fishing effort. To keep these waters in this way and to improve it further we have to coordinate our efforts. I am happy to see that the BOBP-IGO is already taking steps towards this direction. The Organisation is also the key vehicle in establishing and promoting the CCRF at various levels from grassroots to policy-making. The regional training programme on the CCRF for fisheries officials, I believe, is one of its kind in the world.

At the same time, we also need to agree to strengthen this Organisation. In the last 10 years, the Organisation has taken many initiatives; such as developing regional plan for fisheries MCS, management plans for important commercial fisheries and promoting collaboration in management of critical habitats, which are now also identified as the best possible approaches to address sustainability of the resources. BOBP-IGO has a proven record of delivery and my Ministry on regular basis benefits from the discussions and the advisories received from the Organisation.

I hope, during this Ninth meeting, we will be able to not only set the agenda for the Organisation but also agree on measures to make it more effective and more relevant to address our common issues.

In conclusion, I thank you again and wish you a fruitful stay in Delhi!

JAI HIND!

**Speech of Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries,
Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India**

Distinguished delegates from Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka and India; distinguished invitees; Dr Peter Kenmore, FAO Representative in India; representatives from partner organizations of the BOBP-IGO; Director BOBP-IGO; Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a great pleasure and privilege for me to extend a warm welcome to you all on behalf of the Government of India. I would like to thank the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) for their kind invitation to address you today on the occasion of the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO. I do hope that you had a comfortable travel and you are also enjoying the cool and pleasant weather of Delhi.

I am happy to learn that this year the BOBP-IGO is also celebrating its 10th anniversary. As we all know, the BOBP-IGO is our own Organization, a 'home grown regional fisheries body', which has made its mark in the global fisheries institutional set up in a very short time. While this first decade of BOBP-IGO has been a great success, we feel the Organisation has to further grow and meet the challenges that not only emanate from within the sector but also the external impacts, including those coming from the changing climate.

Distinguished delegates,

Sustainable development, a term coined by the Brundtland Commission in 1987 implies, "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Being a development practitioner in a large developing country like India, I know bringing a balance between the two is quite difficult, although not impossible.

During the last five to six decades, the fisheries sector has performed excellently well in meeting the needs of the present generation. I'm told that the world per capita fish consumption has increased from an average of 9.9 kg in the 1960s to 18.4 kg in 2009. The sector has established itself as a mass employer, especially in the developing countries. Presently, over 38 million people are engaged in marine capture fisheries and this employment has increased steadily from about 27 million in 1990s as depicted in the FAO's 2012 edition of the State of Fisheries and Aquaculture. This rising employment is possibly not only due to increase in population traditionally engaged in fisheries, but also due to migration from other sectors into the fisheries sector. Apart from this, a larger number of people, especially women, have also found employment both in upstream and downstream activities.

However, the price that we are paying to achieve this prosperity is quite significant. As we understand, major commercially exploited fish stocks are fully or over exploited. The percentage of overexploited stocks has increased from 10 percent in 1974 to about 29 percent at present. Whereas stocks available for further expansion of fishery are steadily going down. In search of fish, more and more fishers now cross coastal waters and many also venture into the high seas, much beyond the national boundaries.

Distinguished delegates,

We hope that our next generation will live in a better world, have better quality of life and longevity and it will possibly also be a more populous world. However, as things stand now, will they have fish in their plates? This is a question that all of us must ask ourselves.

As I have said earlier, sustainable development is challenging but not impossible. The tasks are quite clear. We have to conserve the fisheries. We have to increase production and also protect livelihoods. One way to balance these seemingly contradictory objectives is to reduce wastage in the sector. We are having an advantage here. The fisheries in the region are mostly small-scale. They land nearly everything they catch. However, we need to ensure that this practice is strengthened further. Secondly, we need to ensure that the fish harvested

remains in good condition by improving post-harvest practices. We also need to ensure that fish habitats remain in the best condition so that their productivity and integrity is not compromised.

However, fishery is not only about fish. As I mentioned earlier, it is a major and attractive employer in the primary sector. Especially in coastal areas, where other livelihoods are in short supply, fisheries form the backbone of the economy.

The Indian experience in this regard shows that fishermen are rarely getting employment outside the sector. We have three marine fisheries censuses conducted during 1980, 2005 and 2010. In a span of 30 years, there are considerable changes in educational profile, demography, etc. However, occupational mix remains more or less static. The last census conducted in 2010 also throws light on the involvement of traditional fishermen in aquaculture but the figure is very low. I assume, the situation is more or less same in other countries also as this explains the increasing employment in the sector in spite of overall economic development in the region and elsewhere.

We need to understand the reasons behind this. It may be that they are finding fisheries sector quite remunerative and have less motivation for searching for alternative employment or there are some barriers, for example, they may not have the necessary skill and assets to move to other sectors.

Distinguished delegates,

It may be that we all are facing these problems individually. It is natural that we will be more concerned about our own food, shelter and well-being. However, solution to these problems lies in 'collective action'. This is also the background in which BOBP-IGO was set up and is now working effectively in the region. One of the major objectives of the BOBP-IGO is to foster regional cooperation and also cooperation among organizations working for fisheries development in the region and outside. The governance of fisheries, as now often said, is beyond the purview of fisheries agency of a particular country or state. Within a country, cooperation from other agencies is essential for fisheries development and the same goes for developing fisheries between countries, in particular those sharing common ecosystems.

I am happy to note that the BOBP-IGO is taking these issues seriously and making considerable progress in bringing the member-countries together as also its regional partners. I have been informed of the many activities that the BOBP-IGO is carrying out, especially in fostering regional cooperation. However, possibly the most significant contribution of the Organisation is bringing the countries together in development of management plans for iconic species such as the sharks and hilsa. This exercise will result in a 'Regional Plan of Action' for sustainable exploitation of these commercially important fisheries in the region. The lessons learnt from the Maldivian total ban on shark fishing will be important in this regard. I also hope that such exercises will be extended to other fisheries in the future. Besides, the programme between India and Sri Lanka on the cooperative management of the Gulf of Mannar is also an excellent initiative that needs to be sustained and supported by the two neighbours.

Going back to fisheries livelihoods, I would emphasize on addressing the associated risks and social safety. Fishing is inherently risky occupation. We need to ensure that necessary measures are in place so that this risk does not aggravate further. We need to put in place strong 'safety at sea' measures in place. At the same time, we also need to ensure that negative impacts of other activities on fisheries sector are minimized and their rights are ensured. In this regard, the fishermen insurance programme initiated by Bangladesh is a welcome step and I'm sure it will provide the required safety net to fishermen who always fight odds to bring the much needed fish protein to our plate.

As I mentioned earlier, climate change is having unpredictable impact on fisheries. The Indian scientists have found that it has led to rise of oil sardine fishery in the east coast of India. Although, there was no market for oil sardine in the east coast earlier, now it is developing and fishermen are also adapting. Climate change is possibly also contributing to the rising number of extreme weather events in the region and weather anomalies. Fisheries sector is grossly affected by these changes. There is hardly anything we can do to mitigate this affect. We need to be alert and enhance resilience of the system to adapt to these changes. I hope the Governing Council will consider this issue.

Although, I have said that we can hardly do anything to mitigate the impacts, it is also true that fisheries sector is a major consumer of fossil fuel and has a big carbon footprint. Especially, with the growing mechanization, this is increasing. I am happy to note that the BOBP-IGO has taken an initiative to green the fisheries sector by promoting use of solar energy. I wish this endeavor all success.

I am also happy to see that the BOBP-IGO maintains a strong focus on awareness building and capacity enhancement of the stakeholders. As is often the case, we come out with brilliant plans but then find it difficult to implement due to lack of capacity. I believe this twining of capacity enhancement and awareness raising with institutional reforms will contribute significantly to our quest of achieving sustainability.

I see from the agenda documents that the Organisation having reached the final stages of implementation of its first Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) is now embarking on the second SPA, covering the period 2014-18. The Governing Council must ensure that the second SPA is able to meet its objectives and address the issues faced by the region successfully. In this direction, I would also like to emphasize that the Organization be equipped with the necessary wherewithal in terms of manpower and funds to carry out its functions smoothly.

I wish this Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council all success. I once again welcome you all and wish the guests from abroad a very pleasant stay in Delhi and a safe return home.

Thank you!



List of Documents

A. Working Documents

BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/WP1	Provisional Agenda.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/WP2	Report on the BOBP-IGO Activities (April 2012-November 2013).
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/WP3	Draft Strategic Plan of Action of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation: 2014-18.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/WP4	Draft Work Plan of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation for the year 2014.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/WP5	Administrative Matters.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/WP5.1	Administrative Matters. Note on Implementation of the Decision of the Governing Council on Increasing Member Contribution.

B. Information Documents

BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.1	List of Documents (Provisional).
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.2	Annotations/Guide Note on Agenda Items.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.3	Tentative Programme.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.4	List of Delegates (Provisional).
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.5	Itinerary of Delegates (Provisional).
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.6	Registration Form.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.7	Report of the National Strategic Workshop on Governance of Marine Small-Scale Fisheries in Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 29-30 April, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.8	Report of the Second Bi-National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar Ecosystem and its Resources, 18-20 June 2012, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.9	Guide Book on <i>Tuna Sampling</i> (in Dhivehi Language), July, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.10	Report of the National Workshop on Deep Sea Fisheries: Assessing the Potentialities and Needs, Chennai, India, 6-8 August 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.11	Report of the National Strategic Workshop on Governance of Marine Small-Scale Fisheries in Sri Lanka, 30-31 August, 2012, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.12	Awareness Building Poster on Biodiversity (in English Language): <i>Save Coastal Biodiversity – Let nature Thrive</i> , August, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.13-17	Awareness Building Posters on Biodiversity (in English, Bangla, Dhivehi, Sinhala and Tamil Languages): <i>Save Coastal Biodiversity – Better earth, better life, better tomorrow</i> , August, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.18	Guide Book on <i>Tuna Handling</i> (in Dhivehi Language), September, 2012.

BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.19	Integration of Fisheries into Coastal Area Management (FAO CCRF Technical Guideline No. 3) in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.20	Fisheries Management (FAO CCRF Technical Guideline No. 3) in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.21	FAO Publication on <i>Stopping Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing</i> in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.22	FAO Publication on <i>International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks</i> in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.23	Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, 11-12 September 2012, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.24	Report of the Regional Workshop on Best Practices for Instruments and Methods of Ocean Observation, 19-21 November 2012, Chennai, India.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.25	Awareness Building Poster Against Vandalism of Tsunami and Weather Data Buoys (with National Institute of Ocean Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, India): <i>Buoys are for your safety – do not tamper or damage</i> , November, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.26	Water-proof Leaflet Against Vandalism of Tsunami and Weather Data Buoys (with National Institute of Ocean Technology, India and Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project): <i>Buoys are for your safety – do not tamper or damage</i> , November, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.27	Training Manual on Best Practices for Instruments and Methods of Ocean Observation (with National Institute of Ocean Technology, India), November, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.28	Report of the National Result Sharing and Scoping Workshop on Outcomes of the Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Project (FIMSUL), 22-23 November 2012, Chennai, India..
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.29	Desktop Calendar of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation for the year 2013.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.30	Report of the National Strategic Workshop on Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries in India, 10-11 January 2013, Chennai, India.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.31	Report of the Regional Training Course on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (5 th Edition), Chennai, India, 19 January-02 February 2013.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.32	Report of the World Bank/BOBP-IGO Regional Workshop on Fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, 4-5 March 2013, Chennai, India.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.33	Report of Inception Workshop for the Living Resources of the Gulf of Mannar: Assessment of key species and habitats for enhancing awareness and for conservation policy formulation, 30-31 May 2013, New Delhi, India.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.34	Report of the Workshop on Welfare Measures for Marine Fisherfolk in Tamil Nadu: Design and Implementation Issues, 17 June 2013, Chennai, India.

BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.35	Report of Workshop on Climate Change and Livelihoods in Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu: Design and Implementation Issues, 18 June 2013, Chennai, India.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.36	Report on the National Strategic Consultation on Green Technology for Fisheries Sector, 12-13 July 2013, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu, India.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.37	Report on Development of Web Portal on the Fish Markets of Dhaka (Report & CD), August 2013.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.38-41	Awareness Building Posters on <i>Prohibited Sizes for Harvest and Export of Grouper</i> (in Dhivehi and English Languages), September, 2013 (two sizes).
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.42-45	Awareness Building Posters on <i>The 5 sites Protected under the Maldives Grouper Fishery Management Plan</i> (in Dhivehi and English Languages), September, 2013 (two sizes).
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.46	Progress Report on Development of “Island of Maldives” Website – A collaborative effort of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives, the International Fund for Agricultural Development & the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.47	Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 26-27 September 2012.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.48	Report of Strategy Workshop on Communication Needs of Marine Fishermen, 9-10 November 2013, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.49	Progress Report on Archiving of Visuals at the Depositary of the BOBP-IGO- a collaborative effort between Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project & the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.50	Desktop Calendar of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation for the year 2014.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.51	Annual Report of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, 2012-13, December 2013.



Report on the Activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (April 2012-November 2013)

Part A¹: Status of marine fisheries in the BOBP region

1.1 The BOBP region

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 Food and Agricultural Organization's (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).

Map³: The BOBP region



1.2 Fisheries production

The total marine fisheries production from the BOBP region has increased substantially from 4.347 million tonnes (mt) in 2010 to 4.929 mt in 2011. This is largely due to increasing production in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka where marine fisheries production has grown by 3-4 percent per annum during 2000-11. However, the marginal recovery observed in case of Maldives during 2009-10 did not sustain and production declined from 0.122 mt in 2010 to 0.120 mt in 2011. While in case of Sri Lanka, the upward trend seems to be strengthening and production increased from 0.293 mt in 2009 to 0.332 in 2010 and further to 0.409 mt (estimated) in 2011. In case of India, the data reported by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi shows a remarkable turnaround in 2011 after flattening of the production during 2008-10. Marine capture fisheries production in India has increased from 3.346 mt in 2010 to 3.820 mt in 2011 that is by a margin of 0.474 mt. In case of Bangladesh, marine capture fisheries production has increased from 0.546 mt in 2010 to 0.578 mt in 2011 (Figures 1-4).

¹ This Report is presented in two parts.

² This definition is purely functional and related to the 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.

