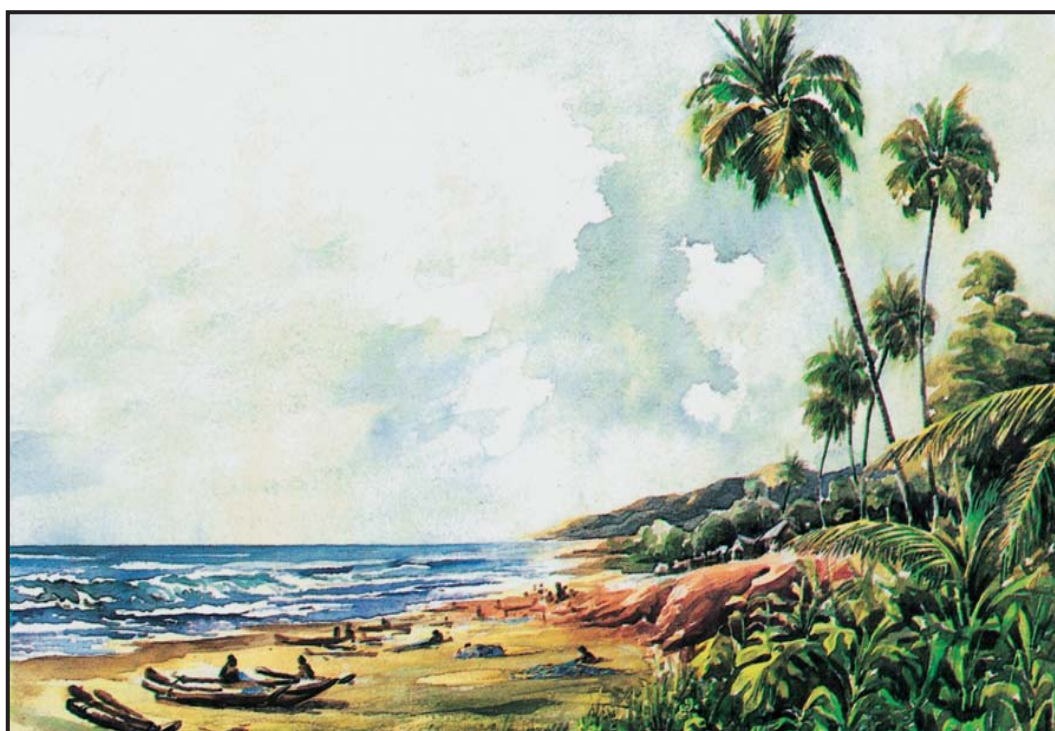


***Report of the
Third Meeting of the
Governing Council***



**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

2 - 3 May 2007
Malé, Maldives

This document records the report of the Third Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). The meeting was held on 2-3 May 2007, in Malé, Maldives.

The document contains a Progress Report of the BOBP-IGO for the year 2006 and Workplan for the year 2007. It also contains the Report of the Second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO.

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

The BOBP-IGO presently covers four countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka). Its objectives are to enhance cooperation among member-countries, other countries and 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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REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Third Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held at Dharubaaruge Convention Centre, Malé, Maldives, on 2 - 3 May 2007. The Governing Council Meeting (GCM) was attended by representatives of the four member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka) and the Secretariat staff of the BOBP-IGO. A list of delegates is attached as *Appendix A*.

2.0 The Inaugural Session of the GCM began with recitation of the Holy *Quran*. The Hon'ble Abdullah Jihaadh, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Republic of Maldives chaired the Inaugural Session. Mr Mohamed Zuhair, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources (MoFAMAR), Maldives and Ms Dunya Maumoon, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maldives attended the Inaugural Session along with the representatives of the High Commissions of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, senior officers of the concerned Ministries of the Government of Maldives and industry representatives.

3.0 Dr Y S Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO, welcomed the delegates and dignitaries on behalf of BOBP-IGO and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Maldives for having agreed to host the Third Meeting of the Governing Council. He urged member-countries to develop collective action to meet the growing challenges of marine resources management and safeguard the livelihoods of millions of small-scale fishers in countries around the Bay of Bengal (BoB). Dr Yadava said that the BOBP-IGO is fast metamorphosing into a full-fledged regional fishery body; the Governing Council has a special role in accelerating this progress.

4.0 Welcoming the delegates, Mr Mohamed Zuhair expressed his happiness on selection of Maldives as the venue for the Third GCM of BOBP-IGO. He said that the Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources, Mr Abdullah Kamaludeen, could not attend the Inaugural Session. He had expressed his apologies for not being able to personally meet delegates from member-countries. The Hon'ble Minister had offered his best wishes to the delegates.

5.0 Mr Zuhair expressed concern over the damage caused by the December 2004 tsunami in the member-countries. He said that the economy of the Maldives is largely based on tourism and fisheries, both of which depend on coral reef ecosystems. The coral reefs suffered heavy damages from the tsunami. We therefore, have an obligation to protect and maintain such natural ecosystems both in terms of livelihoods and the protection they offer to coastal communities. He said that the technical advice and expertise provided through the BOBP-IGO would help the government to streamline its policies for future development of the fishery sector. Mr Zuhair's speech is attached as *Appendix B*.

6.0 Mr G Piyasena, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Sri Lanka and the current Chairman of the Governing Council, thanked the Government of Maldives for hosting the Third GCM and for the warm hospitality and courtesies extended to delegates from member-countries. He complimented the BOBP-IGO for the excellent work done within the short span of its existence. He further said that given the trans-boundary nature of the fish and marine resources, regional co-operation is very important for a successful fisheries management regime in the BoB region.

7.0 In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest, Mr Abdullah Jihaadh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance and Treasury, Government of Maldives extended his hearty greetings to the delegates. He said that fishing has supported coastal communities in our region for thousand of years and will continue to do so. He said that modernization of the fishing industry has presented many challenges, which cannot simply be addressed at national levels today. Modern-day fisheries management is a multidisciplinary affair, which has international and regional implications. The Minister said that the very existence of the BOBP as an inter-governmental organisation today is a direct response to the stressed coastal fish stocks. He said that given the complex multi-gear, multi-species nature of coastal fisheries, it is necessary that participatory and community-based approaches be promoted in the region. Such approaches will bring together stakeholders, who through consultations and negotiations would reach agreements on fisheries management plans, and also take part in their implementation

and monitoring. He hoped that the GCM would find common concepts based on regional initiatives and experiences. These could be adapted to suit local conditions and achieve the common goals of managing the coastal fisheries resources in a sustainable manner. Wishing successful deliberations, he declared the Third GCM open. The Hon'ble Minister's speech is attached as *Appendix C*.

8.0 Dr Abdullah Naseer, Executive Director, MoFAMAR expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Abdullah Kamaludeen, Minister of MoFAMAR for his support and guidance. He thanked the Hon'ble Abdullah Jihaad, Minister of State for Finance and Treasury, and other dignitaries for attending the Inaugural Session. He emphasized the role of the BOBP-IGO and the expectations that member-countries have from the Organisation. He hoped that the GCM would have fruitful discussions and emerge with strategies for implementation of its work programme.

Adoption of the Agenda

9.0 The Governing Council adopted the Agenda, with the addition of "Other matters". The modified agenda is placed as *Appendix D*. The documents considered and reviewed by the Governing Council are listed at *Appendix E*.

10.0 Mr G Piyasena opened the floor for the election of the new chairperson. Mr G D Chandrapal, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India proposed the name of Maldives to chair the Third GCM, which was seconded by Mr Syed Aatur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh. This was unanimously agreed upon.

11.0 Mr Piyasena in his closing remarks thanked the Governing Council and the BOBP-IGO Secretariat for providing the support to him during his tenure as chair of the Governing Council.

12.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO thanked the outgoing chairperson for his contributions and welcomed the new chairperson of the Governing Council.

13.0 Mr Mohamed Zuhair, Deputy Minister, MoFAMAR in his introductory remarks thanked the delegates for electing Maldives to chair the Third GCM and requested the Director, BOBP-IGO, to present the Report of the Organisation for the period January 2006 to April 2007. This Report is attached as *Appendix F*.

Report of the BOBP-IGO (January 2006 – April 2007)

14.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO presented the Report for the period January 2006 – April 2007 and described the activities undertaken by the Secretariat. The delegate from Bangladesh suggested that the reporting should preferably be restricted to the calendar year, otherwise it might lead to duplication in reporting during the succeeding year. The Secretariat clarified that the situation during the current meeting of the Governing Council arose due to the late convening of the Second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the BOBP-IGO.

15.0 The Director of the BOBP-IGO presented a detailed account of the status of various activities undertaken by the BOBP-IGO. These activities related to policy interventions, information dissemination, catalytic and consulting services and exchange of knowledge and ideas, largely within the domain of marine fisheries resources management. He observed that much of the effort of BOBP-IGO was directed towards post-tsunami rehabilitation activities undertaken in member-countries. Besides, there was also a focus on safety at sea and on involving communities in marine resources management. He informed the Governing Council about BOBP-IGO's recognition as leading marine resource management body in the region and also its initiatives and association with international partners to promote safety at sea of small-scale fishers in the region.

16.0 The delegate from Maldives complimented the BOBP-IGO for the good work done in such a short period. He pointed out that Maldives was directly affected by the tsunami. Coastal fisheries in the Maldives are unique because of the coral reefs. In recent years, there has been considerable pressure on reef resources, and this warranted serious interventions. He suggested that master fishermen and crew needed training in multi-day fishing. Maldives would like to see more collaboration with BOBP-IGO in this context.