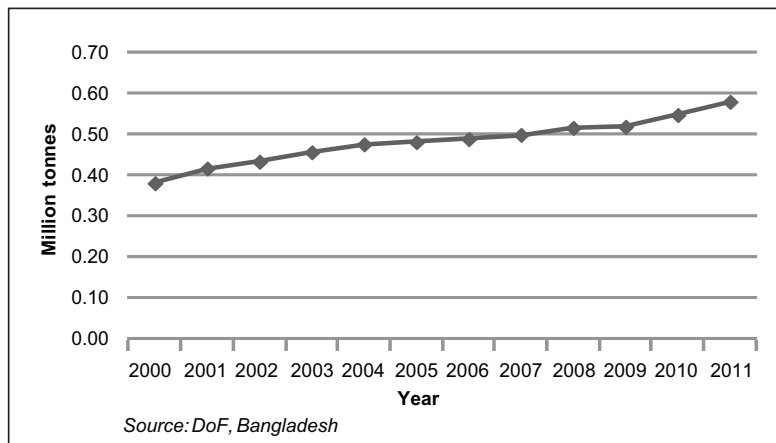


Figure 1: Marine fisheries production in Bangladesh

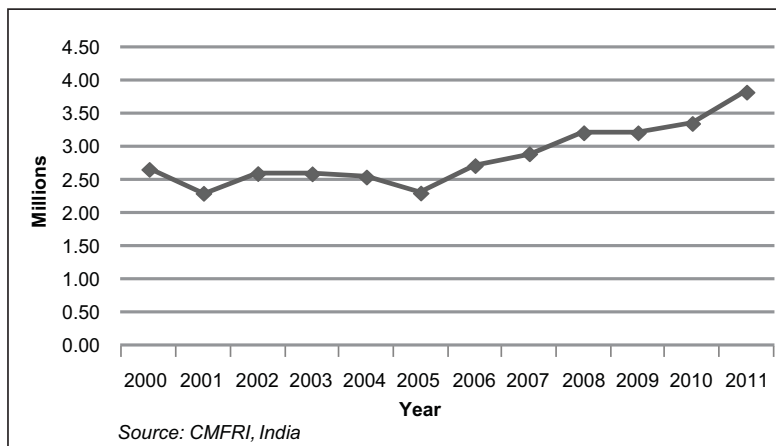


Figure 2: Marine fisheries production in India

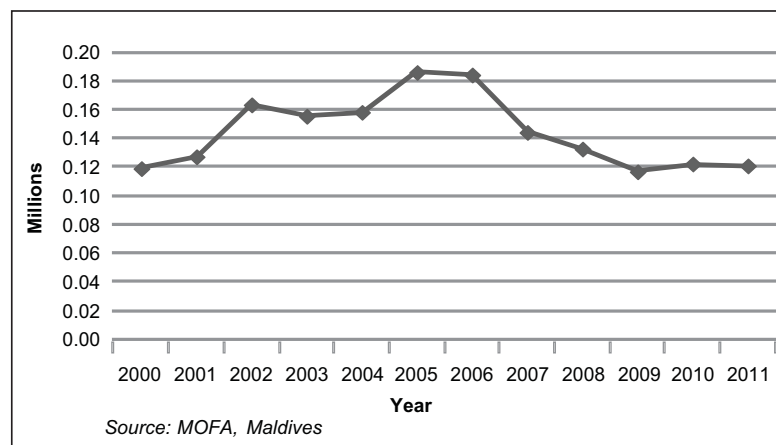


Figure 3: Marine fisheries production in the Maldives

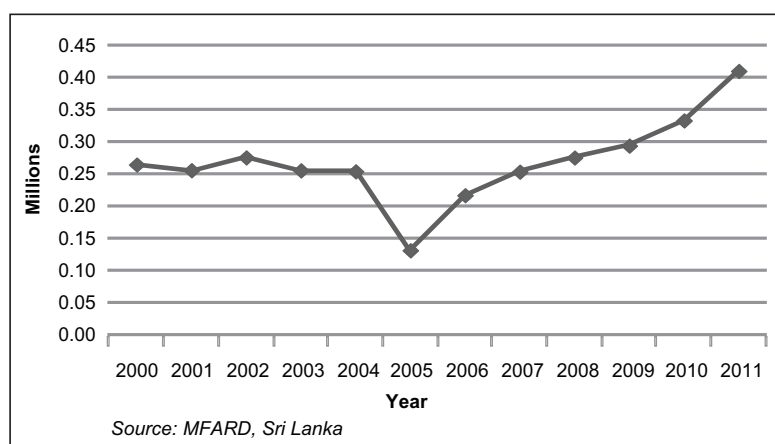


Figure 4: Marine fisheries production in Sri Lanka

1.3 Catch composition

At disaggregated level, Indian oil sardine contributed the largest share of catch during 2000-11. Hilsa, the national fish of Bangladesh, contributed about 5.64 percent of the total landings in the region. However, disaggregated analysis shows that for many species growth has become nearly constant or negative during 2000-11. Production of oil sardine seems to be stabilizing around 0.304 mt with an annual growth rate of 1.18 percent. However, in case of sharks, skates and rays, a negative growth of (-) 2.45 percent is observed. Decline in shark catch coupled with increasing share of small pelagic could be a sign of concern. However, a decline in shark catch may also be in part due to banning of shark catch in the Maldives and some restrictions imposed in India and Sri Lanka in the recent period. In case of tuna fishery, there is a marginal decline in skipjack tuna landings at (-) 0.43 percent per annum. However, landings of yellow fin tuna have increased at 6 percent per annum. The species that contributed most to the development of bottom water trawling in the region, the giant tiger prawn, has contributed about 5 percent to the total landings during this period. However, from near stagnation of the fishery, it seems that the production has reached its limit.

Lack of progress in identification of low value marine fishes remains a concern both from ecological and economic perspectives. From ecological perspective, this may lead to overlooking of loss of biodiversity in marine waters and from economic perspective, it indicates the need for more work on value addition and product development as some species clubbed under the heading ‘commercially low value’ could also be due to lack of knowledge on these species (Table 1).

1.4 Fisheries-dependent livelihood

Marine capture fisheries form an important source of livelihood along the coastline. South Asia, especially the BOBP-IGO member-countries are host to the largest concentration of small-scale fisheries in the world. Presently, about 1.70 million people are actively going for fishing in the region (including collection of fish seed, excluding fish marketing and other support activities). The number of active fishers in the region has grown by about one percent per year during 2003-12. In Sri Lanka, the number of active fishers has increased by 4.5 percent per year during 2004-12 and in case of India by 2.2 percent during 2005-10. In case of Bangladesh, the number of fishers increased marginally from 0.510 million to 0.516 million. However, in case of Maldives the number of active fishers is decreasing gradually, possibly due to structural changes in the economy (increasing scope in the service sector) and changing demography (improvement in education and the younger generation seeking alternative livelihoods) (Table 2).



Table 1: Top 25 species in terms of share in landings during 2000-11 in the BOBP

Species	Average landings during 2000-11 (tonnes)	Share in total landing (%)	Exponential Growth (%)
Marine fishes (unidentified)	9,07,170.00	23.23	NA
Indian oil sardine	3,04,423.83	7.79	1.18
Croakers, drums not elsewhere included (<i>nei</i>)	2,47,260.25	6.33	-0.78
Hilsa shad	2,20,190.75	5.64	2.74
Bombay-duck	1,92,620.58	4.93	4.16
Clupeoids <i>nei</i>	1,34,389.25	3.44	4.69
Giant tiger prawn	1,85,039.83	4.74	0.48
Skipjack tuna	1,76,967.17	4.53	-0.43
Natantian decapods <i>nei</i>	1,35,470.17	3.47	-0.22
Hairtails, scabbard fishes <i>nei</i>	1,14,776.33	2.94	0.55
Marine crustaceans <i>nei</i>	78,178.67	2.00	7.09
Anchovies, etc. <i>nei</i>	90,507.58	2.32	4.53
Percoids <i>nei</i>	99,086.67	2.54	4.65
Sea catfishes <i>nei</i>	1,00,594.33	2.58	4.39
Indian mackerel	66,109.42	1.69	4.18
Carangids <i>nei</i>	62,049.33	1.59	13.12
Cephalopods <i>nei</i>	79,933.50	2.05	0.89
Yellowfin tuna	64,118.00	1.64	6.00
Sharks, rays, skates, etc. <i>nei</i>	90,591.00	2.32	-2.45
Jacks, crevalles <i>nei</i>	52,915.92	1.35	5.16
Marine crabs <i>nei</i>	30,452.67	0.78	10.37
Ponyfishes (=Slipmouths) <i>nei</i>	57,891.75	1.48	1.17
Butterfishes, pomfrets <i>nei</i>	36,522.00	0.94	5.51
Mulletts <i>nei</i>	26,449.42	0.68	8.55
Flatfishes <i>nei</i>	26,088.67	0.67	6.22

Source: Estimated from FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Statistics and Information Service FishStatJ: Universal software for fishery statistical time series. Copyright 2011
Nei: Not elsewhere included

Table 2: Growth in number of active fisherfolk in the BOBP region

Country	Base year	Number	Latest year	Number	Growth
Bangladesh(1)	2007	5 10 000	2011	5 16 000	0.3%
India (2)	2005	9 01 815	2010	10 02 723	2.2%
Maldives (3)	2003	14 891	2012	10 264	-3.5%
Sri Lanka (4)	2004	1 32 600	2012	1 80 693	4.5%
BOBP	2003	15 47 019	2012	16 97 040	1.1%

Sources:

- (1) *Compendium of Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh.*
- (2) *National Marine Fisheries Censuses 2005, 2010.*
- (3) *Basic Fisheries Statistics, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives.*
- (4) *Ministry & Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka.*

1.5 Fishing fleet

As reported earlier, a tradeoff between number and power seems to be at play in the region. In Bangladesh, the number of fishing trawlers has increased from 133 in 2007 to 162 in 2011. In India, the number of mechanized fishing vessels has increased by 13 006 between 2005 and 2010 and in Sri Lanka, the multi-day fishing vessels have increased from 2 460 in 2007 to 3 858 in recent years. In case of Maldives, in consonance with the decreasing population of active fishers, the number of fishing vessels is also on the decline. Maldives provides the data for number of fishing vessels engaged during a particular year and the information shows that, in total, the number of fishing vessels has declined from 3 366 in 2006 to 3 047 in 2009 and further to 838 in 2011. However, in the Maldives while the number of fishing vessels has come down, the average size (overall length) of the vessels has increased manifold.

During the corresponding period, the number of non-motorized vessels in India has nearly halved and thus the total number of fishing vessels has also reduced. In case of Sri Lanka, there is a drastic reduction in the ranks of inboard (engine) single-day fishing vessels, possibly due to the national policy approach towards rationalization of fishing fleet with emphasis on optimizing production from offshore fisheries (Table 3).

Table 3: Changing composition of fishing vessels in the BOBP region

Country/Type of fishing vessel	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Growth (%)
Bangladesh						
Trawler	133	141	167	186	162	6.95
Mechanized	21 433	21 433	26 859	21 016	21 726	0.08
Non mechanized	22 527	22 527	23 329	22 120	23 963	1.06
Total	44 093	44 101	50 355	43 322	45 851	0.61
India (2005 & 2010)						
Mechanized	59 743			72749		4.35
Motorized	76 748			73410		-0.87
Non-motorized	1 07 448			52982		-10.14
Total	2 43 939			1 99 141		-3.67
Maldives (2006 2008-09)						
Mechanized Masdhoni	1 375	1 252	1 304	822	770	-14.62
Mechanized vadhu dhoni	351	357	366	36	21	-54.74
Sailing Masdhoni	111	112	25	20	15	-43.59
Sailing vadhu dhoni	729	635	573	11	7	-73.68
Mechanized Rowing boats	85	131	162	17	25	-36.17
Rowing boats	715	665	617			-7.11
Total	3 366	3 152	3 047	906	838	-4.86
Sri Lanka						
Multi-day Boats	2 460	2 809	2 934	3 346	3 858	11.35
Inboard Single Day Boats	1 060	1 940	958	1 177	953	-6.88
Outboard Motor FRP Boats	15 200	14 747	17 193	18 770	19 709	7.90
Motorized Traditional Boats	1 680	3 179	2 126	2 680	1 842	0.13
Non-motorized Traditional Boats	16 640	17 042	18 243	20 165	19 485	4.96
Total	37 040	39 717	41 454	46 138	45 847	5.93
Region						
Powered	1 80 268			1 94 209		1.55
Non-powered	1 48 170			95 298		-7.14

Source: Same as for Table 2

1.6 A note on fisheries production data

For preparation of the earlier status reports, we have used information disseminated by FAO through the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Statistics and Information Service FishStatJ: Universal software for fishery statistical time-series. Member-countries report their fisheries-related data to FAO, which is then further cleaned at the FAO level to make the reporting homogenous in accordance with its policies. For example, FAO reports data for calendar year while many countries collect data for financial year (April to March). Therefore, there may be some differences in the country reporting and information extracted from the database.

Apart from India, in all the other BOBP-IGO member-countries the concerned Ministry/Department directly collects and reports the data. In case of India, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD&F) collects the data from the concerned provincial Department of Fisheries (DoF). Apart from this, the CMFRI, Kochi also collects and reports the marine catch statistics.

While ideally these two reporting should be equivalent, in practice there is a significant difference in the trajectories and magnitude of the two reports. FAO is likely to use data reported by DAHD&F and while there is some similarity in the magnitude of FAO and DAHD&F data, their growth trajectories seems to be completely different. As per CMFRI estimate, there is rapid growth in fisheries production and the DAHD&F data also indicates the same but with lesser magnitude. The FAO data on the contrary suggest a staggering growth (Figure 5).

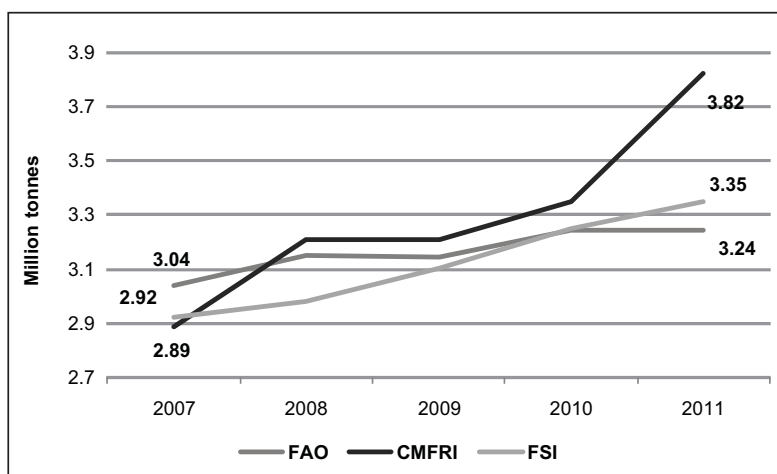


Figure 5: Differences in the marine fisheries production reported by various agencies in India



It is now suggested by the Government of India to use data only from CMFRI. A similar discrepancy is also observed in Bangladesh in the data reported by FAO and the DoF, especially during the recent years. However, in case of Bangladesh, the DoF is the sole authority, which collects data and also reports to FAO. There are minor discrepancies in the case of Maldives and Sri Lanka data also, which can be attributed to the filtering errors (Figure 6).

As mentioned earlier, the major problem faced by the BOBP-IGO Secretariat in dealing with different sets of data is the variation they exhibit in trend. For example, for the current reporting period, FAO data shows a decline in production while data reported by the National Governments shows an increase (Figure 7).

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that FAO database is used by the global community and hence it is necessary to ensure that national positions are timely reported and properly reflected in the database. Further, FAO uses standard statistical methods to clean and filter the reported data. The member-countries while reporting may consider the FAO reporting format so that their reporting matches the FAO criterion.

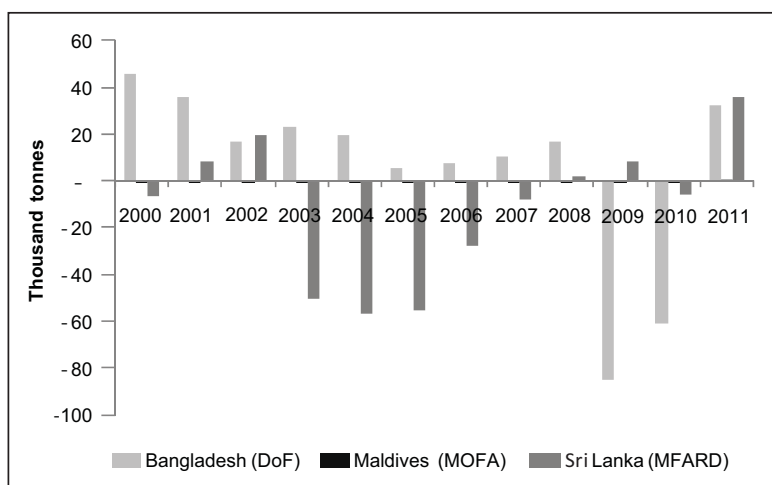


Figure 6: Difference in production in official statistics and FAO Fishstat J Database

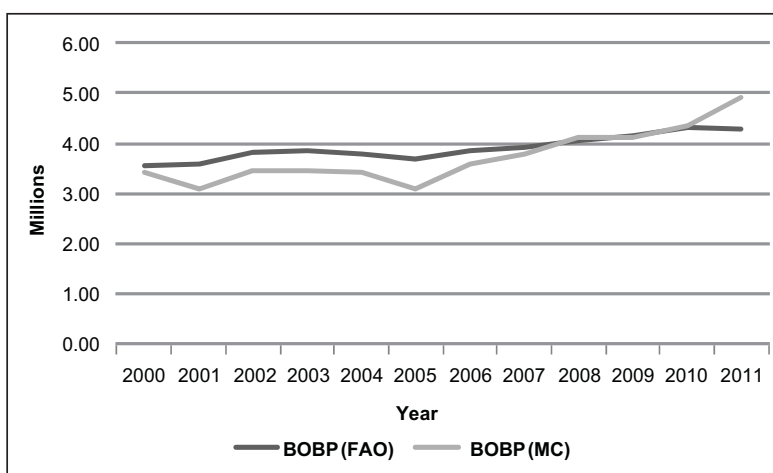


Figure 7: Different types of trend shown by the two sets of data

Part B: Activities and Performance: 2012-13

2.1 The Governing Council at its Eighth Meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in September 2012 had approved the following activities apart from need-based 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. A matrix of approved activities is shown in Table 4 below.

2.2 The Governing Council also advised the BOBP-IGO Secretariat to prepare a draft Strategic Plan of Action for the period 2014-18 (SPA: 2014-18) and to place it before the Eight Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC-8) for suggestions. It further advised that the SPA: 2014-18 will then be placed before the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council for review and approval.

2.3 The Governing Council also 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.

Table 4: Approved activities of BOBP-IGO for April 2012 to March 2013

Capacity-Building and Information Services	Fisheries Resource Management	Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries
Training Programme for Junior and Middle-Level Fisheries Staff of member-countries on implementation of the CCRF. Translation of the Technical Guidelines of the 1995 FAO CCRF. Regional Conference on Formalization of Cooperation between the BOBP-IGO and Fisheries Research Institutes. Capacity building programmes for improving data collection and traceability. Capacity building for improving food safety. Information dissemination. Preparation of interactive map of fisheries/islands in the Maldives.	Strategic Consultation on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region. Organization of Second Regional Consultation on MCS. Organization of the 3 rd Regional Consultations on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa and Shark Fisheries. Organization of the 2 nd and 3 rd Bi-National Workshops on Gulf of Mannar Marine Ecosystem. Preparation of awareness material for implementation of grouper fisheries (Maldives). Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp broodstock fishery.	Organization of the Fifth International Conference on 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. 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.

3.0 Preparation of SPA: 2014-18

In accordance with the recommendations of the Governing Council, the Secretariat has conducted an in-house exercise to develop the draft SPA: 2014-18. To this effect, the strategic planning took into account inputs from recently concluded national level strategic consultations on governance of small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India, inputs provided during the various meetings of the TAC and the Governing Council, scientific publications and international guidelines. The draft SPA: 2014-18 is placed before the GCM-9 as a separate Agenda Item (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/WP3*) and placed in this report as **Appendix I**.

4.0 Capacity building and information dissemination

Major achievements:

- *Launching of 'Island of Maldives' Website on 16 September 2013.*
- *Mapping of Fish Markets in Dhaka Metropolitan City, Bangladesh.*
- *Successful completion of the Fifth Regional Training Programme on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.*
- *Publication of CCRF Technical Guidelines in Sinhala Language.*
- *Policy support during meetings of the FAO Committee on Fisheries and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.*

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

The CCRF contains international best practices on rights and duties of a wide range of stakeholders. Through this programme the Organisation is aiming at raising the standards of fisheries governance by awareness building, knowledge creation and capacity enhancement. The major activities carried out under this programme include a regional training course for junior and middle-level fisheries officials from developing countries on CCRF, publication of vernacular versions of CCRF and its Technical Guidelines (TGs) and community-level awareness programmes.

4.2 Regional Training Programme on CCRF, 19 Jan-02 Feb 2013

The Regional Training Programme for training junior and middle-level fisheries officials on CCRF (RTC-CCRF) was instituted in 2008. The 5th RTC-CCRF was held during 19 January to 02 February 2013 in cooperation with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME). 24 participants, 4 each from Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka and 5 from India and 3 participants from Indonesia took part. The objective of the programme was to cultivate the skills of each participant in analyzing fisheries problems from an ecosystem perspective and international best practices. This was achieved through a series of interactive lectures, field programmes, group exercises and continual evaluation.

Along with the course activities, participants 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 highly recommended the programme to their parent organizations. So far, a total of 91 participants from the BOBP-IGO member-countries and Indonesia and Myanmar have been trained under the programme. The RTC-CCRF is now receiving wide acclaim and most of our past trainees are holding larger responsibilities in their parent organizations. The report of the RTC-CCRF (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.31*) is placed before the GCM for information.

4.3 Publishing vernacular versions of the CCRF and its TGs

Continuing its activity of translating and publishing the CCRF documents in vernacular, the 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 (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.19-22*). 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, Telugu (for the Indian east coast State of Andhra Pradesh) and Bangla languages (for Bangladesh and the Indian east coast State of West Bengal) are in progress. Last year, the Organisation had printed a set of TGs in Tamil and Malayalam language and provided copies to the corresponding DoFs for distribution in India and Sri Lanka.

4.4 Regional Conference on Formalization of Cooperation between the BOBP-IGO and Regional Fisheries Research Institutes (RFRIs)

This activity was proposed to set up a mechanism for exchange of information, collaborative research programmes, training of staffs, etc to deal with the emerging regional issues, such as resource depletion, climate change,

post-harvest and developing small-scale fisheries. However, during discussions with the RFRIs and subsequently during discussion at TAC-7, issues of ensuring ethical use of data and funding constraints were mentioned. Further, it was also felt that through ongoing collaborative programmes on management of hilsa and shark fishery and governance of Gulf of Mannar, experience will be gained on mutual cooperation of RFRIs and such experience then can be used to develop a suitable mechanism for formalizing their mutual cooperation and cooperation with the BOBP-IGO.

4.5 Capacity-building programmes for improving data collection

Regional Workshop on Best Practices for Instruments and Methods of Ocean Observation, 19-21 November, 2012

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT, Chennai) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India in association with the BOBP-IGO and the Joint WMO-IOC Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP) organized a Regional Workshop on “The Best Practices for Instruments and Methods of Ocean Observation” in Chennai, India from 19 to 21 November, 2012. This Workshop was one of the first efforts in bringing together researchers, oceanographers and engineers from the Bay of Bengal region to interact with R&D Managers of reputed manufacturers involved in development of instruments related to Ocean Observation Systems (OOS). The Workshop was aimed at capacity building of scientist, researchers, engineers and managers on best practices for calibration and testing instruments for OOS. The Workshop acted as a platform for new meteorological and oceanographic observational systems, moorings, sub-sea cables, batteries, telemetry and brought together scientists, engineers, technicians and key manufacturers of marine instruments and prospective vendors who utilize/work on ocean observational systems and provide an opportunity to understand the design and development issues faced by the user community. 68 participants from 10 countries, including the BOBP-IGO member-countries, R&D institutions and the industry took part.

An awareness building poster against vandalism of Tsunami and Weather Data Buoys “Buoys are for your safety – do not tamper or damage” was also produced during the occasion. This multi-lingual poster is now being circulated to concerned agencies in countries in the Northern Indian Ocean to display in coastal areas, landing centers and on data buoys to strengthen public opinion to prevent vandalism. The document (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.25*) is placed before the GCM for information.

In addition, a multilingual awareness leaflet on synthetic paper with the message “Buoys are for your safety – do not tamper or damage” is also published in association with NIOT and BOBLME. The document (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.26*) is placed before the GCM for information.

A ‘Training Manual on Best Practices for Instruments Methods of Ocean Observation’ was also brought out on this occasion. The document (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.27*) is placed before the GCM for information.

4.6 Capacity building programme for improving food safety

The BOBP-IGO in cooperation with the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MoFA), Government of Maldives has published two guidebooks on tuna fisheries in Dhivehi language. The first guidebook, “Guidebook on Tuna Sampling” was published in July 2012 and the second guidebook, “Guidebook on Tuna Handling” was published in September 2012. It deals with both on-board and at landing site handling of tuna fishery. The Secretariat has sent a proposal to MoFA for translating the book in English. Tuna fishery is gaining new heights in the region and such guidebooks will be useful for other member-countries of the BOBP-IGO in improving their capacity. The documents are placed for information of the GCM (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.9* & *BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.18*).

Video documentation

Since 2009, the BOBP-IGO is implementing 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. During 2012-13, such documentation has been completed in the other three member-countries. With this documentation, the Secretariat has archived fish handling processes

in all the member-countries and it is now engaged in processing the video footage to prepare an educational video and other awareness material on fish handling practices in the region.

Study visit of Shrimp Foundation

During the reporting year, BOBP-IGO received request from the Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation (BSFF), Bangladesh to facilitate a study tour to see the development of shrimp farming, in particular the farming of the whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus indicus*) in Southern India. The objective of the Study was to understand the advantages, benefits and risks as experienced by India in respect of introducing and farming the SPF variety of whiteleg shrimp and the precautionary measures taken to avert any risks; Government policy on introduction of exotic shrimp in India; protocols required for introducing shrimp from external sources; procedures and required lab facilities and technical manpower to ensure rigorous quarantine checks on the imported shrimps; and information on the status of domestication and developing SPF shrimp brood stock and post-larvae (PL) of *Penaeus monodon* and other shrimp species. An eight member delegation comprising representatives of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, DoF, Bangladesh Aquaculture Alliance, BSFF, WorldFish Centre and the Industry visited various shrimp farms in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh during the period 08-15 December 2012 and held discussions with the Government Officials and the shrimp Industry, including processing units and exporters. The Team appreciated the arrangements made by the BOBP-IGO and said that although the Team had earlier visited Vietnam, Thailand and the United States, their visit to India was most productive and will immensely assist them in preparing a strategy for further development of shrimp farming in Bangladesh.

4.7 Mapping fish markets in Dhaka

The BOBP-IGO since 2012 has undertaken a project for mapping fish markets in its member-countries. After discussions with the member-countries, it was decided that initially the mapping will be carried out in Chennai, India; Dhaka; Bangladesh and Colombo; Sri Lanka. Such mapping exercises will be useful for planners, traders and consumers. Especially, such mapping will be useful in understanding the market coverage, designing transportation and cold chain facilities in the future.

In this reporting year, mapping exercise for fish markets in Dhaka was completed. Based on the mapping, an interactive CD has been prepared and is placed for the information of the GCM (BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.37). Earlier, during 2010-11 BOBP-IGO had carried out a detailed study in Chennai. Similarly, one fish market in Colombo (Peliyagoda Fish Market) and the lone fish market in Malé city, Maldives have also been documented under the study. These fish market maps are hosted on the BOBP-IGO website and are linked with a dynamic database making their periodical updates possible.

4.8 Development of “Island of Maldives” website

During the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council held in Malé, Maldives in June 2011, the BOBP-IGO had discussions with the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MoFA), Government of Maldives to develop a website detailing the attributes of the islands and atolls in the Maldives. During the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Secretariat placed a work plan on development of the website. The plan was agreed to by the Governing Council. Subsequently during March 2013, a team of officials from the Government of Maldives led by Mr Ali Solih, Deputy Minister, MoFA visited BOBP-IGO to finalize the modalities for creating the website ‘Islands of the Maldives’. This was followed by a week-long training programme of a four member Maldivian team on data entry, hosting and maintenance of the website in July 2013 and then another week-long onsite training programme was organized in Malé in late August 2013. While the website was finally launched on 16 September 2013 in Malé and can be accessed at www.islandsdomaldives.gov.mv, the site with its dynamic nature is in the process of being populated with additional information sources from the Islands/Atolls. A technical report on the development of this website is placed for information of the GCM (BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.46).

4.9 Technical assistance to the member-countries

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

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. Subsequently, the Organisation also provided technical support to India for the Second Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria held in Muscat, Oman from 18 -20 February 2013.

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 all the member-countries in accordance with the directions of the Governing Council. In October 2013, the BOBP-IGO also provided inputs to assist the member-countries at the Seventh Meeting of the COFI Sub-committee on Aquaculture held in St Petersburg, Russian Federation. Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka participated in the said meeting.

4.10 Awareness building programmes: 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 "**Save Coastal Biodiversity – Let Nature Thrive**" and "**Save Coastal Biodiversity – Better earth, better life, better tomorrow**" depict the importance of biodiversity in sustaining nature and importance of traditional knowledge in conservation of biodiversity. The first edition of **Save Coastal Biodiversity – Let Nature Thrive** has been published in English and the first edition of **Save Coastal Biodiversity – Better earth, better life, better tomorrow** was published in English, Bengali, Dhivehi, Sinhala and Tamil. The posters have been extensively distributed in the member-countries and copies are placed for information of the GCM (BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.12-17).

4.11 Information dissemination & social networking

BOBP-IGO@ YouTube

The YouTube channel of BOBP-IGO is gradually gaining popularity. Since 23rd October, 2010 to 30 November 2013, the channel has attracted 20 670 views and during the reporting year the channel attracted 13 400 views. The viewers are distributed not only in South Asia but also in Europe, Gulf countries and USA. While initially the 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 the BOBP-IGO@ YouTube

1.	Therukoothu (A Street Play)
2.	Seaweed Culture in Mandapam
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 Longtail Engines use by Fisherfolk in India and Sri Lanka (Tamil Version)
6.	Maintaining Marine Engines in Fishing Boats of Bangladesh (Bangla version)
7.	BOBP-IGO: Maintaining Marine Engines in Fishing Boats
8.	Cleaner Fishing Harbours in the Maldives
9.	Pollution in Fishing Harbours
10.	Maintaining Longtail Engines used by fisherfolk 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. By the time of writing this report, 244 fisheries professional, environmental enthusiasts from 24 countries across Asia, Europe and America are subscribing it and the average page view is about 400. The Facebook page is now acting as our dashboard highlighting events organized by BOBP-IGO, fisheries news, and also a daily news analysis. The Facebook updates are also helping us in regular networking with the CCRF-RTC Trainees. The Secretariat requests the GCM members and our partner organizations to like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BOBPIGO and to keep updated about our activities and also giving their suggestions on its improvement.

Apart from setting up of its own Facebook page, the Secretariat is also assisting two community-based fisheries organizations, the District Fishermen Youth Welfare Association, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India (www.facebook.com/DFYWA) and the Association of Deep Sea Going Artisanal Fishermen, Thoothoor, Tamil Nadu, India (www.facebook.com/ADSGAF) in setting up their Facebook pages.

4.12 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 regularly provides 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.

4.13 Creation of digital library of visuals

The BOBP-IGO has a collection of more than 100 000 images from the bygone era of 35 mm slides to the present days in the form of photographs, film negatives, positive slides and digital images. To save this invaluable heritage for posterity, the BOBP-IGO and the BOBLME Project are collaborating in Digital Management Application that will help to manage this huge collection of images in digital format.

This application so far contains details of more than 50 000 photos from 7 member-countries of the erstwhile BOBP, South East and Far East Asian Countries. It organizes the images in different categories such as location, event, date and photographer and also provides searchable keywords. In addition, this application can also be used for modifying photographs. For developing this application, over 35 000 negatives and positive slides have so far been converted into digital images and all images can be downloaded as high resolution pictures. A prototype CD on this project is placed for information of the GCM (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.49*).

4.14 Publications

The BOBP-IGO since its beginning is using publications as a means to reach its constituents and create awareness. The annual table calendar for the year 2013 was produced to mark 10 years of institutionalization of the BOBP-IGO. The 12 months of the year vividly depict the various activities undertaken by the Organisation and also chronicle the development of the sector during the last decade (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.29*). The 2014 Table calendar produced very recently highlights the 'Fishes of the Bay' and portrays 12 most common and commercially important species caught in the member-countries (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.50*).

4.15 Technical support

The BOBP-IGO is providing technical know-how to the National Fisheries Development Board of the Government of India (NFDB) in formulating and implementing its activities, especially in the marine fisheries sector. Earlier, the Organisation assisted the NFDB in modernizing a fish market in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, the Organisation also provided technical information on undertaking capacity building of small-scale fishers in sea safety/CCRF to the FAO Country Office in Bangladesh under the Emergency Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project implemented after the Sidr cyclone that hit coastal Bangladesh in November 2007.

Technical Details

Programming: HTML/Java Script, PHP

Database: MySQL

Web server: Apache

Architecture: MVC architecture.

4.16 New programmes undertaken by the Organisation: promotion of solar energy

Marine fisheries is one of the energy inefficient economic activity. According to a 2005 study, it has consumed about 1.2 percent of global fuel and directly emitted more than 134 million tonnes of CO₂ in the atmosphere at an average rate of 1.7 t of CO₂ per tonne of live-weight landed product in 2000. Fishing grounds in which heavy fuel use is particularly widespread in 2000 include the western Pacific and adjacent seas, the Bering Sea, and coastal waters of the northeastern and southwestern Atlantic and northern Indian Ocean. In case of India, it was estimated that for every tonne of fish caught, the CO₂ emission has increased from 0.50 to 1.02 t during 1961-2010. Larger mechanized boats (with inboard engine) emitted 1.18 t CO₂/t of fish caught, and the smaller motorized boats (with outboard motor) 0.59 t CO₂/t of fish caught. Among the mechanized craft, the trawlers emitted more CO₂ (1.43 t CO₂/t of fish) than the gillnetters, bagnetters, seiners, liners and dolnetters (0.56-1.07 t CO₂/t of fish).

However, there is scope to reduce CO₂ by setting emission norms and improving fuel efficiency of marine fishing boats. The 2012 Report on the State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) of FAO suggested that “The fishing sector should strive to further lower its fuel consumption and decrease ecosystem impacts... it is well demonstrated that, through technological improvements, gear modifications and behavioral change, the fishing sector can substantially decrease the damage to aquatic ecosystems, reduce GHG emissions and lower operational costs for fuel without excessive negative impacts on fishing efficiency.”

Fuel consumption is particularly higher in multiday fishing vessels. In such vessels, engines are used for (i) propulsion, (ii) maintaining auxiliary services such as lighting, charging of navigation and communication equipment, and (iii) precaution (fearing that it may be difficult to restart the engine, fishermen keep the engine running even during the idle time). In this regard, the potentiality of solar energy has long been advocated as it can be used to reduce fuel consumption in these vessels by meeting their requirements of power for (i) auxiliary services and (ii) precautions given the exiting state of solar power units (SPUs) and their cost. The BOBP-IGO joined hands with the Association of Deep Sea Going Artisanal Fishermen (ADSGAF) in Thoothoor, Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu and private entrepreneurs to probe the cost-benefit matrix of using solar power in the marine fishing vessels. Under this initiative, trial runs of 02 fishing vessels were conducted after fitting them with SPUs. The results were highly encouraging. It was found that during an eight day voyage a fishing vessel could save about 20 liters of diesel per day. The fishing vessels ply for about 250 days in a normal fishing year. That is per year, a fishing vessel can save about 5 000 liters of diesel. In Thoothoor, there are about 200 multiday fishing vessels and in this site alone it is possible to save about 5000X200 = 10 00 000 liters of diesel or about 2730 tonnes of CO₂ per year. For the fishermen, it also means a savings of millions of rupees, especially in view of the rising fuel price.

National Strategic Consultation on Green Technology for Fisheries Sector, Nagercoil, India, 12-13 July 2013.

The ADSGAF in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India and the BOBP-IGO organized a 2-day National Consultation on green technology for fisheries sector in Nagercoil, Kanyakumari. The objective was to share the findings on pilot-scale utilization of solar power in maintaining the auxiliary activities on-board fishing vessels, understanding technical requirements and policy support in scaling up adaptation of solar power in fishing vessels and reducing fuel consumption to improve profitability and reducing carbon footprints of fishing operations. About 109 stakeholders from various Ministries/ Departments of Central and State Governments, solar power industry, academicians, regional and international organizations, financial and banking service providers and fishermen took part. The consultation positively accredited the scope of using solar energy in fisheries sector, forged platform for cooperation among the academicians, industry and the users and prescribed the R&D requirements and policy support necessary to develop this venture (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.36*)

The BOBP-IGO is also working with the ADSGAF in conducting further trials on the use of solar power units in fishing vessels. It is assumed that once the trials are completed with the Thoothoor multi-day boats and based on the lessons learnt, such pilot-scale initiatives will be taken up in other member-countries too.