17.0 The delegate from Sri Lanka said that some of the BOBP publications produced during the first and second phases were outdated. The Secretariat should consider updating them. He emphasised the need for technical support for strengthening of fisheries cooperatives in Sri Lanka and for sea-safety of small-scale fishers. The Secretariat said that under the forthcoming FAO programme, activities would be carried out in member-countries to promote sea-safety and also on adoption of FAO/ ILO/ IMO Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of small fishing Vessels.

18.0 The delegate from India informed the Governing Council of the recent census conducted on marine fisherfolk in the country. The information generated from this census would be very useful in various planning processes, especially those related to the development of small-scale fisheries. The delegate also enquired about the status of work on marine resources management models, assessment of the marine fishing fleet and ornamental fisheries as agreed to in the second meeting of the GCM held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in December 2005.

19.0 Responding to suggestions made by member-countries, the Secretariat said that the resource management models for selected species would be initiated in 2007. These involved a Management Plan for Hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*) Fisheries for Bangladesh and India (and possible inclusion of Myanmar) and a Regional Shark Management Plan for India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. About assessment of the fishing fleet, the Secretariat informed that this work forms a part of the proposed Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), which is also scheduled during the current year. Data collection work on the status of ornamental fisheries in India was complete and preparation of the report would be initiated soon. In this regard, the delegate from Maldives said that work done by his country on preparing national management plans for sharks and groupers and also on the marine ornamental fisheries could be used as a resource material for developing the regional management plan on sharks and also for finalising the report on the status of ornamental fisheries in India.

20.0 The delegate from Bangladesh suggested that management of shrimp capture fishery and shrimp aquaculture is very important for Bangladesh. Currently, Bangladesh is facing problems in production of shrimp post-larvae. The delegate from Sri Lanka said that aquaculture contributed 95 percent of the shrimp production in his country. However, shrimp farming in Sri Lanka is suffering from viral disease, resulting in recurrent loss of crop. To reduce this problem, the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka has developed a crop management plan, which could perhaps be of use to other shrimp farming countries in the region.

21.0 The Director of BOBP-IGO said that aquaculture-related activities are part of the mandate of the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA), while the BOBP-IGO is mandated to work on coastal fisheries resources management. Therefore, it may not be desirable for BOBP-IGO to take up activities concerning aquaculture. Considering the mandates of NACA and BOBP-IGO, the Governing Council resolved that the BOBP-IGO should undertake work on preparing shrimp broodstock management plan in co-operation with NACA.

22.0 The Governing Council considered the agenda item and complimented the BOBP-IGO on the several activities undertaken by an Organisation of its modest size. The delegate from Maldives said that translation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) documents in the local language would help member-countries to create awareness among the fishers about their responsibility towards marine resource management. This will further help in reforming fisheries policy work, which Maldives has recently undertaken. The delegate from Bangladesh suggested that in future meetings of the Governing Council, the Secretariat should present a matrix of work endorsed by the Governing Council at its earlier meeting and the activities actually carried out by the Secretariat during the period of reporting.

Report on the Second Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

23.0 The Secretariat presented the Report on the Second Meeting of the TAC held at Chennai, India on 5-6 February 2007, which is attached as ***Appendix G***.

24.0 A detailed overview of some of the programme priorities and thrusts areas agreed to by the TAC was presented, which *inter alia* includes the following:

- Development of regional management plans for important fisheries such as hilsa and sharks;
- Capacity-building for implementation of MCS programmes; and

- Information dissemination and networking to assess and strengthen as necessary, the present networking capacity in BOBP-IGO member-countries;

25.0 The Governing Council discussed the role of the TAC and the way it can play a more effective role in assisting BOBP-IGO in implementing its programme of work. The delegate from Bangladesh enquired about the relative roles of the Governing Council and the TAC within the BOBP-IGO framework. The Secretariat said that the TAC, set up under Article 11 of the Agreement on the Institutionalisation of the BOBP as an Inter-Governmental Organisation, is mandated to advise the Governing Council on all aspects of the activities of the Organisation. The Governing Council considered the role played so far by the TAC and recommended that the Secretariat should make a thorough assessment of the TAC mandate and functions and present the same to the Governing Council at its next meeting. The Governing Council further suggested that issue-specific meetings may be arranged between the Governing Council and the TAC.

26.0 As regards organisation of the Regional Workshop on MCS in Bangladesh, the Governing Council advised the Secretariat to present a formal request to the Government of Bangladesh for its consideration.

27.0 With these observations, the Governing Council accepted the Report of the Second Meeting of the TAC presented by the Secretariat.

Proposed Programmes and Priorities for BOBP-IGO for 2007

28.0 The Secretariat presented the proposed Programme and Priorities of the BOBP-IGO for the period May - December 2007. This is attached as ***Appendix H***. The salient features of the programmes and priorities are as follows:

(I) Capacity-Building and Information Services for Fisheries Development and Management in the Bay of Bengal Region.

- Translation of the FAO CCRF Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries Guidelines 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.

- Setting of a Regional Information Network to provide appropriate information for development, planning, research and training to assist member-countries in strengthening their national capabilities in development and management of coastal fisheries.

- Training Programme for Junior and Middle-level Fisheries Staff of member-countries on implementation of the CCRF. The training will be conducted in collaboration with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, India.

- Organisation of Fisherfolk Week to promote and institutionalise a participatory and community-based system of management of fisheries and aquatic resources. The Fisherfolk Week will serve to educate, sensitise and influence public opinion, in particular stakeholder opinion about responsible behaviour in resource management and conservation.

- Information Dissemination through the *Bay of Bengal News* and other publications to inform, enthuse and bind governments and other fisheries stakeholders of the region. Reports of activities completed during the period will also be published and disseminated.

(II) Fisheries Resource Management

- Organisation of a Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance.

- Preparation of Regional Management Plans for hilsa and shark fishery.

29.0 The delegation from Bangladesh enquired about the activities that could be supported under the Fisherfolk Week. The Secretariat said that activities related to awareness-creation could be supported, besides logistics for organising a programme. The Governing Council suggested that information materials produced by the BOBP-IGO on awareness-creation could cover both inland and marine fisheries, as Fisherfolk in most member-countries relates to both segments.

30.0 About the Training Programme for junior and middle-level fisheries staff of member-countries on implementation of the CCRF, the Governing Council suggested that intake of staff from each member-country should be increased to four from the proposed two.

31.0 The delegates from Bangladesh expressed concern over the food safety issues related to marine fisheries. The Secretariat said that issues related to food safety in marine fisheries would be addressed in a limited manner in the fisheries management plans for hilsa and shark fisheries proposed for implementation during the current year. However, the Governing Council felt that in view of the rising global concerns on the quality of fish, BOBP-IGO should include this aspect in its work programme during 2007.

32.0 The Governing Council suggested following programmes and priorities for BOBP-IGO in 2007:

- (i) Capacity-building and information services for fisheries development and management in the BoB region.
- (ii) Fisheries resource management.
- (iii) Capacity-building for improving food safety in marine fisheries.

33.0 As suggested by the delegation from Bangladesh, the Governing Council also considered the need for a programme on alternative income generation (AIG) for small-scale fishers in member-countries and recommended that the Secretariat review the issue and submit it to the Third Meeting of the TAC for its consideration and subsequent placement before the Governing Council at its next meeting.

34.0 The Governing Council suggested that the activities of the BOBP-IGO should be linked with funding available from member-countries and other sources from which it might receive monetary assistance for implementing certain activities. It cautioned that some activities might be limited in scope and size because of lack of resources.

35.0 To optimize the efforts of the BOBP-IGO, the Governing Council advised that focal points should be established in each member-country and liaison officers should be designated to deal with the BOBP-IGO activities. The Governing Council hoped that such focal points would facilitate speedy decision-making and implementation of other day-to-day activities in the member-countries.

Administrative Matters

36.0 The Secretariat presented the report of the Auditors for the financial years 2003 and 2004. Commenting on the report, the delegation from Bangladesh suggested that auditing should be more rigorous, including reporting on the performance side too. The delegation from Sri Lanka said that the present audit report was fully in tune with the audits generally conducted for UN Agencies and Inter-Governmental Organisations such as the BOBP-IGO. While accepting the report of the Auditors for the financial years 2003 and 2004, it was suggested that a fresh list of auditors should be presented to the Governing Council at its next meeting and such list should be drawn adopting a process of advertisement.

37.0 The Governing Council agreed to the proposal of the Secretariat to dispose of the two cars that it had inherited from the former Bay of Bengal Programme after following established procedures. The Secretariat was permitted to procure a new car as proposed in the Agenda (*BOBP/GCM/2007/5*). It was also agreed that the Secretariat may involve a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in the procurement procedure.

38.0 The Governing Council unanimously agreed to the proposal of the Secretariat for reappointment of Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava as the Director of the BOBP-IGO for a second term of three years starting from 01 October 2007, on existing terms and conditions. The Governing Council felt that this was essential to maintain the momentum that was generated by the Secretariat led by Dr Yadava. Any change at this stage would not be conducive for the Organisation. The Governing Council also agreed to the terms of reference proposed for the post of Senior Programme Advisor and suggested that the Secretariat should give wide circulation to the vacancy, including writing to member-countries for circulation within the ministries and their constituent agencies/organisations.

39.0 The proposal on secondment of technical personnel from member-countries to the BOBP-IGO Secretariat for a period ranging from 12 to 18 months was agreed to in principle. The Governing Council suggested that the Secretariat may provide a detailed proposal to member-countries indicating the subjects/disciplines, for which secondment would be preferred, the emoluments to be paid to the seconded staff and other terms and conditions for their consideration.