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 fisherfolk and women in resource monitoring.

Major achievements

- *Convergence towards understanding issues in governance of small-scale fisheries.*
- *Institution of a committee to develop the National Plan of Action on Hilsa by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India (Since 2008, BOBP-IGO is working with the Government of India on the development of hilsa management plan).*
- *The Sri Lankan National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing (The BOBP-IGO had earlier assisted the Government of Sri Lanka in developing its plan for improving fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance and addressing issues arisen from the European Union Regulation on IUU fishing, which have contributed to this development).*
- *Regulation prohibiting catching of Thresher Shark in Sri Lanka on July 2012 (the BOBP-IGO is engaged with the Ministry to develop shark-plan and facilitated stakeholder consultations on conservation of shark fishery)*
- *Issuing of “shark fin attached” policy advisory by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The BOBP-IGO carried out extensive stakeholder consultations and also facilitated campaign by an NGO, Humane Society International in this regard. Fisherfolk, especially those engaged in shark fishing have welcomed the advisory and informed that shark finning on board fishing vessels is not practiced in India as shark meat enjoys a large domestic market and the policy advisory further strengthens their responsible approach to shark fishing in India.*
- *Progress in identifying information gaps, research needs and institutional requirements in promoting a collaborative governance arrangement between India and Sri Lanka for managing the Gulf of Mannar ecosystem sustainably.*

5.2 Strategic Consultation on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region: Organisation of National Strategic Workshops on Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries

During the reporting year, the BOBP-IGO in association with its member-countries organized three National Workshops on Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF). The National Workshop for Bangladesh was held in Dhaka from 29-30 April, 2012. The National Workshop for Sri Lanka was held in Colombo from 30-31 August, 2012 and the National Workshop for India was held in Chennai from 10-11 January 2013. The National Workshops were attended by a wide range of stakeholders representing policy makers from concerned Ministries and Departments, including the Ministry/Department of Fisheries, fisheries officials, Navy/Coast Guard, financial and banking service providers, industry, academia and civil society organizations. Major outputs of these National Workshops were arriving at an agreement on defining the scope of small-scale fisheries (SSF) within the national context and also specifying its attributes. The National Workshops were also successful in addressing broader policy issues such as positioning SSF in the framework of economic development in the coastal areas *vis-à-vis* other activities, gender mainstreaming and desirable targets for long-term growth of the sector. The following table summarizes the major outcomes from these consultations:

The Final Reports of these National Workshops are awaiting publication. The National Workshop for Maldives is expected to be organized during early part of 2014.

National Strategic Workshop on Governance of Marine Small-Scale Fisheries in Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 29-30 April, 2012	National Strategic Workshop on Governance of Marine Small-Scale Fisheries in Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 30-31 August, 2012	National Strategic Workshop on Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries in India, Chennai, India, 10-11 January 2013
Partners		
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh	Ministry and Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka	The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and the NFDB
Participants		
57	60	54
Issues explored		
1. Defining the SSF – its attributes and scope		
2. Integration of SSF with national and international economy		
3. Identifying and addressing technology and capacity building needs		
4. Addressing Implementation and information gaps		
5. Global positioning of the SSF		
Defining the SSF in national context		
Fisheries involving commercial, subsistence and artisanal fishing households using relatively small amount of capital and energy, fishing vessels up to 15 m length overall (LOA) with carrying capacity of maximum 10 mt, making short trips ranging from 1-12 days, fishing within 40 m depth during high tide deploying 2-20 crews, mainly for local consumption and/or export.	Fishing mainly for the domestic market by individuals or co-operatives or other community-based organizations in territorial sea or EEZ, without boats or boats of less than 18 m, which are non-motorized or motorized with less than 70 hp engines, with no or very low usage of fuel and technology.	Traditional or owner-operated or entrepreneurship fisheries (not by large companies) using boats less than 24 m length, using relatively small amount of capital and energy, making single-day or multi-day fishing trips, providing for domestic consumption or export.

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

Presently three major exercises are on-going in the region: (1) rebuilding of fisheries sector in Northern Sri Lanka; (2) Issuing of Biometric ID card for fisherfolk and online registration of fishing vessels in ReALCraft database in India, and (3) issuing of identity cards to fisherfolk in Bangladesh. In Maldives, there are two significant changes during the last 3 years in the form of complete prohibition on shark fishing and trade and promoting tuna longlining. In Sri Lanka, there is also significant development in offshore fishery and recently the Government has also developed a plan for preventing IUU fishing. The BOBP-IGO is cooperating with its member-countries to monitor these developments which signal progress in the national Plans of Action earlier developed by the member-countries and emerging challenges to ensure better MCS in the near and offshore fishery. The Secretariat is presently documenting these developments and it is proposed that the next regional meeting will be convened once the impact of the ongoing development is evaluated.

5.4 Preparation of Management Plans for Sharks and Hilsa Fishery: Organisation of Regional Workshops on Hilsa and Sharks

Shark fishery

The BOBP-IGO is closely working with the Toothoor-based AD SGAF, which is traditionally engaged in targeted shark fishing in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea areas to understand community perception in managing shark fishery. A recent study tour (September 2013) was also carried out in Gujarat (on the west coast of India), where shark landings are the highest in the country. The Organisation, in collaboration with the BOBLME

Project, has engaged one consultant to study the attributes of shark fishing and shark fisherfolk in India and to draft a policy paper for consideration of the Government of India.

The Organisation also assisted Sri Lanka to carry out stakeholder consultation in development of its national shark-plan earlier in 2011. The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka recently issued a Notification (No. 1768/38, Dated July 27, 2012) prohibiting catching of Thresher Sharks in Sri Lanka.

The Organisation will now focus on Bangladesh to consolidate the information on shark fishery and arranging stakeholder consultations to streamline preparation of shark action plan in Bangladesh. While initially, it was expected that these activities would be carried out simultaneously, it was found that due to different stages of development in shark fishery in the member-countries and diverse socio-economic situations, adequate resources could not be provided for simultaneous activities and a hence a progressive approach has been adopted. Therefore, it is proposed that the Regional Consultation may be organized in latter half of 2014 to early 2015 once these activities are completed.

Hilsa fishery

The major development in case of hilsa fishery is the setting up of a National-level Committee by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India where the BOBP-IGO is entrusted with the task of coordinating and capacity-building activities. The issue was also raised during the Joint India-Bangladesh Ministerial Level Meeting where the BOBP-IGO provided a progress report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. The BOBLME and BOBP-IGO have consolidated their work programmes and will now be working closely in achieving the objectives. Therefore, it is proposed that the Regional Consultation may be organized in the latter half of 2014 to early 2015 once these activities progress. The BOBP-IGO has also prepared a detailed bibliography on hilsa fishery. The bibliography contains 804 citations starting from the work of Hamilton on hilsa fishery to the latest publications as of 01 September 2013. This dynamic bibliography is expected to serve one-point reference for works to be carried out for preparation of management for hilsa fishery in the region.

5.5 Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar Ecosystem and its Resources

Second Bi-National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar Ecosystem and Its Resources, Jaffna, Sri Lanka, 18-20 June 2012

The Second Bi-National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar (GoM) Ecosystem and Its Resources was held from 18-20 June 2012 in Jaffna, Sri Lanka involving stakeholders from India and Sri Lanka. The Consultation was jointly organized by the BOBLME Project and the BOBP-IGO. 48 participants representing governmental agencies; research institutes and universities; fisherfolk associations of both the countries and concerned international organizations including the Organizers took part. The aim of the Consultation was to carry forward the recommendations of the First Consultation held in Rameshwaram, India during September 2011 including: (i) developing necessary collaborative projects and programmes, (ii) identifying and defining the scope of action of concerned agencies (BOBLME Project and its partners) and suggesting institutional arrangements for fostering bilateral cooperation between India and Sri Lanka in the GoM.

The Consultation, spread in four sessions, comprised two technical presentations on the outcome of the first meeting and criterion for collaborative arrangements under the BOBLME Project. This was followed by seven thematic presentations covering the need for assessment of water quality in the GoM, collaborative efforts on conservation and management of charismatic species, capacity building and training needs and possible areas for collaboration and mechanisms for education and awareness building including networking. The issues raised in the thematic papers were further evaluated through three working groups. The working groups were constituted with respective mandates of: (1) Developing projects and programmes; (2) Scoping for BOBLME Project and its Partners (organizations associated with the BOBLME initiative on GoM); and (3) Guidelines for institutional arrangements for collaborative action in the GoM. Based on the outcomes of the group discussions, three group reports were prepared on identification of collaborative projects and programmes for the GoM area, framework of action for the BOBLME Project and its partners, and a roadmap to develop institutional arrangements for collaborative action between India and Sri Lanka. Based on the group reports, a set of recommendations were

presented in the plenary. It was agreed that the BOBP-IGO will consolidate the proposals suggested by the Group(s) and will develop concepts for implementation as full-fledged projects. Based on their priority, some of the proposed projects will also be developed into fast track mode and implemented during the inter-sessional period. Also, a comprehensive report on the GoM will be prepared. Further, it was proposed that the organizers in consultation with the concerned key research institutes will work out modalities for setting up of a website/portal on the GoM. On fostering collaborative programme, the Consultation requested the BOBP-IGO to draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the proposed bi-national committees/teams identified during the Consultation. These draft MoUs will be further considered and finalized during the third and final Consultation. Towards this, the Consultation agreed that the two countries will nominate four focal points from each country representing their fisheries and environment ministries, research institutions and national level NGOs. It was also agreed that the next Consultation will be held in India subject to the approval of Government of India. Along with the main event, the participants also visited Thalai Mannar locality in the GoM and interacted with the fishers (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.8*).

Mangroves for the Future Regional Project on Living Resources of the Gulf of Mannar: Assessment of key species and habitats for enhancing awareness and for conservation policy formulation, 2013-14

The BOBP-IGO is also cooperating with the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in implementation of a two year project entitled, “Living Resources of the Gulf of Mannar: Assessment of key species and habitats for enhancing awareness and for conservation policy formulation”. The project will be jointly implemented by India and Sri Lanka country offices of MFF/IUCN. The Inception Workshop for the MFF Regional Project on GoM was held from 30-31 May 2013 in New Delhi, India. The aim of this regional initiative is to address the threats to marine and coastal biodiversity in the GoM from a regional perspective through bridging information gaps, awareness creation and policy advocacy. The Workshop was spread over five sessions. After the opening session, an overview of the project and status of living resources in the GoM were presented in the first technical session. Following the two presentations, delegates were divided in two country strategy groups to deliberate on implementation modalities and verification of project risks and assumptions. In the next technical session, methodologies for studying critical ecosystems were presented and deliberated to arrive at agreed common methodology for both the countries. In the final technical session, the workplan was prepared and presented in the plenary. During the concluding session of the Workshop, a summary report on the Workshop was presented and accepted by the delegates (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.33*).

Following the outcome of the Inception Workshop, the MFF/IUCN Regional Office prepared a project matrix. Based on a MoU signed between MFF/IUCN and the BOBP-IGO, it has been agreed that the BOBP-IGO will monitor the implementation of the project and will prepare physical progress reports – based on country-specific reports received directly from India and Sri Lanka. The Organisation will also compile regional technical reports based on country-specific reports and will convene, facilitate and report on regional workshops organized under the Project.

The BOBP-IGO also assisted India to start the Project activities and provided support in organizing the India Inception Workshop on 02 September 2013 in Chennai, India.

The BOBP-IGO has also prepared a detailed bibliography on the scientific work carried out in the GoM. This database will be useful to analyze areas where research has been concentrated so far and areas that need more elaborate research while avoiding duplication of work. The list has been shared with MFF to initiate their work on assessment of information gaps.

Workshop on Welfare Measures for Marine Fisherfolk in Tamil Nadu: Design and Implementation Issues, Chennai, India, 17 June 2013

The Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bangalore in association with People’s Action for Development (PAD) implemented a project in the Gulf of Mannar (GoM) on “*Enhancing Community Centered Governance in Climate Change Affected Coastal Areas*” during 2010-13. The GoM is an ecologically sensitive area which supports different livelihoods in its domain. These livelihoods, such as fisheries and palmyra tapping are vulnerable to the changing climate. In this backdrop, the project aimed at understanding community perception on issues

regarding climate change and their coping strategies while assessing state of governance and scientific information on climate change. It was expected that the exercise would culminate in a dialogue process between the communities and the policy makers towards enhancing community centered governance in climate change affected coastal areas. PAC's work is primarily organized around the premises that an informed and active citizenry is the key to improved governance. In pursuit of realizing its vision, PAC has taken a multi-pronged approach synthesizing a range of strategies and interventions. The Centre is globally known for its pioneering Citizen Report Cards, benchmarking studies used to improve public services, as well as their work on electoral transparency, public works quality monitoring tools and approaches and the recently launched audits of the Right to Information Act and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India.

The BOBP-IGO in cooperation with the PAC, Fisheries Management Resource Centre (FishMARC), the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) and the Think Tank Initiative organized a one-day Workshop on “*Welfare Measures for Marine Fisherfolk in Tamil Nadu—Design and Implementation Issues*” on 17 June 2013 in Chennai. The objective of the Workshop was to share findings of a study by the PAC in the GoM on *enhancing community centered governance in climate change affected coastal areas*. The Workshop was attended by 65 participants from organizations representing Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu, Academia, Community and Non-Governmental Organizations. The findings of the PAC Report Card study shows that there is considerable scope for improvement in the implementation of governmental schemes and said that the study was done to create a space for dialogue to understand both side of the coin and empowering community through generation of knowledge (BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.34).

Workshop on Climate Change and Livelihoods in Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu: Design and Implementation Issues, Chennai, India, 18 June 2013

A one-day workshop on ‘Climate Change and Livelihoods in the Gulf of Mannar Region’ was organized in Chennai on 18 June 2013 to share the findings of the PAC-PAD project with larger stakeholders comprising governmental agencies, academia and community organizations. The Workshop was jointly organized by the PAC, FishMARC, ANSA-SAR, Think Tank Initiative and the BOBP-IGO. The Workshop was attended by 66 participants from organizations representing Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu, Community and Non-Governmental Organisations along with the organizers (BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.35).

5.6 Preparation of awareness material for implementation of grouper fisheries in Maldives

The BOBP-IGO is assisting the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives in creating awareness for Grouper Fishery Management Plan developed and adopted by the Ministry during 2011-12. To this effect, the BOBP-IGO has published two posters, “*Prohibited Sizes for Harvest and Export of Grouper*” and “*The 5 sites Protected under the Maldives Grouper Fishery Management Plan*” in both Dhivehi and English Languages (BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.38-45). The posters will be useful for informing the fisherfolk even in the distant atolls about the details of the Plan and in promoting responsible grouper fishery in the Maldives. This awareness material also includes a set of posters printed on synthetic paper, which is water proof allowing the poster to be kept on board the fishing boat for ready reference. Large number of posters has been provided to the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Maldives for dissemination amongst the stakeholders.

5.7 Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp broodstock fishery

The main objective of the scoping study on tiger shrimp broodstock management is to ensure the sustainable management of wild shrimp broodstock resources through controlling fishing effort, reducing hauling period, improving brood shipment system, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test of brood and PL, and hatchery operations by encouraging and creating awareness to the fleet operators and hatchery operators.

The BOBP-IGO in cooperation with the Marine Fisheries Office, Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh organized a Workshop on 29 September 2013 in Chittagong to initiate the study. Representatives from trawlers engaged in catching mother shrimp, hatchery owners, hatchery consultants and technicians, traders, research institute and academia along with officials from the DoF and the BOBP-IGO took part. It was found that while earlier hatchery owners and the trawler operators were directly dealing with each other, now middlemen/traders are acting as a clearing house in the sector. Stakeholders also shed light on different categories of mother

shrimp, methods of catching and on-board handling, volume of catch and price. It was decided that BOBP-IGO will develop a questionnaire to collect data on shrimp farming sector systematically and the Marine Fisheries Office will assist in collection of the data. Stakeholders also expressed their concern about depleting stock and called for regulating the activity. Apart from carrying out stakeholder consultation, the Organisation has also completed a desk review on the issue and prepared an information base. The Report of the Stakeholder Meeting is under finalization.

5.8 Need based/New programmes undertaken by the Secretariat during the reporting period to contribute to the improvement of fisheries resource management

A. National Workshop on “Deep Sea Fisheries: Assessing the Potentialities and Needs”, Chennai, India, 6-8 August 2012

The ADSGAF in association with the BOBP-IGO organized a three-day National Workshop on “Deep Sea Fisheries: Assessing the Potentialities and Needs” in Chennai from 6-8 August 2012. The larger objectives of the National Workshop were to assess the status of the resources that the artisanal (small-scale fishers) can sustainably exploit by extending their reach as also endurance to fish in the deeper waters. The Workshop also aimed to address the post-harvest issues (including marketing); effective use of ICT and other social and economic dimensions of small-scale fisheries in general and the deep sea going artisanal fishers in particular. The National Workshop was attended by 75 deep sea-going artisanal fishers from Tamil Nadu and its neighboring States, policy makers and fisheries experts. The ADSGAF is a Thoothoor (Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, India) based fisheries organization, established in 1992 exclusively to promote fishing activities of the deep sea fishermen. The BOBP-IGO, in accordance with its mandate of supporting small-scale fishing communities assisted the ADSGAF in organization of the National Workshop. The Workshop suggested a set of recommendations for further promotion of deep sea fishing in India. Although, these community-driven recommendations were made in the Indian context, they would be useful in the context of deep sea fishery of other countries also. Some of the major recommendations that accrued from the Workshop are as follows.

- *Considering the dynamics of fishing in the offshore waters, a regular scientific monitoring programme is necessary. Such a programme should also take into account qualitative information from the fisherfolk to analyze and establish status of the offshore fish stocks. These results should be shared with the fishing community and other stakeholders.*
- *Developing fishing fleet for offshore fishery should be guided by the precautionary principles by taking into account best scientific evidences. Considering the constraints in supply of quality wood for building fishing vessels, alternative material such as steel and FRP should be used. There is also a need to arrange/develop transport/carrier fishing vessels that would bring tuna catch to the shore and supply necessary inputs to the offshore fishing vessels. This practice could result in better condition and reduce wastage due to the long journey of fishing vessels to the shore for unloading and refueling.*
- *Ensure that fisherfolk receive remunerative prices for their fish catch.*
- *Raise awareness about, and ensure access to government welfare programmes for women in fishing communities. Extend credit and finance to women to undertake economic activities related to fishing, fish processing, marketing and other allied activities.*
- *Improve the skills and capacities of the fishers in navigation and use of communication devices, including provision of HF sets.*

B. National Result Sharing and Scoping Workshop on Outcomes of the Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Project (FIMSUL), Chennai, India, 22-23 November 2012

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the BOBP-IGO organized a two-day National Workshop on sharing the results of the Project on Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods (FIMSUL-I) and also for preparing the next phase of the Project. The Workshop was organized in Chennai from 22-23 November 2012. The National Workshop was attended by 51 participants representing 36 national and international organizations, including senior officials from the Government of India and the coastal States/ Union Territories (UT), fisheries educational institutions and non-governmental and civil society organizations.

The FIMSUL Project was designed in the backdrop of the unprecedented catastrophe brought about by the December 2004 Asian tsunami. The disaster exposed the vulnerabilities of the fisheries livelihoods and highlighted the need for a long-term policy for sustainable development of fisheries sector in the region. Subsequently, a scoping study carried out by the FAO, the World Bank, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the BOBP-IGO in 2006 validated this requirement and proposed addressing the needs through a comprehensive project. This resulted in the formulation of the FIMSUL Project. The FIMSUL Project was implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu and the UT of Puducherry (beneficiaries) during April 2010 to December 2011 to support the respective Governments in the development of a policy framework for better management and use of marine fisheries within their jurisdictions. The Project was funded by the World Bank Trust Fund (WBTF) and executed by the FAO. The implementation of the Project was supported by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD&F), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and the Departments of Fisheries (DoF) of the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The objectives of the National Workshops were to: (1) share the policy recommendations of the FIMSUL Project and its broad implications; (2) share experience and prospects of the Project by the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry; (3) examine the need of similar projects in other coastal States/UTs and to decide on the modalities for implementing such a project in the interested States/UTs; and (4) develop a roadmap for implementation of the policy recommendations (outcomes) of the FIMSUL Project, including planning for the second stage of the Project in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The detailed report of this work is placed as *BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.28* for information of the GCM.

C. World Bank/BOBP-IGO Regional Workshop on Fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, Chennai, India, 4-5 March 2013

The BOBP-IGO in collaboration with the World Bank Group (WBG) organized a Regional Workshop in Chennai from 4-5 March 2013 to contribute to the overall process of addressing the needs for improved governance of tuna fisheries on a regional basis in the Indian Ocean, with special reference to Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). The objectives of the Workshop were to (i) identify and discuss key issues affecting tuna fisheries exploitation in the Indian Ocean in general; (ii) consider and analyze options for improved regional fisheries governance in proximity to the Bay of Bengal (BoB) in particular; and (3) identify and examine the key elements of a future pilot to test a new regional fisheries governance framework with particular reference to ABNJ. A total of 32 participants representing governmental agencies, research organizations and private sector representatives from Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, civil society organizations and experts took part.

It was recommended that a pilot-scale project may be developed aiming at developing soft skills in accordance with the guidelines of the WBG. While the field activities of the pilot-scale project could be limited to India, other BOBP-IGO member-countries, would also get exposure in terms of knowledge sharing and participation and development of soft skills. It was also suggested that in case of India, the pilot-scale project will build on and compliment the outcomes of the FIMSUL Project for developing a policy framework for better management and use of marine fisheries within their jurisdictions (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.32*).

D. Cooperation with the German Society for International Cooperation or the GIZ

The BOBP-IGO has recently entered into collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (German Society for International Cooperation) or GIZ for implementing the fisheries capacity needs assessment under a Project on 'Sustainable Management of Existing and Potential Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in India'.

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.

Major achievements

- *Introduction of Group Insurance Scheme in Bangladesh.*
- *Introduction of web-based accident reporting system in Sri Lanka (Advocated in BOBP-IGO and National Institute for Occupational safety and Health –NIOSH Safety at Sea Programme including suggestion for a reporting format).*
- *Promoting the use of FRP floats in mechanized fishing boats.*

6.2 Introduction of Group Insurance Scheme in Bangladesh – a successful initiative by Jiban Bima Corporation, Government of Bangladesh in cooperation with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Department of Fisheries and the BOBP-IGO.

Background

Bangladesh has a 710 kilometer long coastline along the Bay. Marine fisheries sector is one of the major livelihood options practiced along the entire coastal stretch of the country. Official estimates show that 0.516 million people are directly involved in marine fisheries and fisheries related activities. With an average household size of six (06), about 3 million (30 00 000) people depend on marine capture fisheries for their livelihoods. Marine capture fisheries is also one of the riskiest occupations in the world. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated the fatality rate at 24 000 per year. In case of Bangladesh, a tropical country with frequent cyclonic storms, it is even more risky to fish. In every fishing village of Bangladesh, 4-5 families can be found who have suffered from fishing-related accidents. Since fishing is the only livelihood option for these people, disability or death due to accidents takes the whole family towards destitution. There are no social safety nets, formal or informal to cover these families during the crisis period and to assist them to recover from such crises.

Work done

Following the 26 December 2004 Asia Tsunami, vulnerability of fisherfolk families around the Bay became quite well-documented. To improve fisheries livelihoods, the FAO in association with the ILO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with funding support from the Swedish International Development Corporation Agency (SIDA) instituted a Global Project on Safety at Sea during 2007-2010. The BOBP-IGO was the implementation partner of the Programme in South Asia covering four countries, Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. In addition, BOBP-IGO also signed a MoU with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH, Alaska Centre) to improve the accident reporting system in the fisheries sector in the region. Under this programme, a National Workshop was organized in Bangladesh on ‘Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries’ in Chittagong from 21-22 January 2008. The National Workshop was organized by the BOBP-IGO in coordination with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Government of Bangladesh. During this National Workshop, the issue of vulnerability of fisherfolk families was raised. It was also recommended that the Indian insurance model for small-scale fishermen could be followed to improve livelihood security of fisherfolk families from such vulnerabilities in Bangladesh.

The Indian model

The Government of India (Ministry of Agriculture) in association with the National Federation of Fishermen’s Cooperatives Ltd (FISHCOPFED) is running a **Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen**. Under this scheme, fisherfolk licensed/identified or registered with the State/UT Governments would be insured for Rs 100,000/- against death or permanent total disability and Rs 50,000/- for partial or permanent disability. The strength of this scheme is that by pooling the risk of a large number of fisherfolk (3,681,607 people in 2013) the Insurance Company could successfully implement the scheme. In addition, since the premium is coming from a single source or maximum two sources in the case of both Central and the concerned State/UT sharing the premium, administrative cost is very low. Even, for settlement of claim, the claims are initially processed by the concerned DoF, which further reduces the administrative costs of the Insurance Company.

Advocacy and awareness building

In Bangladesh, the challenge was twofold: first, to encourage the fishermen, and second to suggest a suitable option to the Government. In terms of organizing the fisherfolk, it was observed that fisherfolk are usually

sticking to a particular fishing harbour or landing centre. There is very nominal migration from one fish landing centre (FLC) to another. On their part, a FLC generally caters to 8-10 fishing villages. Therefore, by covering one FLC, it is possible to reach 8-10 fishing villages. In addition, it was observed that there are three types of fishermen- first the ones who are engaged in daily fishing in near shore waters at artisanal scale; second the fisherfolk engaged in small-scale multi-day fishing vessels and third the fisherfolk engaged in trawlers and larger powered fishing vessels. These groups are partially closed groups with fisherfolk generally bonding within their own occupational groups. The type of documentation required to access any insurance programme was also another area of concern. While the issue of identification was addressed through formation of cooperatives, for personal identification a national identity card issued by the Government of Bangladesh was found suitable.

In the next step, we discussed our findings with the Jiban Bima Corporation (JBC), a state-owned life and general insurance company in Bangladesh. The JBC suggested that to ensure a low cost insurance service for fisherfolk, a group insurance scheme as implemented in India would be suitable. In addition, as there is little or no information on mortality statistics of the fishermen, it would be difficult to create their risk profile. To address this information gap, the BOBP-IGO conducted pilot- scale survey in major fishing harbour and landing centers of Bangladesh and also implemented an accident reporting system with the help of the Marine Fisheries Office of the DoF, Government of Bangladesh in Chittagong, the biggest fishing centre in the country. The accident reporting system was jointly developed by the NIOSH and the BOBP-IGO.

Based on our findings from the pilot-scale survey and accident reporting system, it was suggested to the Government of Bangladesh to consider a group insurance scheme based on the community profile. These findings were discussed in a national stakeholder consultation on 19 December 2010 in Chittagong and were also recommended during the National Strategic Workshop on Governance of Marine Small-Scale Fisheries in Bangladesh held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 29-30 April, 2012. Based on the findings and technical requirements from JBC, fisherfolk were asked to organize in groups of minimum 50 persons. The DoF is assisting in organizing the fisherfolk thus improving their confidence and also playing the role of negotiator, if need arises.

Impact

The JBC launched a group insurance programme, “Community based Insurance for Coastal Fishermen” on 18th October 2012 in Satkhira District of Bangladesh. Within 8 months of launching 15 000 fisherfolk have enrolled in the scheme and the number is increasing significantly. So far about 65 fisherfolk groups have been formed with membership varying from 50 to 100. To accelerate the implementation of the scheme and monitor its progress, JBC and the DoF organized a national workshop on 04 May 2013 and proposed setting up of joint working committees at four levels: National, District, Sub-district and Union (collection of villages) levels. Apart from government officials and insurance personnel, representatives of fishermen are also members of these committees.

The Scheme

Under the ‘Community-based Insurance for Coastal Fisherfolk Scheme’, a minimum of 50 fisherfolk are needed to come together to form a registered association or a cooperative society. The fisherfolk association then collects premium from the members and pays the premium to JBC through bank transfers. The annual per capita premium is Tk 1240 (About USD 15) for a sum assured of Tk 200 000 (USD 2450). The scheme covers normal death, accidental death and permanent disability. For missing persons, the scheme provides that if someone remains missing for six months his nominee will get 50 percent of the claim and the rest will be given after three years. As of now, partial disability is not covered under the scheme. The term of the plan is three years. To further simplify the premium collection process, JBC recently suggested that the proposed Union Committee would act as an intermediary to collect premium from fisherfolk societies within its limit and in settling the claims.

6.3 Construction of improved model fishing boats and their extension to additional areas in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, 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 showed 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 is now being conducted in Chirala, Andhra Pradesh, India.

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

The Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Sri Lanka has set up a web portal for reporting of accidents at sea. The database shows that between April and September 2013, there are 15 incidents at sea and in at least four cases human lives were lost.

Major accident reported to DFAR during April to September 2013			
Date	District	Casualty	Type of vessel
29 April 2013	Matara	Boat and fisherman missing	IMUL
08 June 2013	Matara	Boat missing	IMUL
12 June 2013	Chilaw	Boat capsized due to rough waves, fishermen died	OFRP
10 July 2013	Negombo	Fisherman missing	OFRP
15 July 2013	Chilaw	Fishermen died	OFRP
30 July 2013	Chilaw	One fishermen died, one injured	OFRP

The surveillance programme initiated at the Marine Check post of the DoF at Patenga, Chittagong in 2008 is continuing. The check post is strategically located on the river Karnaphuli, which flows into the Bay of Bengal. All the fishing boats going to the Bay from the Chittagong Fishing Harbour travel through the river where they are intercepted for verification of their registration documents and licences and in the process information on accidents at sea is also gathered. The objective of this surveillance programme is to collect and collate data on fishing related injuries and mortalities.

The Organisation is also providing training to ADSGAF to undertake community surveillance in Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu, India.

6.5 Organisation of Strategy Workshop on Communication Needs of Marine Fishermen in Tamil Nadu

A two-day Strategy Workshop on “Communication needs of marine fishermen” was held from 9-10 November 2013 at Chennai. The Workshop was organized under the joint auspices of DoF, Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), fishMARC (an NGO devoted to fish marketing in India) and the BOBP-IGO. The objectives of the Strategy Workshop were towards (1) assessing the communication needs in terms of technology and equipment for improving safety at sea; (2) evaluation of available technologies and their financial requirements; and (3) charting a roadmap for integrating communication needs in a larger fisheries management framework. Over 150 participants representing the government, fishermen organizations, service providers, NGO, communication system experts, technocrats, academics and scientists took part in the two-day event. The Workshop chalked out different sets of communication needs and measures for different types of fishing operations and also stressed on policy needs to sustain the communication infrastructure for marine fishermen in the coastal State of Tamil Nadu. The detailed report (*BOBP-IGO/GCM/2013/Inf.48*) of this Workshop is placed for information of GCM.

6.6 Propagating use of life float

The BOBP-IGO has provided technical and financial assistance to the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS), an umbrella body of fisher associations with over 17 987 members to build life float developed earlier during the Safety at Sea Project. SIFFS is having its own FRP (Fibre-reinforced Plastic) boatyard and is

in a suitable position to propagate the FRP life floats, which has been found of much value during the trial period. Life float is a cheaper but effective alternative to personal safety equipment and suitable for use in fishing vessels with inboard engines. Earlier, similar models of life floats were sent to Bangladesh and Maldives for demonstration and local fabrication.

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

7.1 During the reporting year, the BOBP-IGO Secretariat participated in several national and international workshops/meetings to share its experiences, learn from the initiatives and experiences of other organizations and to raise the profile of the region. The following Table gives a snapshot of these activities.

#	Meeting/Training/Workshops	Date	Place
1.	National Consultation Workshop on Coastal & Marine Biodiversity: Gaps, Challenges & Opportunities	11-13 April 2012	Ahmadabad, India
2.	International Symposium on “Future Vision on Human being and the Sea after the Restoration from Earthquake Disaster	13-19 May 2012	Tokyo, Japan
3.	30 th Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries	09-13 July 2012	Rome, Italy
4.	FAO Brainstorming Workshop to Develop a Perspective Plan & Strategies for the Development of Fisheries & Aquaculture in India (1 st)	03 August 2012	New Delhi, India
5.	Conservation of biodiversity for enhancement of livelihood security in coastal & marine areas	16-17 August 2012	Chennai, India
6.	Core Committee Meeting on National Plan of Action on Hilsa Fisheries	03-04 September 2012	Kolkata, India
7.	BOBLME Expert Consultation on Mainstreaming Research for Ocean and Resource Management	14 September 2012	Kochi, India
8.	4 th Regional Consultative Forum Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission	15-20 September 2012	Da Nang, Vietnam
9.	BOBLME–MFF Scientific Presentation Workshop	01-04 October 2012	Phuket, Thailand
10.	Regional Workshop on Policy Directions in Fisheries, Coastal and Marine Environment and ICM in the BOBLME Countries	02-04 October 2012	Penang, Malaysia
11.	XI Conference of Parties Convention on Biological Diversity	11 October 2012	Hyderabad, India
12.	2 nd Meeting of Expert Committee on Climatic Change/Sectoral Innovations	30 October 2012	New Delhi, India
13.	National Seminar on Traditional Knowledge & Management Systems in Fisheries	31 October 2012	Kochi, India
14.	Launching of the Community-based Insurance Scheme for Coastal Fishermen in Bagerhat & Pirojpur Districts of Bangladesh	04-07 November 2012	Bagerhat & Pirojpur, Bangladesh
15.	MSC Developing World Working Group Meeting	12 November 2012	London, United Kingdom
16.	35 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee	25-28 November 2012	Chiang Mai, Thailand
17.	Global Symposium on Aquatic Resource for Eradicating Hunger and Malnutrition – Opportunities and Challenges	04-06 December 2012	Mangalore, India
18.	FAO Brainstorming Workshop to Develop a Perspective Plan & Strategies for the Development of Fisheries & Aquaculture in India (2 nd)	15 December 2012	Hyderabad, India

#	Meeting/Training/Workshops	Date	Place
19.	FAO Brainstorming Workshop to Develop a Perspective Plan & Strategies for the Development of Fisheries & Aquaculture in India (Final)	19-21 February 2013	New Delhi, India
20.	Seventh MIMA International Conference on the Straits of Malacca	24-25 June 2013	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
21.	Seventh Meeting of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture	07-11 October 2013	St Petersburg, Russian Federation

8.0 List of Publications of the BOBP-IGO: 2012-13

Reports

1. Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 11-12 September 2012.
2. Report of the National Result Sharing and Scoping Workshop on Outcomes of the Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Project (FIMSUL), Chennai, India, 22-23 November 2012.
3. Annual Report of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, 2012-13, December, 2013.