40.0 The Governing Council considered the proposal submitted by the Secretariat for consideration of a 'living allowance' for staff recruited from the host country *i.e.* India. While agreeing in principle for such an allowance for local staff, most delegates felt that the proposal did not provide enough details on the increased cost of living, etc to enable the Governing Council to take a decision. It was suggested that the Secretariat might place a detailed proposal for consideration of the Governing Council at its next meeting in 2008. A note on the Administrative Matters is attached as Appendix I.

Other Matters

41.0 The Governing Council discussed the development of tuna fisheries in the region. It also recognized the fact that some member-countries had now started harvesting coastal tunas in significant quantities, thus contributing to the overall tuna and tuna-like fish production from the BoB region. The delegates of Maldives and Sri Lanka suggested that it may be beneficial for member-countries to discuss these developments in a forum where among other issues, the tuna fishing, marketing and trade-related matters could also be articulated for the benefit of the tuna industry in the region. The Governing Council agreed that the member-countries may take a final view on the appropriate forum and make recommendations to the BOBP-IGO Secretariat at the next meeting of the Governing Council.

42.0 The Governing Council suggested that the Agenda Papers should be circulated sufficiently in advance.

Date and Place of the Third Meeting of the Governing Council

43.0 The Governing Council accepted the kind offer of the delegation of Bangladesh (subject to the approval of their Government) to host the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council during early 2008. The date and venue would be decided by the Secretariat in consultation with the Government of Bangladesh.

Adoption of the Report

44.0 In adopting the Report, the Governing Council unanimously agreed to record its deep appreciation to the Government of Maldives for the generous hospitality accorded to the Governing Council, which had contributed in large measure to the success of the meeting.

45.0 The Chairperson in her concluding remarks appreciated the active participation of the delegates, and declared the Third Meeting of the Governing Council closed.

46.0 The Report of the Governing Council was adopted on 03 May 2007.

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Welcome Speech by Mr Mohamed Zuhair, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources, Government of Maldives

- Distinguished delegates,
- The Director of BOBP - IGO, Dr Yadava,
- High Commissioners, UN bodies,
- Senior Government officials,
- Invited guests,
- Ladies and gentlemen.

First, let me extend a very warm welcome to our guests from the member-countries who traveled to the Maldives to join this Third Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO).

Welcome to Maldives!

At the outset let me convey my Minister's sincere apologies for not being able to join you at this important regional meeting. As you know the Minister requested for postponement of the meeting till the 2nd of May so that he can be here for the inauguration of this Governing Council meeting. Unfortunately a family emergency forced him to be away today. I welcome you again to the Maldives on the Minister's behalf.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Hon'ble Abdulla Jihaad, Minister of State for Finance and Treasury for honoring us by giving us some of his most valuable time to grace this meeting.

I am also gratified to see so many government officials here accepting our invitation at very short notice. Your presence here is very important for us and I hope you get a chance to interact with our special guests and catch up with regional issues of mutual interest.

I also note the presence of representations of High Commissions, UN bodies and other agencies operating in the Maldives. I hope you will learn more about the BOBP as a regional fishery management body and the work they do in the region.

The BOBP is an Inter-Governmental Organisation with a strong mandate for the management of coastal fisheries in the South Asia region. The organisation has benefited immensely from the leadership of committed individuals during its long existence. I would like to extend a warm welcome to BOBP-IGO's current Director Dr Yadava and his secretariat to the Maldives. We appreciate his efforts and note his contribution to the continuity of the BOBP as an Inter-Governmental Organisation in the last few years.

Population growth in the region and improvements in the standard of living have no doubt increased the demand for fish and fish products and other marine resources. This is putting a lot of strain on our coasts and coastal fisheries. We need urgent attention to combat uncontrolled fishing practices in the region.

The Asian tsunami of December 2004 caused unprecedented damage to livelihoods. The tsunami was a rude awakening, reminding us of the importance of coral reefs as coastal protection systems, which represent an effective shield and a strong buffer against natural disasters. The economy of the Maldives is largely based on tourism and fisheries, both of which depend on coral reef ecosystems. Both suffered heavily from the tsunami. We have an obligation to protect and maintain such natural coastal systems, both because of their importance for livelihoods, and because of the protection they offer to coastal communities.

The development of multisectoral approaches is perceived to be the key option that will address the outstanding issues of ecological security of coastal systems. Rehabilitation of these will increase coastal protection and provide the necessary resources and environmental services, thus supporting the Tsunami-induced "Building back better" concept.

Integrated approaches seem to be the norm behind many of the projects, which followed the tsunami. The technical advice and expertise provided under the framework of the BOBP-IGO will assist the governments to streamline their policies for future development of the fishery sector. It is my hope that we will be able to inject new concepts to streamline policy frameworks for coastal fishery development using a platform such as the BOBP-IGO.

I thank you all...

Inaugural Speech by Mr Abdullah Jihaad, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance and Treasury, Government of Maldives

Bismillah...

Distinguished delegates from Member-Nations; the Director of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, Dr Yadava; Deputy Ministers and Senior Government Officials and Invitees,

A very Good Morning to you all!

I am delighted to be here at the opening of the Third Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Program Inter-Governmental Organisation. It is an honor for the Maldives to be able to host this Governing Council meeting of the BOBP-IGO in Malé. I would like to extend a warm welcome to delegates who traveled from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka to join this meeting. I trust that the arrangements made for the meeting are acceptable to our distinguished guests. I do hope you find time out from your busy schedules for the next two days to explore this bustling city. I assure you that it will be different to any place you have seen before.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

Fishing has supported coastal communities in our region for thousands of year and is predicted to continue to do so for future generations. There is no reason to believe otherwise, unless factors beyond our control intervene in the process. We have gradually increased our efforts to exploit fish and other marine resources within our coastal and open seas over time. Technological advances in the way we fish, and modernization of the fishing industry have presented challenges that cannot simply be addressed at national levels today. Fish observe no boundaries and straddle between economic zones of many countries. Modern day fisheries management is a multidisciplinary affair, which has international and regional implications.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

The maritime nations of the South Asia region are bordered by the Indian Ocean where extensive stocks of tuna and near-shore coastal resources lie abundant. Human populations have grown rapidly in our region with increasing pressure on coastal fisheries resources, which poor fishing communities struggle to tap for food. Fish consumption has increased steadily in every coastal region and managers continue to develop new approaches to fisheries resources management. Signs of overexploitation are prevalent in many parts of our coasts. New and bold management regimes are necessary for sustainable development and rehabilitation of coastal fishery resources.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

Coastal fishing communities of member-countries of this organisation were severely affected by the December 2004 Tsunami. Two years on, we still continue to work on the rehabilitation of livelihoods of small-scale fishermen. By now, most member nations must have passed the most difficult hurdles in rebuilding livelihoods of fishing communities. We are now at a stage where we should learn from the lessons of successful programmes implemented to restore and rehabilitate livelihoods of affected coastal communities. In this regard, I believe that BOBP-IGO as a regional organisation can play a pivotal role in capacity building, knowledge management, facilitating coordination and cooperation in the face of natural disasters. I urge you to explore areas of need for fisher folk communities in a regional context and seek local mechanisms on how we can help the fisher folk communities face natural disasters.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

We are gathered here today for the inauguration of an important regional fishery management meeting. The Bay of Bengal Programme is an Inter-Governmental Organisation mandated to enhance cooperation among member-countries and organizations in the region, and provide technical and management advisory services for sustainable coastal fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal region. The existence of this Inter-Governmental Organisation is a direct response to stressed coastal fish stocks due to intensified fishing methods, habitat degradation and marine pollution. Given the complex multi-gear, multi species nature of coastal fisheries,

it is necessary that participatory and community-based approaches be promoted. These should bring together stakeholders, who through consultations and negotiations would arrive at agreements on fisheries management plans, and also take part in their implementation and monitoring.

I trust you will find common concepts based on broad-based regional initiatives and experiences, which can be adapted to suit local conditions to achieve the common goal of managing our coastal fishery resources in a sustainable manner.

With these few words I declare this Third meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-governmental Organisation open. I wish you successful deliberations and a fruitful meeting.

Thank you!

Agenda

Wednesday, 2 May 2007

Morning, 0900 hrs

1. Inauguration of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting
3. Election of the Chairperson
4. Report on BOBP-IGO Activities (January 2006 – April 2007)
5. Report on the Second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of BOBP-IGO
6. Proposed Programmes and Activities (May - December 2007)

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

7. Administrative Matters
8. Other Matters
9. Date and Place of the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council

Thursday, 3 May 2007

Morning, 1030 hrs

10. Adoption of the Report
11. Close of Meeting

List of Documents

A. Working Documents

- BOBP/GCM/2007/1** Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/2** Report on BOBP-IGO Activities (January 2006 – April 2007).
- BOBP/GCM/2007/3** Report of the Second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of BOBP-IGO.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/4** Proposed Programmes and Activities May – December 2007.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/5** Administrative Matters
- Report of the Auditors
 - Disposal of assets and purchase of new assets
 - Advertisement for the posts of Director and Senior Programme Advisor
 - Secondment from Member-Countries
 - Provision for Living Allowances

B. Information Documents

- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 1** Provisional List of Documents.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 2** Programme.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 3** Provisional List of Participants.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 4** Tsunami Rehabilitation: Assessment of Policy Support for Sustainable Pro-Poor Fisheries in Tamil Nadu, India, April 2006: Scoping Study.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.5** The Third International Conference on Fishing Industry Safety and Health, February 1-7 2006: Abstracts.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 6** The Third International Conference on Fishing Industry Safety and Health, February 1- 4 2006: Final Report.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 7** Workshop on Post-tsunami Revival of Fisheries Sector and Rehabilitation of Fishing Communities, February 6 - 7 2006: Final Report.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 8** FAO Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries translated into Tamil Language.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 9** What is the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries translated into Dhivehi Language.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 10** Booklet on Inland fisheries in Bangla language.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.11** Bay of Bengal News, Vol. IV No 6, Dec. 2005.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 12** Bay of Bengal News, Vol. IV No 7, March 2006.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 13** Bay of Bengal News, Vol. IV No 8, June 2006.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 14** Bay of Bengal News, Vol. IV No 9, Sep. 2006.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 15** Bay of Bengal News, Vol. IV Nos 10 -11, December 2006 – March 2007.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 16** A set of 12 Posters on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 17** Itinerary of Participants.
- BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf. 18** Registration Form.