Books/ Guides/Translations

4. Guide Book on *Tuna Sampling* (in Dhivehi Language), July, 2012.
5. Guide Book on *Tuna Handling* (in Dhivehi Language), September, 2012.
6. Integration of Fisheries into Coastal Area Management (FAO CCRF Technical Guideline No. 3) in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
7. Fisheries Management (FAO CCRF Technical Guideline No. 3) in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
8. FAO publication on *Stopping Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
9. FAO Publication on *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks* in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
10. Training Manual on Best practices for Instruments Methods of Ocean Observation (with National Institute of Ocean Technology, India), November, 2012.

Posters & Calendar

11. Awareness Building Poster on Biodiversity (in English Language): *Save Coastal Biodiversity – Let Nature Thrive*, August, 2012.
12. Awareness Building Posters on Biodiversity (in English, Bangla, Dhivehi, Sinhala and Tamil Languages): *Save Coastal Biodiversity – Better earth, better life, better tomorrow*, August, 2012.
13. Awareness Building Poster against vandalism of Tsunami and Weather Data Buoys (with National Institute of Ocean Technology, India): *Buoys are for your safety – do not tamper or damage*, November, 2012.
14. Awareness Building Leaflet against vandalism of Tsunami and Weather Data Buoys (with National Institute of Ocean Technology, India and BOBLME): *Buoys are for your safety – do not tamper or damage*, November, 2012.
15. Desktop calendar of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation for the year 2013.

16. Awareness Building Posters on *Prohibited Sizes for Harvest and Export of Grouper* (in Dhivehi and English Languages), September, 2013 (two sizes).
17. Awareness Building Posters on *The 5 sites Protected under the Maldives Grouper Fishery Management Plan* (in Dhivehi and English Languages), September, 2013 (two sizes).
18. Desktop calendar of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation for the year 2014.



9.0 List of on-field activities carried out by the BOBP-IGO during 2012-13

#	Activity	Purpose/Objective
1.	Visit to Talaimannar, Mannar District, Sri Lanka, 19 June 2012.	The visit was organized as a part of the 2 nd Bi-national Consultation on Gulf of Mannar held in Jaffna, Sri Lanka from 18-20 June 2012. The objective of the visit was to understand the status of the ecosystem and hold discussions with fishermen regarding the issues they are facing. The visit facilitated better contextualization of the consultation.
2.	Visit to Negombo fish landing centre, Negombo, Sri Lanka, 22 June 2013.	Interview with fishermen and visual documentation of post-harvest practices as a part of the food safety programme.
3.	Visit to Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, India, 15-20 July 2012.	The visit was organized to conduct workshop and document activities on harvesting deep sea fishery resources and conducting awareness campaign on improving safety at sea and stopping vandalism against data buoys.
4.	Visit to Colombo Wholesale Fish Market at Peliyagoda, 27 August 2012, Colombo, Sri Lanka.	Colombo Wholesale Fish Market at Peliyagoda is a newly constructed fish market with modern facilities to ensure hygienic handling of fish products. The visit was organized in conjunction with the 7 th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for dual purpose of giving the delegates exposure to a replicable model and documentation as a part of the food safety programme.
5.	Visit to Colombo New Fishing Harbour, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 30 August 2012.	The visit was organized for visual documentation of this newly built harbour.
6.	Visit to Marine Research Centre (MRC), Malé, Maldives, 2 September 2012.	Meeting with the MRC officials to decide on the content and framework of the 'Islands of Maldives' Website and preparation of awareness material on grouper fishery.
7.	Mapping of Fish Market, Malé, Maldives, 03 September 2012.	The visit was carried out under the 'Mapping of Fish Markets' programme. Information was collected on volume of business and product offered and linkage of the market with other atolls.
8.	Mapping of Fish Markets in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 9-12 September 2012, 15-22 December 2012 and 23-26 September 2013.	The visit was carried out under the 'Mapping of Fish Markets' programme. Identification, visual documentation and information on structure of trade were collected for 139 fish markets.
9.	Trial run of Solar Energy in Fishing vessels at Chinna Muttom Fishing Harbor, Kanyakumari, India, 29 -30 November 2012; 15 March 2013.	Initiating and documenting trials on use of solar energy in fishing vessels under 'Greening of Fisheries Sector' programme.
10.	Study visit of the delegates from Bangladesh to observe shrimp farming in India, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, India, 09-14 December 2012.	The Bangladesh team visited India in connection with understanding the institutional structure of shrimp farming management in India and also to learn from India's experience from introduction of white leg shrimp. The BOBP-IGO coordinated the study.
11.	Fifth Regional Training Course on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (5 th RTC-CCRF), Kanyakumari, Trivandrum, Kochi, India, 22-27 January 2013.	The trainees of the 5 th RTC-CCRF were taken on an exposure-cum-survey visit of major fish landing centers in India. During the visit, the trainees interacted with fishermen organizations and research institutions, observed fish landing and collected information as a part of their course work.

#	Activity	Purpose/Objective
12.	Study visit of Indian fishermen to Negombo, Peliyaguda, Dikkowita, Sri Lanka, 03-07 February 2013.	BOBP-IGO organized this exposure visit for deep sea going fishermen from Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, India to learn about post-harvest practices and boat-building activities in Sri Lanka. The visit improved fishers' understanding of post-harvest requirements and also created a demand for better designed and better-equipped fishing vessels.
13.	Trial on solar energy use in fishing vessels, Trivandrum, Kerala, India.	Demonstration on the use of solar energy in fishing sector.
14.	Visit to ADSGAF, Thoothoor, Tamil Nadu, India, 04-05 May 2013, Trivandrum, Thoothoor and Kochi, India, 28-31 July 2013.	To organize stakeholder consultation on improving governance for fisheries beyond areas of national jurisdiction as a part of the World Bank-BOBP-IGO initiative.
15.	Training programme on maintenance, database operation, hosting and troubleshooting of 'Island of Maldives' website, Chennai, India 2-6 July 2013 and Malé, Maldives, 19-20 August 2013.	Capacity building of personnel responsible for maintenance, database operation, hosting and troubleshooting of 'Island of Maldives' website.
16.	Training of fisherfolk on use and assembling of solar lantern units, Chennai, India, 19-20 August 2013.	This programme is organized under 'Greening the Fisheries Sector' programme to create awareness and impart training on use and assembling of solar lantern. This will be useful especially for fisherwomen selling fish in the evening markets in far-flanged areas.
17.	Field visit to Veravel, Gujarat, India, 4-8 September 2013; 25 Nov-09 December 2013.	Stakeholder consultation and survey towards preparation of case study on shark fishery as a part of the requirements towards preparation of shark management plan for India.
18.	Visit to Chittagong Fishing Harbour and fish markets, Chittagong, Bangladesh, 28-29 September 2013.	The visit was carried out under the 'Mapping of Fish Markets' programme. Identification, visual documentation and information on structure of trade were collected for 3 fish markets.

Staff position during April 2012-November 2013

#	Staff	Designation	Date (month/year)	
			Arrival	Depature
Professional				
1.	Y S Yadava	Director	05/03	Till date
2.	S Jayaraj	Publication Officer	08/06	Till date
3.	R Mukherjee	Policy Analyst	09/09	Till date
4.	M Sharif Uddin	Fisheries Resource Officer	07/12	Till date
General Duty/Consultants/Casual Assignments				
5.	V Srinivasan	Administrative Assistant	11/06	Till date
6.	R Ponnuchamy	Consultant	11/10	05/13
7.	T Vaidyanathan	Consultant	08/12	08/13
8.	F Hanfee	Consultant-WAE basis	07/13	Till date
9.	P Umakandan	Consultant	08/13	Till date
10.	V Venkatesan	Consultant-WAE basis	WAE Basis	
11.	Cheryl Verghese	Secretary	01/08	Till date
12.	M Krishna Mohan	Secretary	01/08	Till date
13.	M Sivakanth	Videographer-WAE basis	WAE Basis	
14.	M Shamusuddin	Chauffeur-cum-Office Assistant	05/03	Till date

* When Actually Engaged

10.0 The Governing Council is invited to reflect on the progress and achievements and provide advice, as required, to strengthen the implementation of activities by the Secretariat.

**Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee
25-26 September 2013, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Eighth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC-8) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 25-26 September 2013. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and observers from the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBOLME) and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). The List of delegates and observers to TAC-8 is attached as *Annex A*.

2.0 The Inaugural Session began with recitation from the Holy Quran. Dr (Ms) Shelina Afroza, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Session and Mr Anisur Rahman, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh chaired the Inaugural Session of the meeting.

3.0 Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO welcomed the delegates and dignitaries on behalf of the member-countries and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the TAC-8. He 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 TAC are then presented to the Governing Council for approval. He informed the TAC that apart from reviewing the activities of the previous year and giving inputs for next year's programme, one of the important agenda before TAC-8 was to review the draft Strategic Plan of Action, 2014-18 (SPA: 2014-18) prepared by the Secretariat and provide suggestions for finalization of the draft SPA: 2014-18.

4.0 Syed Arif Azad, Director General, Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh welcomed the delegates. Delineating the trends in fisheries development in his country, Mr Azad said that the Government of Bangladesh was taking various measures for sustainable development and exploitation of the resources. Citing the example of hilsa fishery, the national fish of Bangladesh, he said that hilsa fisheries became unsustainable due to indiscriminate catch. However, then the Government introduced *Jatka* (juvenile hilsa) conservation programme and prohibited catching, marketing and selling of hilsa during its breeding period. Mr Azad said that to compensate for livelihood loss, the conservation programme was synchronized with alternative income generation activities and vulnerable group feeding programme. He informed that the Government in its effort to improve fisheries monitoring system in the country is implementing an identity card scheme for fishers. Emphasizing on the need for regional cooperation in fisheries, he said that the BOBP-IGO is playing an important role in development of the sector in the region. He also informed that the Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh is proposing a new policy for marine fisheries sector and invited BOBP-IGO to contribute to the policy development.

5.0 Mr S R Rajapakse, Chief Accountant, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka, and the current chair of TAC welcomed the delegates and said that during the reporting year (2011-12) the Secretariat had made important contributions in development of marine fisheries sector in the region. Congratulating the Secretariat on the excellent work done, he said that the Government of Sri Lanka would further strengthen its association with the Organisation for development of its fisheries sector.

6.0 Dr (Ms) Shelina Afroza in her inaugural address extended a hearty welcome to the delegates and wished them a pleasant stay in Dhaka. She said that Bangladesh was making rapid progress in social and economic fronts and the achievements of the country in the health sector have been recognized by the United Nations. Dr Afroza said that the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO shared geographical and socio-cultural similarities

and have comparable needs and priorities. Therefore, the BOBP-IGO holds a special position in the region in addressing shared needs. She congratulated the Secretariat in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), and addressing the issues of women in fisheries.

Dr Afroza advised that while formulating policies and programmes, the TAC should not only look into the biological and ecological requirements of the sector but also give due considerations to the livelihoods aspects as the fishers belonged to the poorest of the poor segments of the society. She attributed the voluntary and spontaneous participation of fishers in the *Jatka* conservation programme of Bangladesh to the twining of the livelihood and conservation needs in the programme design.

Highlighting the importance of improving monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in marine fisheries, Dr Afroza said that effective implementation was a major issue in fisheries governance and suggested developing guidelines for improving fisheries management. Emphasizing on the need for improving communication, she said that with the changing climate there were more frequent and extreme weather events. Therefore, it is urgent to ensure that fishers are well-connected and weather-related and other information can be delivered to them online. She greatly appreciated the ongoing efforts of the BOBP-IGO and the Jiban Bima Corporation of Bangladesh in providing the much needed insurance support to the fishers.

In conclusion, Dr Afroza focused on the needs of the small-scale fisheries and said that although fisheries in the region are substantially carried out by small-scale fishers, their contribution to the GDP is often overlooked and this trend should be reversed.

7.0 Mr Anisur Rahman, in his opening address said that the BOBP-IGO is playing an important role in the region in progressing towards sustainable fisheries. Lauding the key role played by the BOBP-IGO in embedding lessons of the 1995 CCRF in its member-countries, Mr Rahman said that the successful integration of the CCRF will much depend on enhancing the capacities of stakeholders and improving MCS in the fisheries sector. Referring to the on-going fisheries policy initiatives in Bangladesh, he said that experience of the BOBP-IGO will be useful in this regard.

Mr Rahman said that although considerable progress had been made towards making fisheries sustainable in the region, more work was needed to control and prohibit destructive fishing practices and over-capacity in the sector. There was also a need to improve post-harvesting practices to realize the entire value of fisheries production. He said that the BOBP-IGO should take a lead in these areas. He extended a hearty welcome to the delegates and expressed hope that the TAC would deliberate on these issues in detail during the subsequent sessions.

Adoption of the agenda and election of the chairperson

8.0 The TAC-8 adopted the agenda as shown in **Annex B** and agreed on the arrangements for the meeting. The documents considered and reviewed by the TAC are listed as **Annex C**.

9.0 Mr Rajapakse opened the floor for election of the new chairperson. The house unanimously elected Mr Anisur Rahman (Bangladesh) as the TAC-8 chair.

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

11.0 Mr Rahman thanked the delegates for choosing Bangladesh to chair TAC-8 and invited the BOBP-IGO Secretariat to present the report on the activities for the period April 2012-September 2013.

12.0 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 2012-2013.

Status of marine fisheries in the BOBP region

13.0 The Secretariat presented a detailed report on development in fisheries sector in the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO (collectively termed as BOBP region). The report highlighted the following developments in the region:

- The total marine fisheries production from the BOBP region had increased substantially from 4.347 million tonnes (mt) in 2010 to 4.929 mt in 2011. This was largely due to increasing production in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.
- Indian oil sardines contributed the largest share of catch during 2000-11. However, production of oil sardine seemed to be stabilizing around 0.304 mt, with an annual growth rate of 1.18 percent.
- Hilsa fishery contributed about 5.64 percent of the total landings in the region during 2000-11.
- In case of shark, skates and rays, a negative growth of (-) 2.45 percent was observed during 2000-11. Decline in shark catch may also be in part due to banning of shark fishing in the Maldives and restrictions imposed in India and Sri Lanka.
- There was a marginal decline in skipjack tuna landings at (-) 0.43 percent per annum. However, the landings of yellow fin tuna increased at 6 percent per annum during 2000-11.
- Giant tiger prawn contributed about 5 percent of total landing during 2000-11 in the region.
- Lack of progress in identification of low value marine fishes remains a concern, both from ecological and economic perspectives.
- There are now about 1.70 million active fishers in the region as against 1.55 million estimated a decade ago.
- The number of active fisherfolk in the region had grown by about one percent per year during 2003-12, largely due to increase in Sri Lanka (4.5%) and India (2.2%). In Maldives there was a decline in number of active fishers.
- The number of powered fishing boats in the region had increased from 1 80 268 in 2005-07 to 1 94 209 in 2009-11. While the number of non-powered boats declined from 1 48 170 to 95 298 during the same period.
- There was significant difference in the official statistics of the member-countries and those reported by FAO. Although FAO uses the official statistics only and if necessary cleans or scales the data, which may cause some distortion, the significant differences in trends between these two sets of data required reconciliation.
- Summing up, the trends showed increasing capacity in the region while growth, especially from known waters, was slowing down. Although countries could still increase their production by increasing the fishing area, the need to ascertain the status of stock remained crucial than ever.

14.0 Initiating discussions on the state of fisheries in the region, the delegates expressed concern on the anomalies in marine capture fisheries data reported by different agencies. The delegate from BOBLME Project informed that the ASEAN countries were working with FAO to harmonize the data collection procedures and in the same manner an initiative could be taken in the BOBP region also. He further informed that the issue will be raised in the forthcoming meeting of the Statistical Working Group of the BOBLME Project where FAO representative would also be present. He further said that the presence of large number of unidentified species in the catch data was a serious concern. Sri Lanka was of the view that collection of species-specific catch data was challenging in the region due to mixed fishery *vis-a-vis* single species fishery in the colder waters. Delegates from other member-countries also raised similar concerns.

15.0 Bangladesh said that there has been much progress in collection of data from industrial and mechanized fishing vessels. However, collecting information from artisanal fisheries remained a constraint. India informed that an online database on fishing crafts (ReaLCraft) was now being implemented by the Government, which will give a proper picture of the number of fishing vessels in the country. In addition, biometric cards were also being issued to fishers in India, which would provide information on the number of fishers in the country.

16.0 The Chair congratulated the Secretariat for presenting a comprehensive report on fisheries development in the region and highlighting important issues. He said that the report effectively sets the stage for discussing the agenda before the TAC, which includes developing the Strategic Plan of Action: 2014-18 (SPA: 2014-18) for the BOBP-IGO.