**Report on the Activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
(January 2006 – April 2007)**

A. Background and Rationale

1.0 The Bay of Bengal (BoB) covers some of the most productive waters in the world, and supports a large population of small-scale fishermen: some 6 - 8 million directly and an additional 35 - 40 million engaged in ancillary activities related to fisheries. The contribution of coastal fisheries from the BoB to nutrition and economic well being in the region is substantial.

2.0 Fisheries and aquaculture are now important contributors to the national economies and the sector is contributing more than one percent of the GDP in all the four member-countries. Fish and fish products are also the most heavily traded food commodities in the member-countries and trade issues involving fish are becoming increasingly important.

3.0 Increasing human population and reduced productivity of coastal fisheries through unsustainable fishing practices, habitat degradation, post-harvest losses, etc. threaten the livelihood of millions of small-scale fishers in the Bay. In recent years, capture fisheries has either stagnated or seen a small increase in terms of production (e.g. in tuna and tuna like species), while aquaculture has continued to grow at a rapid rate. Further decline of fisheries would severely impact the livelihood security, food availability and national economy of the BoB countries.

4.0 The problems of depleting fisheries resources and degrading habitats in the region have been further compounded by the 26 December 2004 tsunami waves that originated due to the massive earthquake(s) off the coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia. The waves severely impacted the coastal communities in southern India (and its Island territory of Andaman and Nicobar), Maldives and Sri Lanka besides many other countries in the Bay of Bengal region.

B. Activities

5.0 Given that coastal resources, particularly near-shore resources, are exploited close to, if not beyond sustainable levels, improving the management of fisheries is of immediate concern. There is strong and growing optimism that the BoB can produce significantly more fish than the present levels of landings through improved and greater management of the resource. Such management will clearly benefit from better and more scientific and responsible technological inputs, better all-round awareness, larger involvement of the community in the management of fisheries resources, and adoption of approaches based on the principles of co-management.

6.0 The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) implemented the following activities based on the agreed work programme at the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held at Malé, Maldives during 4-5 September 2005 and the subsequent endorsement of the Work Programme by the Governing Council (GCM) at its second meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka during 12-13 December 2005.

7.0 The BOBP-IGO provided support to the Scoping Study on “Tsunami Rehabilitation: Assessment of Policy Support for Sustainable Pro-Poor Fisheries in Tamil Nadu, India. The objectives of the Scoping Study were to make an assessment of policy support for sustainable pro-poor fisheries in Tamil Nadu. The two major outputs of the Study were (i) an overview of the status of the fisheries sector in Tamil Nadu *vis-à-vis* current and planned ‘post-tsunami’ interventions; including a mapping of current and proposed pertinent interventions and (ii) a proposed set of steps to converge the above and bring individual interventions into some form of common mechanism that seek to address longer-term sustainable fisheries issues and develop and promote appropriate policy and implementation requirements.

The Study was commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in association with the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the FAO. Visits to field and interactions with the Department of Fisheries of the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN), India and other

stakeholders were taken up during the latter half of January 2006. The Final Report was submitted to the FAO and the GoTN in April 2006. A copy of the Scoping Study is attached as Information Document (BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.4).

8.0 The BOBP-IGO organised the Third International Conference on Fishing Safety and Health (IFISH-3) at Mahabalipuram, Chennai, India during 1- 4 February 2006. The Conference was jointly organised by the BOBP-IGO, the FAO and the Alaska Centre of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the United States. Fifty-two fisheries scientists, doctors, planners and administrators attended the Conference. With a theme on 'Enhancing the Safety of Fishermen in Small-scale Fisheries', IFISH-3 placed a special focus on the issues confronting the small-scale fishermen. The Conference also provided a unique opportunity to the participants from developing countries to interact with the experts on fishing industry safety and health. A copy of the Abstracts of the papers presented at the Conference is placed as Information Document (BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.5) and a copy of the Report of the Conference is placed as Information Document (BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.6).

9.0 The BOBP-IGO organised a Thematic Workshop on 'Post-tsunami Revival of Fisheries Sector and Rehabilitation of Fishing Communities at Mahabalipuram, Chennai, India from 6-7 February 2006 to review the long-term rehabilitation efforts of various agencies and organisations towards the recovery and productivity of the communities affected by the tsunami and the regional fishing and safety assessment/ assurance for small-scale fishers. A total of 46 participants, including representatives of fisher communities, attended the Workshop. A copy of the Report of the Workshop is placed as Information Document (BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.7).

10.0 The following eleven Technical Guidelines (TG) and International Plans of Action prepared by FAO, Rome, to provide support for implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries have been translated into Tamil language by the BOBP-IGO:

- (i) Fishing Operations (TG No 1).
- (ii) Fishing Operations 1. Vessel Monitoring Systems (TG No 1 Suppl. 1).
- (iii) Precautionary approach to capture fisheries and species introductions (TG No 2).
- (iv) Integration of fisheries into coastal area management (TG No 3).
- (v) Fisheries management (TG No 4).
- (vi) Responsible fish utilization (TG No 7).
- (vii) Indicators for sustainable development of marine capture fisheries (TG No 8).
- (viii) Inland Fisheries (Concise version)
- (ix) Stopping illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (Concise version).
- (x) International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (Concise version).
- (xi) International Plan of Action for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in long- line fisheries*.
International Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks*.
International Plan of Action for the management of fishing capacity*.

**Note: Part of the same Booklet*

These Guidelines will be disseminated amongst Tamil speaking fishers in the coastal State of Tamil Nadu, India and Sri Lanka. A set of the Technical Guidelines is placed as Information Document (BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.8).

11.0 The concise version of the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (What is the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries?) was translated earlier by the BOBP into Dhivehi language for the use of fishers from Maldives. The same has been reprinted and a copy of the Dhivehi version is placed as Information Document (BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.9).

12.0 The FAO booklet on 'Inland Fisheries' was translated in Bangla language for the use of fishers from Bangladesh and the State of West Bengal in India. A copy of the Bangla version is placed as Information Document (BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.10).

13.0 The BOBP-IGO will partner with FAO, Rome in implementation of the South Asian activities of a global FAO Project (GCP/GLO/158/SWE) on 'Safety at Sea for Small-Scale Fisheries in Developing Countries'. The Project activities will build on recommendations from the Chennai Declaration¹ and the IFISH - 3 Conference and will include the following aspects:

- Provision and analysis of data to identify the cause of accidents.
- Education and training of trainers, extensionists, fishermen and inspectors.
- Elaboration of improved fisheries management measures, safety regulations and enforcement of them.
- Development of improved communication systems.
- Applying FAO draft guidelines for construction and repair of small FRP fishing vessels.

14.0 The BOBP-IGO will also partner in a joint FAO-IMO Project on Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Sri Lanka and India on Small Fishing Vessel Safety. This Project will complement the South Asian activities of the Project mentioned earlier (GCP/GLO/158/SWE) and will focus on the following:

- Assess the present situation regarding standards of the boats built in tsunami replacement activities.
- Organize workshops/ working groups involving stakeholders such as concerned authorities, NGOs, fishermen and boat builders/ shipyards, to present the findings and agree on appropriate measures to improve the situation.
- Introduce standards for the construction and equipment of small fishing vessels, based on the FAO/ ILO/IMO Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels.

The Project will start from May 2007 for a period of two years.

15.0 The Second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the BOBP-IGO was held at Chennai, India from 5-6 February 2007. A copy of the Report of TAC is placed as Working Document BOBP/GCM/2007/3 and will be further considered under the next Agenda item.

C. Information Services

16.0 Like every year, the BOBP-IGO came up with the 2006 and 2007 calendars. The 2006 calendar was based on the award-winning paintings of the school children from India, Maldives and Sri Lanka on Tsunami and the 2007 calendar depicts the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. These calendars were shared and distributed far and wide to a worldwide audience. Copies of the two calendars are placed here for the information of GCM.

17.0 The following documents/ publications were printed during the period under report.

A. Newsletters, Bay of Bengal News

- i) Vol. IV No.6 December 2005
- ii) Vol. IV No.7 March 2006
- iii) Vol. IV No.8 June 2006
- iv) Vol. IV No.9 September 2006
- v) Vol. IV Nos.10 - 11 December 2006 – March 2007

Copies of the above issues of the Bay of Bengal News are placed as Information Documents BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.11-15.

B. Reports

- vi) The Third International Conference on Fishing Industry Safety and Health, February 1-7, 2006. Abstract, pp.76. (BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf.5)

C. Posters

- vii) Twelve posters depicting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries have been prepared for distribution in the member-countries. A set of the posters is placed as Information Document BOBP/GCM/2007/Inf 16.

¹ Declaration adopted at the Regional Workshop on Sea Safety for Small-scale Fishers organised by the FAO and the BOBP from 8-11 October 2001 in Chennai, India.

18.0 The visual archives of the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) and the present BOBP-IGO is being digitised to create a library in the electronic format. Some 22 000 photographs on small-scale fisheries have been digitised so far (as on 31 March 2007) out of a total of about 50 000 visuals available in the archives.

19.0 A large number of requests were received for the publications of the former BOBP and the BOBP-IGO, demonstrating their usefulness and relevance for organisations and individuals concerned with fisheries development and management not only in the region but also elsewhere in the world.

D. Support to Organisations/ Individuals from Member-Countries/ Region/ International Fisheries Organisations

20.0 The BOBP-IGO assisted the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in implementing a Training Project on 'Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in the Philippines'. The purpose of the Training Project in the Philippines was to promote community-based fisheries resource management by small-scale fishers engaged in coastal fisheries and by their organizations (fisheries cooperatives), strengthen their activities, and help contribute to ensuring sustainable production, creation of employment opportunities, and poverty alleviation.

21.0 The BOBP-IGO is collaborating with UNDP and the Government of Orissa, India in conducting a Study on "Development of Marine Fisheries and Post-harvest Sectors in Orissa".

22.0 The World Aquarium in partnership with the World Ocean Network's Sustainable Action Committee has awarded a small grant to BOBP-IGO to implement Community-based Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal region through a pilot-scale activity. The pilot project will be implemented from May 2007 onwards.

E. Participation in Activities Related to the BOBP-IGO's Objectives

23.0 Seminar on "Development of Fisheries Cooperative Societies in Sri Lanka in relation to Fisheries Business and Resources Management" held at Negombo, Sri Lanka during 20 – 23 March 2006. The International Cooperative Fisheries Organization of the International Cooperative Alliance and the Sri Lanka National Federation of Fishing Cooperative Societies Ltd organised the Seminar. (Director, BOBP-IGO participated at the invitation of the Organisers).

24.0 Regional Workshop on "The Rehabilitation of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Coastal Communities of Tsunami Affected Countries in Asia" held at Bangkok, Thailand from 30 - 31 March 2006 (Director, BOBP-IGO and Senior Programme Advisor, BOBP-IGO participated at the invitation of FAO, Bangkok). The Workshop was held under the aegis of CONSRN.

25.0 National Workshop on "Sustainable Fishing" organised by the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, India on 24 April 2006 (Director, BOBP-IGO participated at the invitation of the Organisers).

26.0 Final Workshop of the Indo-Dutch Programme on Alternatives in Development (IDPAD) "Public – Private Management of Marine Fisheries in South Asia" held at the New Delhi India on 23 June 2006 (Director, BOBP-IGO participated as member of the Advisory Board of the Project).

27.0 APFIC Regional Consultative Forum on "Reforming Fisheries and Aquaculture" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 16 - 19 August 2006 (Director, BOBP-IGO participated at the invitation of FAO, Bangkok).

28.0 Twenty-ninth Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 21 - 23 August 2006 (Director, BOBP-IGO participated at the invitation of FAO, Bangkok).

29.0 Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries held at FAO, Rome from 5-9 March 2007 (Director, BOBP-IGO participated at the invitation of FAO, Rome).

30.0 First Meeting of the Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariat Network held at FAO, Rome from 12-13 March 2007 (Director, BOBP-IGO participated at the invitation of FAO, Rome).

F. New Initiatives

31.0 A five-year project proposed to be assisted by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the United States on occupational safety and health of small-scale fishers is currently under

negotiation. Dr George Conway, Chief of the Alaska Centre of NIOSH visited Chennai from 3-16 April 2007 for finalisation of the TOR, funding mechanism, etc.

32.0 A project on promotion of community-based fisheries resource management by coastal small-scale fishers is proposed to be funded by the Ministry of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (MAFF), Government of Japan through the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO). Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary, ICFO would be visiting Chennai in the first week of July 2007 for detailed discussions on the TOR, etc followed by a visit of Director, BOBP-IGO to Tokyo in September 2007 for negotiations with the MAFF. The Government of Japan was a major donor for the former BOBP and from the initial discussions it seems they are keen to step in again.

33.0 Based on the advice of the TAC, ICFO, Japan was requested to assist in the study tour of four representatives of the member-countries to see the innovative methods in tuna fisheries in Japan. The ICFO has expressed its willingness to assist in the programme, which is likely to be organised during October 2007.

34.0 Preliminary discussions have been initiated with SIDA-SWEDMAR for assisting an environment-related project covering some of the hot spots in the Bay of Bengal region.

35.0 Preliminary discussions have also taken place with the FISH CODE Project of the FAO to assist the member-countries in strengthening their data collection, collation and compilation methodologies.

36.0 At the regional level, successful discussions have been concluded with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai, India to act as a base facility for conducting a training programme (of approximately two weeks) on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries for field-level and middle-level fisheries operatives in the member-countries.

37.0 Preliminary discussions have also been concluded with the Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Mumbai to train middle-level fishery operatives from the member-countries in stock assessment, data collection and analysis techniques, etc. The survey vessels of FSI would be used for the purpose.

G. BOBP-IGO Staff

38.0 The staff position of the Organisation during the period under report is enclosed as Annexure I.

H. Suggested Actions by the Governing Council

39.0 The Governing Council is invited to note the activities implemented by the Secretariat during the period January 2006 – March 2007 and consider them further under Agenda BOBP/GCM/2007/4. It may wish to highlight and suggest improvements for action of the Secretariat.

Staff Position January 2006 – March 2007

<i>Sl No</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Date of Arrival</i>	<i>Date of Departure (month/ year)</i>
Professional				
1.	Yadava Y S	Director	05/03	Till date
2.	Nasar Tabrez, S S	Senior Programme Advisor	05/05	10/06
Consultants/ Casual Assignments/ General Duty				
1.	S Jayaraj	Publication Officer	05/03	Till date
2.	V Srinivasan	Administrative Assistant	11/03	Till date
3.	Rajdeep Mukherjee	Research Scholar	09/04	Till date
4.	Ram Mundhe	Research Scholar	09/04	Till date
5.	G Venkataramani	Consultant	05/06	08/06
6.	M Paramasivam	Consultant	05/05	Till date

Report on the Second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation

A. Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The second meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in Chennai, India on February 5 and 6 2007. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka).

2.0 The Inaugural Session began with the lighting of the lamp. This was followed by the Welcome Remarks by Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO. Welcoming the delegates to the second meeting of the TAC, Dr Yadava said that the meeting was important for the BOBP-IGO to review the work done thus far and chart future directions for the Organisation. He said that the organisation of the second meeting of the TAC was delayed because of some unforeseen developments. He thanked the Government of India for facilitating organisation of the meeting at a short notice.

Referring to post- tsunami rehabilitation, Dr Yadava said that most of the rehabilitation work had been completed in member-countries affected by the tsunami. However, some long-term programmes were in progress. He also mentioned the Third International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference (IFISH-3) held in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu from 1-4 February 2006. He said it was an honour for the BOBP-IGO to organise the Conference in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), United States of America. IFISH for the first time focused on small-scale fisheries, which are particularly important for the countries in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) region. He further said that the findings and recommendations of the TAC would be endorsed to the next Governing Council Meeting due in April/ May 2007 in Malé, Maldives.

3.0 In his inaugural speech, Mr Ajay Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, expressed pleasure over the organisation of the TAC meeting in India. He said that lots of activities had been carried out by the BOBP-IGO. The TAC would take stock of these activities and discuss the future programmes to be carried out by the Organisation. He noted that most of the activities carried out by the BOBP-IGO were relevant and useful for member-countries. He urged that these activities should be spread out in all the countries and synergies built up to the fullest extent. He expressed the hope that the meeting would see intense formal and informal discussions leading to clear directions for the BOBP-IGO Secretariat to act upon.

B. Adoption of the agenda and election of the chairperson

4.0 The TAC adopted the agenda and agreed on the arrangements for the meeting. Dr Md Shiham Adam (Maldives), the outgoing chairperson thanked the Secretariat for the cooperation and support that he received during his tenure as the TAC chair.

5.0 Sri Lanka opened the floor for election of the new chairperson and proposed the name of Mr Ajay Bhattacharya (India), which was seconded by the delegate from Bangladesh. The TAC unanimously elected Mr Bhattacharya as the chairperson. The Director, BOBP-IGO expressed his sincere thanks to the outgoing chairperson Dr Md Shiham Adam.

C. Report on BOBP-IGO activities

6.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, presented the report on the activities carried out by the Secretariat during the reporting period October 2005 to December 2006.

At the outset he explained the background and rationale for the Organisation's activities. He said that the BoB region belongs to one of the most productive oceans of the world and supports the livelihoods of about 50 million people directly and indirectly. He expressed his concern over the declining trend in capture fishery in the BoB as it might hamper livelihoods and the availability of food as well as the national economy in member-countries.

Citing the severe consequences of the December 2004 Asian tsunami, Dr Yadava emphasized the need for detailed studies on the changes in the marine ecology and the environment, including its impact on fish species. However, he asserted that the BoB can produce significantly more fish than it does at present through improved and better management of the resources — driven by scientific and responsible technological inputs, better all-round awareness, better participation by the community in the management of fisheries resources and adoption of approaches based on the principles of co-management.

7.0 The BOBP-IGO implemented the following activities based on the agreed work programme at the first meeting of the TAC held at Malé, Maldives during 4-5 September 2005 and the subsequent endorsement to the Work Programme by the Governing Council (GCM) at its second meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka during 12-13 December 2005.

8.0 A National Workshop on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) was organised during 9-10 December 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) of the Government of Sri Lanka.

9.0 A detailed assessment of the safety of small fishing vessels in India, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand was carried out during October 2005 with the assistance of a consultant from Iceland. The assessment was the first of its kind on the safety of small fishing vessels (below 24 meter in length).