Report on the activities implemented by the Secretariat

17.0 In the next part of the presentation (Part B of the Report), Director, BOBP-IGO presented a report on the status of activities undertaken by the Secretariat during 2012-13 as approved by the Governing Council at its Eighth Meeting. He 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 in-house work to prepare the draft of SPA: 2014-18.

Major achievements under the capacity building and information dissemination activities included (i) launching of 'Island of Maldives' website on 16 September 2013; (ii) completion of mapping of fish markets in Dhaka, Bangladesh; (iii) successful completion of the Fifth Regional Training Programme on the CCRF; (iv) publication of CCRF Technical Guidelines in Sinhala language, and (v) pilot-scale work on greening the fisheries sector through promoting the use of solar energy in fishing vessels.

The Director, BOBP-IGO informed that increasing cost of fuel has major impact on profit-levels of fishing vessels. In addition, the fisheries sector is also generating a large carbon footprint due to increasing use of fuel. Keeping these factors in view, the Organization is collaborating with one fishermen association in South India and service providers to explore the scope of using solar power in fishing vessels. He said that initial feedback from the trials were quite positive as with the existing solar power technology, auxiliary services (such as powering communication equipment and lighting) could be profitably operated. Once the pilot-scale work is successfully concluded, it would be possible to replicate similar works in the other member-countries too.

Under the fisheries resource management programme, the Secretariat successfully organized national consultations in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India on "Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries". The Secretariat is also working with the BOBLME Project and IUCN-MFF on two different but complimentary projects on the Gulf of Mannar. The major achievements under the fisheries resource management programme included (i) convergence towards understanding issues in governance of small-scale fisheries at national and regional levels; (ii) institution of a committee to develop the National Plan of Action on Hilsa by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India as a result of the ongoing initiative on development of national and regional management plans for hilsa; (iii) formulation of the Sri Lankan National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka. The BOBP-IGO had earlier assisted the Government of Sri Lanka in developing its plan for improving fisheries MCS and addressing issues arisen from the European Union Regulation on IUU fishing, which contributed to this development; (iv) regulation prohibiting catching of Thresher Shark in Sri Lanka in July 2012. The BOBP-IGO is engaged with the Ministry to develop shark-plan and facilitated stakeholder consultations on conservation of shark fishery, and (v) Issuing of "shark fin attached" policy advisory by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The BOBP-IGO carried out extensive stakeholder consultations and also facilitated campaign by an NGO, 'Humane Society International' in this regard. Fisherfolk, especially those engaged in shark fishing have welcomed the advisory and informed that shark finning on board fishing vessels is not practiced in India as shark meat enjoys a large domestic market and the policy advisory further strengthens their responsible approach to shark fishing in India. The BOBP-IGO was also assisting the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives in creating awareness on Grouper Fishery Management Plan developed and adopted by the Ministry during 2011-12 through development of awareness material in vernacular.

Under the 'Safety at Sea' domain, the major achievement included facilitating introduction of Group Insurance Scheme for fishermen in Bangladesh by the nationalized insurance agency Jiban Bima Corporation. The initiative is likely to impact about half a million marine fishers in Bangladesh positively. Apart from improving social security, the initiative will indirectly contribute to better awareness on occupational safety requirements.

Discussion on BOBP-IGO activities

18.0 Appreciating the activities carried out by the Secretariat during the period 2012-13, the chair opened the floor for discussion.

19.0 Delegates welcomed the initiative in promoting use of solar energy in fisheries sector. The TAC-8 agreed that expenditure towards fuel in fishing vessels was a major component and any reduction would help the fishers quite significantly. The TAC-8 suggested that the Secretariat should monitor the progress thoroughly and look for avenues to replicate the exercise in other member-countries too.

20.0 Bangladesh, taking note of online boat registration system in India said that the initiative would improve fisheries MCS. The delegate said that boat registration is also a major issue in Bangladesh and sought assistance from the Secretariat to provide technical support in facilitating such initiative in Bangladesh.

21.0 India, appreciating the work of the Secretariat on solar energy, said that the solar energy is green and will be helpful in greening the sector. India said that the Government was keen on further association with the BOBP-IGO for expanding the scope and reach of such programmes. India also complimented the Secretariat for mapping fish markets in major metropolitan cities and said that the mapping exercise should be taken to other cities also.

22.0 Maldives complemented the Secretariat for technical cooperation and facilitation in developing the 'Islands of Maldives' website and said that the website would be useful for both entrepreneurs and general public.

23.0 Sri Lanka complimented the Secretariat for its work and said that climate change is becoming a major issue. However, there is no regional mechanism to track and report the impacts. Sri Lanka said that a regional methodology and platform for tracking and reporting on impacts of climate change should be considered.

24.0 The delegate from BOBLME Project complimented the Secretariat, especially for promoting the CCRF in the region. He said that BOBLME is happy to associate with the BOBP-IGO. He further said that there is a need to raise awareness on 'Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries' in the region and a dedicated programme may be considered by the BOBP-IGO in this regard.

25.0 The representative from SEAFDEC complimented the Secretariat and said that the South-east Asian countries were also facing similar problems and lessons learned from both the region would be helpful in addressing the problems.

Statement from partners

26.0 The representative from the BOBLME Project gave a brief presentation on the activities and plans of the Project. He said that the two major outputs of the BOBLME project were a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) - a report on the major transboundary issues and their causes, and a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for addressing the major transboundary issues and their causes. Delineating the SAP process he said that the institutional structure was taking shape. It is proposed that a Consortium for the Conservation and Restoration of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem involving partners of the BOBLME Project such as BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC and Project-Countries will be created to continue the task of the Project comprising thematic areas of fisheries, pollution, critical habitats and ocean productivity and climate change. The SAP Coordination Unit will coordinate the activities of this Consortium. In addition, since the Programme requires involvement of multiple stakeholders of very different nature, a Global Steering Committee (GSC) will be set up as well as a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with representation of key stakeholders from the policy as well as technical and scientific community.

27.0 Representative from SEAFDEC said that his Organization was also working on comparable issues on the other side of the Bay. The SEAFDEC member-countries have also adopted the CCRF for South-east Asian region. Sharing experience of SEAFDEC member-countries in fisheries MCS, he said that what has been measured is only landing data and the actual catch data is not available. Emphasizing on the need for vessel registration, he said that it is not possible to manage fish but it is possible to manage fishing effort. However, different criteria are followed in different countries, which make it difficult to measure the magnitude of the problem. Drawing attention to climate variability, he said that no clear trends can be seen. Therefore, there is a need to coordinate research and to link both the side of the Bay for better understanding the impacts on the Bay's fisheries and other ecosystem services.

Discussion on other agenda Items and Development of programmes and proposals

28.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO introduced the Agenda Item, 'Note on development of a work plan for management of fish stocks in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)'. He said that the World Bank (WB) and the BOBP-IGO were collaborating to propose a project for fisheries development in the ABNJ (or high seas). The objective of this work plan was to develop business cases for funding by public or private entities to demonstrate a process and mechanism to establish sustainable and productive fisheries for highly-migratory fish such as tuna, which are distributed and move between both inshore (EEZ) and offshore (ABNJ) areas of the member-countries and the Bay of Bengal. The proposed project would focus on making a strong business case for both public and private investment in the development of sustainable ABNJ fisheries and also in implementing transformational activities relating to governance and capacity-building. At the pilot scale, the Project will be implemented in Tamil Nadu, India where the WB is already working on fisheries issues. However, lessons-learned from this important initiative will be shared with all the member-countries.

29.0 The TAC-8 welcomed the proposed programme and advised the Secretariat to keep the member-countries informed about the progress.

30.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO introduced the next Agenda Item on 'Developments in the Preparation of Management Plans for Sharks and Hilsa'. He said that the work plan on preparation of national and regional management plans for shark and hilsa fishery was approved during the Third Meeting of the Governing Council held in Malé, Maldives, held from 2-3 May 2007. He informed that considerable progress had been made in Maldives, Sri Lanka and India in case of shark fishery. However, work in Bangladesh was at the initial stages and, therefore, proposed the organization of the 3rd regional consultation on shark fishery once the activities in Bangladesh had also reached a satisfactory stage. On hilsa fishery, he informed that the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India had recently constituted a national-level Committee where the BOBP-IGO has been entrusted with coordinating and capacity-building activities. Therefore, the next consultation may be arranged once this committee develops its work-plan.

31.0 Welcoming the developments, Maldives said that while shark fishing had been banned in her country, there was a need to study its impact. Sri Lanka said that the National Plans of Action on Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) should be circulated amongst the member-countries. Bangladesh informed that a stakeholder consultation was earlier organized with the support of the BOBLME Project and the Government was working on developing a draft NPOA-Shark. He further informed that sharks were mostly caught incidentally and there was no targeted shark fishery in Bangladesh. Also in recent years, there was a decline in export of shark fins due to rising global advocacy against shark fins.

32.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO introduced the draft SPA: 2014-18 and said that the draft SPA 2014-18, like the SPA: 2010-14, has been drawn based on the felt needs of the member-countries and then woven into a broad activity matrix. The topical requirements of global fisheries were also considered and introduced at appropriate places while drafting the SPA. The SPA: 2014-18 aims at achieving 6 major outcomes with the objective of establishing an ecosystem approach to fisheries in the region. These outcomes include:

- (i) Ecosystem-based fisheries management principles are established in fisheries management norms;
- (ii) Returns from fisheries operations are optimized and green fishing is promoted;
- (iii) Human resources in fisheries management agencies have improved;
- (iv) Fisheries livelihoods are secured and they have adequate social security cover;
- (v) Stakeholders are well-informed about national and international policies and take active part in consultative processes across genders and social groups; and
- (vi) Ecological security of fisheries resources is ensured.

The Director, BOBP-IGO also informed that vide a decision of the Governing Council at its Eighth Meeting, the Organisation was moving towards a reporting period based on calendar year from the present financial year reporting. Hence, the time period 2014-18 should be considered as full five years starting from January 2014 and ending in December 2018.

33.0 The TAC-8 reviewed the SPA: 2014-18 and agreed with the following suggestions.

- The Organization should consider facilitating cooperation in assessment and management of fish stocks.
- A scoping study on climate change should be carried out.
- Coping strategies of multi-day fishers should be evaluated.
- Effort should be given in harmonizing management measures.
- Improving post-harvest facilities should be prioritized.

34.0 The representative from the BOBLME Project, which has been considered as a strategic partner in the SPA, informed that since during the lifetime of the SPA, a new institutional regime will take over the current project. This change is likely to have some impact on the nature of association and the same could be specified while planning collaborative activities.

35.0 Based on the discussions on the activities and SPA: 2014-18, the Secretariat prepared and presented the Work plan for the period January-December 2014. The major work programmes include organizing sixth session of the training programme on CCRF, publication of CCRF documents in vernacular, promotion of green energy in fisheries sector, organizing strategic meeting on small-scale fisheries and progressing work on sustainability of the Gulf of Mannar, etc.

36.0 The delegates welcomed the Work plan. Sri Lanka suggested that the Secretariat may consider a desk review of success stories in fisheries management in the region and circulate the lessons learned. Bangladesh suggested that the Secretariat may assist in policy development and bring in regional and international perspectives in national policies.

37.0 The BOBLME Project representative congratulated the Secretariat for promoting ecosystem principles in the region and said that the two Organizations can cooperate in this area.

Date and place for the second TAC meeting

38.0 The TAC agreed to convene the Ninth Meeting of the Committee during Second half of 2014 in India, subject to the concurrence of the Government of India.

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 Livestock and the Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and also for all the hospitality and courtesies extended to the delegates.

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

41.0 In his concluding remarks, the chair said that the meeting was very productive and would contribute in furthering regional cooperation in fisheries governance. He thanked the delegates and observers for their cooperation and wished them a safe return to home.

42.0 The Report of the Eighth TAC Meeting was adopted on 26 September 2013 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

List of Participants

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Agenda & Timetable

Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Morning, 0930 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 2012-September 2013)

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

5. Comments from the partners
6. Discussion on the proposed World Bank supported activity on ABNJ.
7. Discussion on developments in shark and hilsa management plans
8. Discussions on developing Strategic Plan of Action (SPA): 2014-18

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Morning, 1100 hrs

9. Development and adoption of Work plan (Jan-Dec 2014)
10. Any Other Matter
11. Date and Place of the Ninth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee
12. Close of Meeting

List of Documents

A. Working Documents

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/1	Provisional Agenda.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/1.1	Tentative Programme.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/2	Report on the BOBP-IGO Activities (April 2012-September 2013).
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/3	Note on development of a work plan for management of fish stocks in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/4	Note on developments in the preparation of the management plans for sharks and hilsa.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/5	Draft Strategic Plan of Action of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation: 2014-18.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/6	Preparation of Draft Work Plan of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation for the year 2014 for submission to the Governing Council.

B. Information Documents

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.1	List of Documents (Provisional).
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.2	Annotations/Guide Note on Agenda Items.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.3	Tentative Programme.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.4	List of Delegates (Provisional).
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.5	Itinerary of Delegates (Provisional).
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.6	Registration Form.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.7	Report of the National Strategic Workshop on Governance of Marine Small-Scale Fisheries in Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 29-30 April, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.8	Report of the Second Bi-National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar Ecosystem and its Resources, 18-20 June 2012, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.9	Guide Book on <i>Tuna Sampling</i> (in Dhivehi Language), July, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.10	Report of the National Workshop on Deep Sea Fisheries: Assessing the Potentialities and Needs, Chennai, India, 6-8 August 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.11	Report of the National Strategic Workshop on Governance of Marine Small-Scale Fisheries in Sri Lanka, 30-31 August, 2012, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.12	Awareness Building Poster on Biodiversity (in English Language): <i>Save Coastal Biodiversity – Let Nature Thrive</i> , August, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.13-17	Awareness Building Posters on Biodiversity (in English, Bangla, Dhivehi, Sinhala and Tamil Languages): <i>Save Coastal Biodiversity – Better earth, better life, better tomorrow</i> , August, 2012.

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.18	Guide Book on <i>Tuna Handling</i> (in Dhivehi Language), September, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.19	Integration of Fisheries into Coastal Area Management (FAO CCRF Technical Guideline No. 3) in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.20	Fisheries Management (FAO CCRF Technical Guideline No. 3) in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.21	FAO publication on <i>Stopping Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing</i> in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.22	FAO Publication on <i>International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks</i> in Sinhala Language, September, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.23	Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, 11-12 September 2012, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.24	Report of the Regional Workshop on Best Practices for Instruments and Methods of Ocean Observation, 19-21 November 2012, Chennai, India.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.25	Awareness Building Poster Against Vandalism of Tsunami and Weather Data Buoys (with National Institute of Ocean Technology, India): <i>Buoys are for your safety – do not tamper or damage</i> , November, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.26	Water-proof Leaflet against vandalism of Tsunami and Weather Data Buoys (with National Institute of Ocean Technology, India and Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project): <i>Buoys are for your safety – do not tamper or damage</i> , November, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.27	Training Manual on Best practices for Instruments Methods of Ocean Observation (with National Institute of Ocean Technology, India), November, 2012.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.28	Report of the National Result Sharing and Scoping Workshop on Outcomes of the Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Project (FIMSUL), 22-23 November 2012, Chennai, India.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.29	Desktop calendar of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation for the year 2013.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.30	Report of the National Strategic Workshop on Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries in India, 10-11 January 2013, Chennai, India.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.31	Report of the Regional Training Course on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (5 th Edition), Chennai, India, 19 January-02 February 2013.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.32	Report of the Regional Workshop on Fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, 4-5 March 2013, Chennai, India.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.33	Report of Inception Workshop for the Living Resources of the Gulf of Mannar: Assessment of key species and habitats for enhancing awareness and for conservation policy formulation, 30-31 May 2013, New Delhi, India.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.34	Report of the Workshop on Welfare Measures for Marine Fisherfolk in Tamil Nadu: Design and Implementation Issues, 17 June 2013, Chennai, India.

BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.35	Report of Workshop on Climate Change and Livelihoods in Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu: Design and Implementation Issues, 18 June 2013, Chennai, India.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.36	Report on the National Strategic Consultation on Green Technology for Fisheries Sector, 12-13 July 2013, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu, India.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.37	Report on development of web portal on the fish markets of Dhaka (Report & CD), August 2013.
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.38-41	Awareness Building Posters on <i>Prohibited Sizes for Harvest and Export of Grouper</i> (in Dhivehi and English Languages), September, 2013 (two sizes).
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.42-45	Awareness Building Posters on <i>The 5 sites Protected under the Maldives Grouper Fishery Management Plan</i> (in Dhivehi and English Languages), September, 2013 (two sizes).
BOBP-IGO/TAC/2013/Inf.46	Progress report on development of “Island of Maldives” Website – collaborative effort of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives, the International Fund for Agricultural Development & the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation.

Draft Strategic Plan of Action of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation: 2014-18

1.0 Background

The Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) provides an overall framework for the Organisation to plan and implement its activities. These annual activities are discussed and agreed to by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and placed for approval of the Governing Council (GCM).