10.0 The BOBP-IGO provided support to the Scoping Study on “Tsunami Rehabilitation: Assessment of Policy Support for Sustainable Pro-Poor Fisheries in Tamil Nadu, India – a project commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and carried out in association with the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the FAO, The objectives of the Scoping Study were to make an assessment of policy support for sustainable pro-poor fisheries in Tamil Nadu.

11.0 The Third International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference was organised at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, India during 1- 4 February 2006 in collaboration with the FAO and the Alaska Centre of NIOSH, United States. A Thematic Workshop on ‘Post-tsunami Revival of Fisheries Sector and Rehabilitation of Fishing Communities’ was also organised at the same venue during 6-7 February 2006.

12.0 In line with its goal of information dissemination, BOBP-IGO has undertaken publication of newsletters and translation of FAO Technical Guidelines (TG) and International Plans of Action on marine fisheries into local languages. The enormous task of digitizing over 50 000 photographs is 50 percent complete. The digitized archive will be a one-of-its-kind documentary resource on development of small and artisanal fisheries in the BoB region.

13.0 As regards new activities, the Director of the BOBP-IGO said that the Organisation would partner with FAO in implementing the South Asian activities of a global FAO Project on ‘Safety at Sea for Small-Scale Fisheries in Developing Countries’. The Project is expected to start from April/ May 2007 for a period of two years and will be implemented in all the member-countries. The Organisation will also be a partner with a joint FAO-IMO Project – in Sri Lanka and in India on Small Fishing Vessel Safety.

14.0 The other work carried out during the reporting period included technical assistance provided to the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in implementing a ‘Workshop for Fisheries Cooperatives in Sri Lanka’ and a Training Project on ‘Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in the Philippines’; a study on ‘Development of Marine Fisheries and Post-harvest Sectors in Orissa’ in collaboration with the UNDP; and publication of BOBP-IGO information materials such as posters and calendars for the years 2006 and 2007.

15.0 Commenting on the presentation made by the Director, BOBP-IGO, Dr Md Adam of the Maldives said that a generalized conclusion about decline of fish stocks in the region might not be correct. Citing the example of Maldives, he said that there has been a constant increase in tuna production. This increase was likely to be further enhanced with the help of a new generation of fishing fleets introduced in the country. Further, Maldives is trying to introduce aquaculture of species such as groupers. If technical support and expertise were made available, aquaculture activities would be further increased. In this regard, Dr V S Somvanshi

(India) said that the Maldivian experience in sustaining bait fishery for tuna is a good example and other countries could learn from the bait management practices adopted in the Maldives.

16.0 Mr Parikshit Datta Chowdhury, delegate from Bangladesh, enquired whether adequate staff and funds were available with the Secretariat for carrying out activities. The Director, BOBP-IGO, responded that funds were sufficient to carry out the core functions of the Organisation. About staff, however, he said that the Secretariat had a very small complement of staff. He proposed that the member-countries consider deputing staff to the IGO on secondment basis. Such secondments would immensely benefit both the Secretariat and the member-countries, as the staff would gain wide experience from their involvement with BOBP-IGO activities.

17.0 Dr Somvanshi in his remarks complemented the BOBP-IGO on the excellent work carried out in the region. He made special reference to the popularization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the region, technical support during the post-tsunami rehabilitation phase and the digitalization of the visual documentation of the Organisation.

18.0 Dr Adam said that his delegation was happy to note the successful execution of the programmes by the BOBP-IGO. The review conducted by the Programme on sea safety issues in the Maldives was the first of its kind. This review would be helpful in the formulation of guidelines and construction of fishing vessels in the Maldives. He also said that the *Bokkuras*, the fishing vessel used by the Maldivian in the reef eco-system, were being replaced by a new version. He also enquired about the web portal for fisheries scientists and institutions in the BoB region. The Director, BOBP-IGO said that, so far, information on some 80 fisheries scientists/institutions had been placed in the portal.

19.0 Mr Abeywickrama (Sri Lanka) said that his delegation appreciated the support extended by the BOBP-IGO to Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka is also thankful to the BOBP-IGO for the technical support provided towards the development of fisheries cooperative societies in the country. Mr J W Rathnayake, delegate from Sri Lanka echoed the views of his delegation and said that BOBP-IGO's support to his country during the post-tsunami phase was appreciated. He further said that more cooperation and assistance was required to overcome the problems Sri Lanka was facing in sustainable development of the marine fisheries sector. He specifically mentioned the need for capacity enhancement of the Sri Lankan Coast Guard through the support and cooperation of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

20.0 In this regard, Mr B S Yadav (India) said that initial meetings have already been conducted with the Government of Sri Lanka on this issue. The Chairperson of the meeting further informed the TAC that the Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Working Group is studying the issue. It was also discussed with the Fisheries Minister of Sri Lanka who visited India recently. He also said that the Scoping Study prepared by the BOBP-IGO in association with UNDP, DFID and the World Bank was widely appreciated. The Government of India has proposed to take up a similar study in three more coastal States of India. He said that a good beginning has been made. This would help in formulating policies and draw up programmes in the future.

21.0 With the above observations, the TAC accepted the report on the progress of activities presented by the BOBP-IGO Secretariat.

D. Member countries: Proposals and Priorities

Bangladesh

22.0 Dr Md Jalilur Rahman presented the status of fisheries in Bangladesh. He said that the marine fishery contributes about 22 percent to the total fish production in the country. A total of 511 marine fish species have been recorded from the marine waters of Bangladesh, of which 475 are finfishes and 36 crustacean species. The fishing fleet of the country comprises 118 trawlers, 21 016 motorised boats and 22 120 non-motorised boats.

23.0 Some of the major constraints impeding the sustainable development of marine fisheries in Bangladesh are pollution leading to mass killing of juveniles, illegal fishing both by nationals and foreign fishing fleets, lack of infrastructure and other facilities and dearth of trained and skilled manpower. Lack of knowledge on the abundance of commercially important marine fin and shellfish species and their harvestable potential is also a major constraint, at times leading to under-exploitation of the stocks. It was also suggested that environment impact assessment studies should be conducted before permitting petroleum exploration in the marine waters.

24.0 Enlisting some of the national priorities for Bangladesh, Dr Rahman said that stock assessment of commercially important species, maintenance of ecological balance, conservation of biodiversity, prevention of habitat destruction, mariculture of commercially important species, control and prevention of shrimp diseases, improvement in research capabilities and development of trained manpower need to be addressed on an urgent basis.

25.0 He pointed out that the BOBP-IGO could be involved in HRD for marine resource assessment, development of mariculture technology and marketing and exchange of technical know how among the member-countries. A joint management plan for hilsa should be considered on priority basis between India and Bangladesh with the possible inclusion of Myanmar.

26.0 The TAC felt that the BOBP-IGO could play a strategic role in assisting Bangladesh in development of its marine fisheries through technical interventions as proposed by the Bangladesh delegation.

India

27.0 Dr V S Somvanshi said that India is presently exploiting about 72 percent of her potential marine catch (2.8 million tonnes out of the 3.9 million tonnes potential). He also presented a snapshot of the National Marine Fisheries Census 2005, which is an important instrument for future policy guidance in the country. As per the survey, about 3 million people depend on marine fishery as a source of livelihood, much higher than what was earlier believed. There is also a considerable increase in the total fishing effort in the country as per the census. Dr Somvanshi said that the Fisheries Survey of India (FSI) has 13 exploratory vessels. The country has good capabilities in stock assessment and marine fisheries forecasting. Regarding under-exploited resources, he said that the production potential of tuna and tuna-like species is estimated at about 2 46 000 metric tonnes. Against this figure, the country is harvesting about 30-35 000 metric tonnes. He said that a fresh revalidation of the marine fish stocks would be shortly initiated by FSI in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Dr Somvanshi also cited other critical issues — such as the need for regulation of boats beyond territorial waters, updating of the marine fishing regulations, management and conservation of resources.

28.0 The TAC noted that the marine fisheries sector in India needs more management inputs, especially with regard to the excess fleet capacity and for species that are either over-exploited or are being harvested at their optimal levels. India also needs sound strategies for species like tuna, which are grossly under-exploited.

Maldives

29.0 Dr Adam presented the status of fisheries in Maldives. He said that tuna fishing has been critically important to his country since time immemorial. In fact, Maldivian fisheries cannot be discussed without discussing the tuna fisheries. It has been a long journey for the fishermen in Maldives, and now tuna fisheries has evolved into an industrial activity. The other important fishery in Maldives is the reef (coastal) fishery, which includes resources such as scads, jacks, breems, emperors, wahoo, sharks, groupers, marlins, bait fishes and the aquarium fishes. He said that the reef fisheries is very important for livelihoods and also for local consumption.

30.0 The meeting was informed that in recent years the growth of tuna fishery is limited by availability of bait. There is also a dearth of information on the spatial and temporal abundance of bait fishes and on the stocks that can be optimally exploited. However, in recent years, surveys/ studies have been undertaken on the bait fisheries in Maldives. Dr Adam stressed the need for alternative fishing strategies like use of lights for bait fishing and in this regard mentioned the successful use of such practices in Japan. He suggested that a study visit could be organised by BOBP-IGO to see developments in Japan, which could help the tuna fisheries in the member-countries.

31.0 Dr Adam said that tuna fishing would continue to be a major priority for the fisheries sector in the Maldives. The Government is expecting to achieve higher socio-economic levels through this sector, besides diversification and post-harvest improvement, pearl culture, manpower development and sustainable fishing practices. The new draft marine fisheries policy of Maldives has given fisheries institutions greater responsibility.