The present activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) are being implemented as per the programmes contained in the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) 2009 -2014 of the BOBP-IGO. The SPA was agreed by the GCM in the year 2008 and its operation phase started from April 2009 for a period of five years that is up to March 2014. However, as the Organisation is moving from financial year reporting (01 April to 31 March) to calendar year reporting (01 January to 31 December), as per the decisions taken during the Eighth Meeting of the GCM, it is proposed that the next phase of the SPA (SAP-2) will begin from January 2014 and like its first edition would be proposed for a period of five years *i.e.* ending by December 2018. It is also proposed that the SAP: 2014-18 would foremost consider the ongoing and emerging needs of the member-countries, match them with the likely availability of funds through member-country contributions and external funding, and suitably incorporate the international commitments of the member-countries into the Plan.

While preparing the present SPA, as also the first SPA (SPA-1) of the BOBP-IGO, its constituents were drawn from the felt needs of the member-countries and then woven into a broad activity matrix. The topical requirements of global fisheries were also considered and introduced at appropriate places while finalizing the SAP.

2.0 Risk, Assumptions and Constraints

Since its inception in 2003, the activities of the BOBP-IGO have increase manifold as fisheries in the region developed. However, the funding of the Organisation, which was decided in the year 2000 for a smaller set of activities remains the same. This problem was discussed in details during the Seventh and Eighth meetings of the GCM and all member-countries agreed on a principle to enhance their contributions. However, since this is yet to be realized there is a constraint in carrying out activities, especially in parallel in more than one member-country leading to delay in implementation. Also, the Organisation looks for co-financing or joint implementation to cover for necessary financial and human resource requirements of the programmes.

Therefore, the major assumption is that member-countries will enhance their contribution during the SPA: 2014-18. This also remains a risk factor. To reduce the impact of this risk factor, it is proposed that SPA: 2014-18 follows a flexi-planning approach with BOBP-IGO seeking cooperation from major donor agencies and regional partners. In such a case, the objectives of donor/partner organizations are also required to be incorporated in the work programme; however, while doing so the Organisation will ensure that the core values of the Organisation are not compromised.

3.0 The Strategic Plan of Action: 2014-18

Mission:	<i>To promote and establish responsible fisheries in a time-bound manner to ensure socio-economic well-being of the marine fishers and ecological security of fisheries resources in the Bay of Bengal while catalyzing the growth of the sector to substantiate economic development of the member-countries</i>
Core values:	
By the countries, for the countries	The BOBP-IGO established in 2003 through the BOBP-IGO Agreement is a demand driven and home-grown organisation promoted by Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The activities of the Organisation were and will be aimed at development of the marine fisheries sector in the member-countries and protecting their social, economical and ecological interests. In other words, any assignment of the Organisation will meet the criterion that it is of long-term interest of the member-countries.
Meeting international best practices with home-grown solutions	To the maximum possible extent, the solutions for developmental issues will be sought through local means.
Promoting responsible fisheries	BOBP-IGO was created to balance exploitation and conservation of fisheries resources. The activities of the Organisation will aim towards this.
Ensuring level playing field for small-scale and artisanal fisherfolk	Small-scale and artisanal fisheries (SSAF) are the focus area of the Organisation. The Organisation will strive to ensure livelihood sustainability for fisherfolk.
Upholding transparency and consultative processes	The activities of the organisation will be implemented in a transparent manner and in consultation with the member-countries, including the respective governments and other stakeholders.
Furthering equity in participation for all genders and social groups	The activities of the Organisation will be implemented in such a manner that they are designed with optimum consideration for all the genders and social group. This will be done through empowerment programmes, focus group consultation, etc.
Output 1	<i>Ecosystem based fisheries management principles are established in fisheries management norms</i>
Activity 1.1	Promoting cooperation in management of fish stocks
Activity 1.1.1	<i>Establishing inter-country dialogue process in management of fish stocks.</i>
Activity 1.1.2	<i>Evaluation of national policies and policy strengthening for widening the scope of cooperative management.</i>
Activity 1.1.3	<i>Preparation of regional management plans for important fish stocks.</i>
Activity 1.1.4	<i>Capacity building programmes for improving national and regional management.</i>
Activity 1.1.5	<i>Monitoring of progress and reporting to the member-countries.</i>
Activity 1.2	Promoting cooperation in management of shared ecologically sensitive areas
Activity 1.2.1	<i>Formalization of inter-country dialogue process for management of shared sensitive ecosystems.</i>
Activity 1.2.2	<i>Evaluation of national policies and policy strengthening for widening the scope of cooperative management and advocacy.</i>
Activity 1.2.3	<i>Capacity building programmes on policy, ecosystem-based management for improving national and regional management.</i>
Activity 1.2.4	<i>Monitoring of progress and reporting to the member-countries.</i>
Output 2	<i>Returns from fisheries operations are optimized</i>
Activity 2.1	Capacity building programmes in harbour and post harvest management.
Activity 2.1.1	<i>Documentation of harvest and post harvest management practices.</i>

Activity 2.1.2	<i>Identification of country specific needs</i>
Activity 2.1.3	<i>Collaborative programmes with the national institutions/other agencies in meeting the needs.</i>
Activity 2.1.4	<i>Knowledge dissemination and awareness building.</i>
Activity 2.2	Assistance in optimizing fishing effort
Activity 2.2.1	<i>Documentation of additional/alternative livelihood avenues.</i>
Activity 2.2.2	<i>Preparation of country-specific policy option matrices.</i>
Activity 2.2.3	<i>Need based training/awareness/capacity building programmes.</i>
Output 3	Human resources in fisheries management agencies have improved
Activity 3.1	Conducting need-based training programmes
Activity 3.1.1	<i>Identification of common needs in consultation with the member-countries.</i>
Activity 3.1.2	<i>Preparation of training modules to meet the requirement.</i>
Activity 3.1.3	<i>Organizing need-based regional training programmes.</i>
Activity 3.1.4	<i>Organizing need-based national training programme in cooperation with the recipient country.</i>
Activity 3.1.5	<i>International exposure to officials from member-countries through secondment in BOBP-IGO Headquarters and study visits.</i>
Activity 3.2	Awareness and skill building
Activity 3.2.1	<i>Provision of policy briefs and publications</i>
Activity 3.2.2	<i>Engaging fisheries officials in documentation/translation of documents of importance on ad-hoc basis.</i>
Activity 3.2.3	<i>Need-based assistance/donor programmes.</i>
Output 4	Fisheries livelihoods are secured and they have adequate social security cover.
Activity 4.1	Formulation of national developmental agendas for small-scale and artisanal fisheries (SSAF)
Activity 4.2	Formulation of a regional developmental agenda for SSAF
Activity 4.2.1	<i>Establishment of a regional dialogue process for holistic and comprehensive development of SSAF</i>
Activity 4.2.2	<i>Networking and cooperation for raising issues of SSAF at international level and addressing issues.</i>
Activity 4.3	Advocacy/policy studies for ensuring position of the fisheries sector in coastal area development and minimizing negative impact from anthropogenic activities.
Activity 4.3	Improving safety at sea for SSAF sector through policy intervention and awareness building.
Activity 4.5	Capacity enhancement and training programmes on better integration with markets.
Activity 4.5.1	<i>Need based training/awareness/capacity building programmes on product development, additional livelihoods, value addition, etc.</i>
Activity 4.6	Monitoring and reporting on impact of climate change
Activity 4.6.1	<i>Monitoring and reporting on impact of climate change on fisheries in cooperation with the national research institute.</i>
Activity 4.6.2	<i>Initiating a regional process for setting up of a mechanism to monitor and respond to changing climate in collaboration with international/regional partners and national/international research institutions.</i>
Activity 4.6.3	<i>Need-based technical assistance and training programmes.</i>

Output 5	<i>Stakeholders are well-informed about national and international policies and are taking active part in consultative process across genders and social groups</i>
Activity 5.1	Need-based training/capacity enhancement programmes for fisheries associations and cooperatives.
Activity 5.2	Training and capacity-enhancement programmes for women SHGs/other groups
Activity 5.3	Awareness campaign and knowledge management programmes at the grassroots level
Output 6	Ecological security of fisheries resources are ensured and green fishing is promoted
Activity 6.1	Establishing regional cooperation in fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)
<i>Activity 6.1.1</i>	<i>Setting up of inter-country dialogue process for regional MCS</i>
<i>Activity 6.1.2</i>	<i>Evaluation of national policies and policy strengthening for widening the scope of cooperative MCS.</i>
<i>Activity 6.1.3</i>	<i>Preparation of plan for regional MCS.</i>
<i>Activity 6.1.4</i>	<i>Capacity building programmes for improving national and regional MCS.</i>
<i>Activity 6.1.5</i>	<i>Monitoring and reporting to the member-countries.</i>
Activity 6.2	Policy advocacy and capacity building for regional cooperation in management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks in areas beyond national jurisdiction
Activity 6.3	Promoting energy saving fishing techniques, including use of solar energy

Proposed Work Plan for January-December 2014

1.0 Introduction

The proposed Work Plan of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) for the period January-December 2014 is based on the Draft Strategic Plan of Action for 2014-18, as considered and recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee for placing before the Governing Council at its Ninth Meeting.

The scope of the Work Plan: 2014 is to initiate activities as proposed under the SPA: 2014-18. The following paragraphs provide details of the activities as also the timelines proposed for their completion.

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: January-December 2014

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. This programme will contribute to the following targets proposed in SPA: 2014-18:

Output 1	<i>Ecosystem based fisheries management principles are established in fisheries management norms</i>
Output 2	<i>Optimizing returns from fisheries operations</i>
Output 3	<i>Human resources in fisheries management agencies are improved</i>
Output 5	<i>Stakeholders are well-informed about national and international policies and are taking active part in consultative process across genders and social groups</i>
Output 6	<i>Ecological security of fisheries resources are ensured</i>

Work Plan:

- 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 of stakeholders at various levels in fisheries data collection methodologies and stock assessment and capacity building for improving traceability of fisheries product from point-to-point, including a Regional Training Programme.
- Capacity building for improving food safety in marine fisheries in the member-countries, which includes improved hygiene and sanitation conditions in fishing boats (including fish handling) and fishing harbours/fish landing centres.
- Information dissemination through the Bay of Bengal News, reports and other publications to inform, enthuse and bind governments and other fisheries stakeholders of the region.

- Technical assistance to member-countries in support of developing fisheries policies and other normative works.
- Maintenance/updation of the web-based data on fish markets mapped and further extension of the documentation in more cities in the member-countries.
- Assistance in maintenance of “Islands of the Maldives” website.
- Photo archiving work.
- Collaboration in assessing potential of green energy in fishery.
- Promoting EAFM principles in fisheries management in the member-countries.
- Desk Review of Regional Success Stories in fisheries management and livelihoods for knowledge sharing and adoption.
- Collaboration with Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development, Sri Lanka on capacity enhancement to ensure nutritional security of fisher folk.
- Assistance to Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Maldives in knowledge management for improving fisheries managements and livelihoods.

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

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation**Work Plan for 2014****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

Sl. No	Activity	2014											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	Translation & printing of the Technical Guidelines of the CCRF in National Languages												
2	Training of Junior and Middle-level Fisheries Staff in implementation of CCRF@												
3	Information Networking and dissemination												
4	Technical assistance to member-countries in support of developing fisheries policies and other normative works												
5	Capacity building in fisheries data collection and stock assessment												
6	Capacity building in food safety in marine fisheries.												
7	Maintenance/updation of fish markets mapped												
8	Assistance in maintenance of "Islands in the Maldives" website												
9	Collaboration in assessing potential of green energy in fishery												
10	Photo archiving work												
11	Promoting EAFM principles in fisheries management												
12	Desk Review on Regional Success Stories in fisheries management and livelihoods												
13	Collaboration with MFARD, Sri Lanka on nutritional security												
14	Assistance to MOFA, Maldives on knowledge management												

* 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:** 2014**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. This programme will contribute to the following targets proposed in SPA: 2014-18:

<i>Output 1</i>	<i>Ecosystem based fisheries management principles are established in fisheries management norms</i>
<i>Output 2</i>	<i>Optimizing the returns from fisheries operations</i>
<i>Output 6</i>	<i>Ecological security of fisheries resources is ensured.</i>

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 Jan-Dec 2014:

- Strategic Consultation on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region: Organization of National Strategy Meet on Reviewing the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in Maldives. Scope and attributes of small-scale fisheries derived from all national strategy meets will be presented later during the regional consultation.
- Third Bi-National Workshop on Gulf of Mannar Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME Project and BOBP-IGO collaborative programme).
- IUCN/MFF & BOBP-IGO collaborative programme on Gulf of Mannar.
- World Bank/BOBP-IGO programme on fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)
- Technical assistance to member-countries in updating and implementing National MCS Plans, including plans to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.
- Preparatory study and desk review to develop a proposal on understanding impact of climate change and development of a regional database on climate change.
- Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp brood stock fishery.
- National activities on shark and hilsa fishery.
- Programmes on national ecologically sensitive areas.

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

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization**Work Plan for 2014****Geographical Area:** BOBP-IGO Member-countries (Bangladesh, India*, Maldives, Sri Lanka)**Programme:** Fisheries Resource Management

Sl. No	Activity	2014											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	Strategic Consultation on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region												
	A. National Workshops on Small-scale Fisheries in Maldives												
	B. Regional Workshop on Small-scale Fisheries												
2	BOBLME/BOBP-IGO Gulf of Mannar Bi-National Workshop												
3	IUCN/MFF & BOBP-IGO collaborative programme on Gulf of Mannar												
4	Preparation of Management Plans (Shark and Hilsa Fisheries)												
5	World Bank/BOBP-IGO programme on fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)												
6	Technical assistance to member-countries in updating and implementing National MCS Plans, including plans to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.												
7	Scoping study on tiger shrimp brood stock management.												
8	Climate change study												

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

Title: Livelihood security and occupational safety for Small-scale Fisheries

Member Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka

Duration: 2014

Objectives:

The objectives of this Programme are aimed at improving the livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities by improving their skill and occupational safety including improving their social security. This programme will contribute to the following target proposed in SPA: 2014-18:

Output 4	Fisheries livelihoods are secured and they have adequate social security cover.
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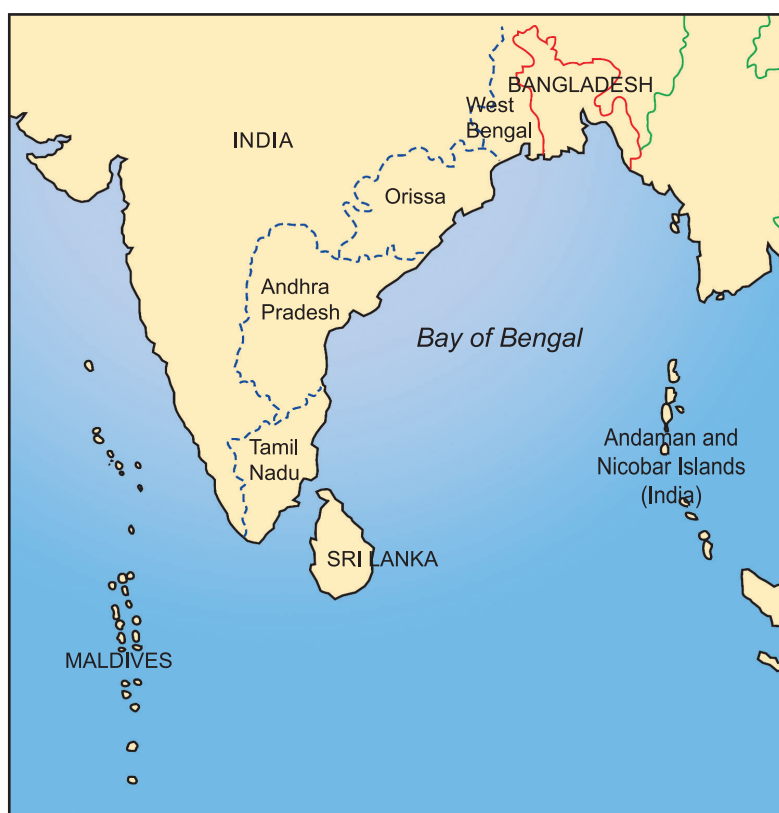
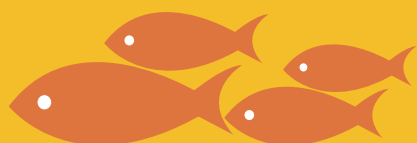
Work Plan:

- Organization of the Fifth International Conference of Fishing Industry Safety and Health (IFISH-5) (Event postponed from last year. Subject to concurrence of the donor organizations).
- Implementation of the Second phase of Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme in Tamil Nadu & Puducherry.
- Study on coping strategies and behavior of multi-day fisher families with special focus on role of women.
- Trials on the improved model fishing boats and their extension to additional areas in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- Technical assistance 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 ***Annexure 3***.

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization**Work Plan for 2014****Geographical Area:** BOBP-IGO Member Countries (Bangladesh, India*, Maldives, Sri Lanka)**Programme:** Livelihood security and occupational safety for Small-scale Fisheries

Sl. No	Activity	2014											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	Organization of Fifth International Conference of Fishing Industry Safety and Health.												
2	Implementation of Second phase of Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme in Tamil Nadu.												
3	Study on coping strategies and behavior of multi-day fisher families with special focus on role of women (preparation)												
4	Trial of the improved model fishing boats and their extension to additional areas in Andhra Pradesh, India.												
5	Technical assistance to member-countries to improve safety at sea.												



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