32.0 Defining the scope of BOBP-IGO's work in Maldives, Dr Adam noted the BOBP's strength in documentation and manpower building. Issues like community-based fisheries management work, in which

BOBP was involved in the past, need to be taken up once again. Studies on the socio-economics of reef fishing communities and on innovative methods of catching bait fish could also be considered. Dr Adam emphasized the need for a regional management plan for shark fisheries. He suggested that the BOBP-IGO could play an important role in developing a management plan for shark fisheries covering India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Sri Lanka

33.0 Mr Abeywickrema presented a review of Sri Lanka's efforts to recover from the tsunami. The total damage to the physical assets in the country was estimated at US\$ 900 million. The marine fishery was the worst hit, as over 75 percent of the fishing fleet was either destroyed or damaged. The Government in collaboration with the NGOs was striving for speedy recovery of the sector.

34.0 Mr Abeywickrema expressed his concern over the sea-worthiness of the new fishing vessels provided to fishers who had lost their boats to the tsunami. He observed that in many cases the construction was not up to the mark. Such sub-standard boats might jeopardize the efficiency of fishing activity and the safety of the fishers.

35.0 Regarding measures undertaken to improve the fisheries sector, Mr Abeywickrema said that activities such as setting up of a state-of-the-art fish market complex, increasing the capacity of fishers to fish deeper in the sea, improving pre-harvest and post-harvest infrastructure and reviving the shrimp sector were on the agenda. To promote sustainable management of marine fisheries, licensing of fishing vessels and awareness-raising programmes had been taken up. There was a simultaneous focus on community preparedness and manpower development.

E. Secretariat: Work Plan

36.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, presented the work plan for 2007. It is proposed that BOBP-IGO will continue with the translation of CCRF documents into local languages. Cooperation was sought from member - countries to organise a fisherfolk week during the current year to popularize the implementation of CCRF.

37.0 The Secretariat also proposed the following two programmes for implementation during the year 2007 and sought approval of the TAC.

Proposal on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Programme

38.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, made a presentation on the proposed programme on monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). He emphasised that an effective and implementable legal framework is a pre-requisite to management and conservation of fisheries resource. However, lack of data and manpower and awareness were major hindrances to an effective MCS regime. The proposed programme on MCS is expected to bridge this gap through HRD activities, strengthening the existing legal framework, mobilizing expertise and motivating the stakeholders.

39.0 Mr B S Yadav explained the role of the ICG in implementing the MCS in the fisheries sector. He said that the ICG is an Armed Force of the Union of India and has its regional headquarters in Chennai, Mumbai and Port Blair. The ICG has so far apprehended 906 foreign fishing vessels. Any fisherman can contact the ICG's Distress Number (152211). In this regard, he requested Mr Bhattacharya to support the ICG in getting the distress number reduced from six digits to four digits. The ICG maintains a constant vigil on turtle nesting grounds. It has a Standard Operating Procedure for maintaining constant dialogue with fishers. With regard to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), he said that hub-and- spoke arrangements had been made to implement the VMS in India.

40.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, said that in India the MCS was largely independent of fisheries management. It is primarily a search-and-rescue support provided to the fishery sector by the ICG. The Sri Lankan delegation said that in his country an MCS Service Station had been established. He requested for training of their Coast Guards by the ICG.

41.0 The Maldivian delegation said that the EEZ in both Sri Lanka and Maldives was larger than its landmass. The population of Maldives, as enumerated by the most recent census, is about 3 00 000. The country has 1 192 islands. Only longlining is permitted for foreign fishing vessels in the EEZ of Maldives. It is not mandatory to

register the fishing vessels. However, local fishers play an important part in the application of MCS activities. The Draft Fisheries Master Plan to be submitted to the President includes plans to implement MCS in the Maldives. Logbooks have been introduced for fishers. The MCS and Potential Fishing Zone system are being integrated. The delegation said that Maldives has an enabling legal system to support full introduction of MCS. However, for the success of the MCS programme, regional and international collaboration is also necessary.

42.0 The Bangladesh delegation said that the agencies responsible for implementation of MCS in Bangladesh include the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), Marine Unit of the Department of Fisheries, Coast Guard and Navy. One of the marine checkpoints is located in Chittagong. The main problem faced by Bangladesh in implementing MCS is the lack of manpower to enforce existing laws like registration of trawlers and motor boats effectively. For the same reason, catch size too cannot be monitored. Piracy and robbery are other important issues in relation to the implementation of MCS in Bangladesh.

43.0 The Bangladesh delegation further said that the BOBP-IGO's support is required for hands-on training, technical support in satellite monitoring of the stocks and constitution of an Inter-Governmental Surveillance Team for deployment in the BoB.

44.0 The TAC agreed to convene a regional Workshop on MCS in June/ July 2007 in Bangladesh, subject to the concurrence of the Government of Bangladesh. It was also suggested that the BOBP-IGO Secretariat seek technical support from FAO or other agencies such as the MCS Network in organising the Regional Workshop.

Proposal on management of Hilsa and Sharks

45.0 The Secretariat presented a detailed overview of the proposed programme on management of Hilsa (*Ilisha tenualosa*) fisheries in India and Bangladesh and management of shark fisheries in Maldives, Sri Lanka and India. Dr Rahman proposed that Myanmar should be included in the Hilsa management plan. He said that Bangladesh has established some management plans for Hilsa but a lot more needed to be done, especially in cooperation with neighboring countries such as India and the Myanmar. He also suggested a joint management policy, especially with regard to the juvenile fishery. He further said that a couple of NGOs were involved in creating awareness on protection of Hilsa juveniles in Bangladesh but the results were not satisfactory.

46.0 The TAC agreed that the following agencies would take part in preparing a management plan on Hilsa fisheries: (i) Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (Bangladesh), (ii) Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (Bangladesh), ((iii) Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (India) and (iv) Fishery Survey of India (India). As regards the cooperating agency from Myanmar, the Secretariat will identify the institution in consultation with the Government of Myanmar. It was also agreed to hold the first meeting during July/ August 2007 in India subject to the concurrence of the Government of India.

47.0 About the management plan on sharks, Mr Md Shainee, delegate from Maldives, appreciated the idea of a regional action plan on sharks. He said that the Government of Maldives is drawing a national management plan for sharks, which could also fit into the regional management plan. The TAC identified the following institutions/ agencies that could be involved in the activity: (i) Fishery Survey of India (India), (ii) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (India), (iii) Marine Research Centre (Maldives), (iv) Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources (Maldives), (v) National Aquatic Resources Research and Management Agency (Sri Lanka) and (vi) Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Sri Lanka). The TAC agreed to convene the first meeting during September 2007 in Sri Lanka subject to the concurrence of the Government of Sri Lanka.

F. Date and place for the Third TAC meeting

48.0 The Committee agreed to convene the third meeting of the TAC during late 2007 in Sri Lanka, subject to the concurrence of the Government of Sri Lanka.

G. Adoption of the report

49.0 In adopting the report, the TAC unanimously agreed to record its deep appreciation to the Government of India for the generous hospitality accorded to the TAC members. This contributed to a large measure to the successful conclusion of its work.

50.0 The chairperson in his concluding remarks expressed satisfaction over the deliberations and the outcome of the TAC. He hoped that the Secretariat, with the active involvement of member-countries, would accomplish the tasks assigned to it.

51.0 In his concluding remarks, the Director, BOBP-IGO thanked all the TAC members for their active participation and contributions.

52.0 The Report of the TAC was adopted on 06 February 2007.

**Work Plan
(May– December 2007)**

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: May – December 2007

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

Within the overall objectives, the aims are to take the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) to institutions and stakeholders at all levels, and create better awareness amongst fisherfolk and the government about adoption of the provisions of the CCRF.

Work Plan: As a part of BOBP-IGO's mandate on assisting the member-countries to strengthen their national capabilities in development and management of coastal fisheries, the following activities will be implemented during January – December 2007:

- Translation of the FAO CCRF Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries (Guidelines 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.
- Setting of a Regional Information Network to provide appropriate information for development, planning, research and training to assist the member-countries in strengthening their national capabilities in development and management of coastal fisheries.
- Organisation of Fishermen's Week to promote and institutionalise a participatory and community-based system of management of fisheries and aquatic resources. The Fishermen's Week will serve to educate, sensitise and influence public opinion, in particular stakeholder opinion, on the need and urgency of individual actions for responsible behaviour in resource management and conservation.
- Information Dissemination through the Bay of Bengal News and other publications to inform, enthuse and bind governments and other fisheries stakeholders of the region. Reports of activities completed during the period will also be published and disseminated.

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

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Dissemination of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its Technical Guidelines in the member-countries for better awareness.
- Information dissemination through publications (Bay of Bengal News, etc.) and electronic networking (website and Information Networking).
- Education, sensitisation and promotion of participatory and community-based system of management of fisheries and aquatic resources through organisation of Fishermen's Week.

Title: Fisheries Resource Management

Member Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka

Duration: May – December 2007

Immediate Objectives: The objectives of this Programme are to stem resource depletion in the coastal waters and to promote the principles of responsible fishing practices in the member-countries.

Work Plan: As a part of BOBP-IGO's mandate on developing programmes for the promotion of sustainable fishing practices in the member-countries, the following activities will be implemented during January – December 2007:

- Preparation of Management Plan for one commercial fishery in each member-country (see Annexures 2 and 3).
- Organisation of a Regional Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (see Annexure 4).

A Work Plan detailing various activities is enclosed in Annexure 5.

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Better understanding of the needs of implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance programme for management of marine fisheries and formulation of an action plan to address some of the issues on a regional basis.
- Information on the biology and fishery of one commercial fishery and formulation of a management plan for its sustainable exploitation/ conservation.

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization

Work Plan for January – December 2007

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

Programme: Capacity Building and Information Services for Fisheries Development and Management in the BOB Region

	Activity	2007											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries												
	1. Translation of the Technical Guidelines of the CCRF in National Languages												
	2. Printing of the Guidelines												
B	Organization of Fishermen's Week												
C	Information Networking												

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

Management Plan on Hilsa Fisheries (Bangladesh and India)

1.0 Background and Rationale

Amongst all the five species of tropical shads, *Tenuaslosa ilisha* (commonly known as Hilsa) is the most widespread and well studied. Hilsa is a long distance anadromous migrant. It is a widely distributed clupeid species and the distribution ranges from North Sumatra in the east to Kuwait in the West and is the basis of important fisheries in Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Pakistan and Kuwait.

The normal habitat of the species is the lower region of the estuaries and the coastal waters of the seas. The anadromous migration of the species towards estuary and rivers is mainly for breeding. The spent fish and the progeny migrate towards lower estuary and the coastal waters, which form the habitat of the species.

Hilsa is distributed in both inland and marine waters of Bangladesh and India. The decline in the hilsa fishery is due to a variety of reasons which include over-exploitation of gravid females during their upstream breeding migration and indiscriminate killing of the juvenile; degradation in the breeding and nursery grounds; use of destructive fishing gear and inadequate conservation and management measures for the species.

2.0 The Proposed Objectives of the Programme

The larger objective of this programme will be to underpin management aimed at conserving both hilsa and its fisheries and would broadly include the following components:

- To compile, collate and disseminate the scientific data on *Tenuaslosa ilisha*.
- To study and compile the socio-economics of Hilsa fisheries in India and Bangladesh.
- To suggest management options for maintaining sustainable fisheries of *Tenuaslosa ilisha*.

3.0 Proposed collaborating institutions

The following institutions would be invited to collaborate in the studies:

Bangladesh:

- (i) Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute and
- (ii) Marine Fisheries Station of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

India:

- (i) Fishery Survey of India
- (ii) Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and
- (iii) Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal.

4.0 Suggested Action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council is invited to suggest on the proposed programme on Development of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries.

Management Plan on Shark Fisheries (India, Maldives and Sri Lanka)

2.0 Background and Rationale

Exploitation of sharks in the Indian Ocean has increased in recent years as countries are catching sharks primarily for their fins. Sharks constitute a major target species in Sri Lanka's marine offshore fisheries, both for meat and fins. Shark fishing has been carried out for centuries in Maldives. Amongst the three groups of shark fishery practiced in Maldives, the reef shark fishery is most valuable, as this fishery generates revenue for both fishery and tourism. Sharks are mainly fished for their fin and meat, which is exported. In the east coast of India, sharks are caught in both targeted and non-targeted fisheries. As in the Maldives and Sri Lanka, sharks are largely exploited for their fins and the meat is generally less used.

Sharks are top predators and their over-exploitation can lead to serious alterations in the food web. The coastal communities generally lack an understanding of the links between the species and the ecosystem, and the problem is which is further compounded by lack of reliable catch and effort time series data on the shark fishery.

2.0 The Proposed Objectives of the Programme

The larger objective of this programme will be to underpin management aimed at conserving both shark species and their fisheries and will broadly include the following components:

- To compile, collate and disseminate the scientific data on shark fisheries.
- To study and compile the socio-economics of shark fisheries in India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- To suggest management options for maintaining sustainable fisheries of sharks in the Bay of Bengal.

3.0 Proposed collaborating institutions

The following institutions would be invited to collaborate in the studies:

India:

- (i) Fishery Survey of India and
- (ii) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Maldives:

- (i) Marine Research Center and
- (ii) Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources.

Sri Lanka:

- (i) National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) and
- (ii) Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

4.0 Suggested Action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council is invited to suggest on the proposed programme on Development of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries.

Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

1.0 Background and Rationale

Fisheries have substantial social and economic importance in the BOBP-IGO member-countries. However, with the rapid increase in fisher population, fishing in coastal areas has become difficult with low catches and fishing rights conflicts. Often, the entire community may rely on fishing as its chief source of livelihood, lacking alternative means of livelihood. Almost the entire small-scale/ artisanal fishery operates in free access regime and a large proportion of marine fish stocks is fully exploited or over-exploited and is in need of recovery.

Fishing communities constitute a large population, which is mostly illiterate, poor and has limited access to electronic media and other channels of information. In view of their remote location, ignorance, illiteracy, lack of access to mass media, etc making them aware about the significance of responsible fishing and implementation of other management measures and conservation related issues is an enormous task. Provisions of the existing Fisheries Acts and Regulations are also not known to most of the fishing communities and as such compliance level is very poor.

An effective and implementable legal framework is pre-requisite to management and conservation of fisheries resource. It also forms a major component of the control aspect in programmes related to monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS).

2.0 The Proposed Regional Workshop and its Justification

The main constraints, which impede practical application of MCS in the member-countries, have been identified as follows:

- Lack of accurate statistics in the small-scale/ artisanal sector, which contributes 96 per cent of the total marine fish production.
- Lack of a scientific information system.
- Inadequate trained manpower at both management and operational levels.
- Lack of awareness at the community-level of the need for MCS.
- A large number of inaccessible landing places along the coast.
- Lack of supporting legislation to implement MCS.
- Inadequate funding for MCS.

MCS in small-scale fisheries or in coastal areas presents a range of unique problems, which relate to large numbers of widely dispersed fishers operating within a fishery, mixed gear/ species and landing points. In the given situation, some of the main controls and instruments that could be used in implementing MCS are:

- (i) determining the level of sustainable exploitation and other relevant information by data gathering, assessment and analysis;
- (ii) fishing effort control (through licensing);
- (iii) selecting appropriate management instruments – fishing areas/ locations/ duration of fishing (zonation);
- (iv) development of fisheries management plans based on the principles of conservation of fish stocks in a sustainable manner;
- (v) controls in ports and at sea;
- (vi) educating the community by dissemination of information;
- (vii) promoting co-management strategies;

- (viii) legal support for the fishery management plans and regulations to ensure the equitable allocation of resource; and
- (ix) implementation of regulations through licensing, reporting and enforcement of fishery laws.

Legislative measures may be appropriate for sophisticated commercial fisheries, but generally in the case of artisanal fisheries it may be important to reduce the need for conventional surveillance. Alternative methods need to be used to encourage compliance and thus reduce the need for confrontational enforcement, particularly in the light of the costs of management and limited resources generally available. An important approach to MCS in such fisheries is, where possible, to foster a strong local awareness on the need for conservation and management.

Another critical requirement for effective MCS is the establishment of a coordinating mechanism, with well-defined objectives and a clear work plan. The Government cannot practice MCS in isolation and, therefore, coordination among stakeholders is essential. The setting up of MCS can also assist in establishment of multiple channels of communication, which can provide information to the fisher community on weather, commodity and market prices, safety aspects, hygiene, etc.

The Regional Workshop proposes to discuss the interaction between control and management of fisheries since control is not an end in itself but an essential corollary of resource conservation and management measures and arrive at national plans of action on the implementation of MCS.

3.0 Objectives of the MCS Programme

The main objective of Regional Workshop is to discuss ways and means to secure responsible and sustainable management of fisheries resources while allowing an ecologically safe and economically profitable exploitation of living marine resources in the interest not only of today's population but also for posterity.

4.0 The Proposed Work Plan

The Regional Workshop will include the following activities:

- (i) Review of existing marine fisheries management programmes and analysis of the fisheries in the coastal waters and the EEZ (this will *inter alia* include the registration of fishing vessels, number and category of fishing craft and gear, fishing harbours/ fishing landing sites, boat building yards, etc).
- (ii) Review of the existing fishing vessel licensing and registration procedures and practices, fisheries legislations and of other concerned Ministries/ Departments (e.g. MMD).
- (iii) Assessment of the MCS capacity and identification of institutional development requirements within the Ministry/ Department of Fisheries and, if necessary, other concerned sister Departments (e.g. MMD).
- (iv) Preparation of an outline of procedures and practical application of fisheries MCS programme and its implementation on pilot basis (in one or two manageable sites).
- (v) Identification of training and extension needs of the member-countries towards implementation of the MCS activities.

5.0 Likely Outputs

The following output is expected from the Regional Workshop:

- (a) Development of management strategy and identification of institutional capacity with recommendations for integrated management and surveillance of marine fisheries.
- (b) Development of action plans for implementing marine fisheries MCS.

6.0 Suggested Actions by the Governing Council

The Governing Council is invited to suggest on the proposed Regional Workshop on MCS.

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization

Work Plan for January – December 2007

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

Programme: Fisheries Resource Management

	Activity	2007												
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
A	Organisation of Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control, Surveillance						■							
	Compilation of Data and Preparation of Reports									■				
B	Preparation of Management Plans (Hilsa Fisheries)						■							
C	Preparation of Management Plans (Shark Fisheries)						■							

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

Administrative Matters

A. Report of the Auditors:

Regulation 12 of the Financial Regulations of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) stipulates that the auditor shall perform such function as he deems necessary to certify:

- (a) That the financial statements are in accordance with the books and records of the organisation,
- (b) That the financial transactions reflected in the statements have been in accordance with the Regulations and Rules, the budgetary provisions, and other applicable directives, and
- (c) That the monies on deposit and on hand have been verified by certificates received directly from the Organisation's depositories or by actual count.

M/s Siv, Ram & Raj, the auditors selected by the Governing Council have completed the auditing of the accounts of the BOBP-IGO for the financial years 2003 and 2004 and their reports is placed as Annexure I of this Agenda Item. The auditing of the accounts for the financial years 2005 and 2006 is in progress and the same shall be submitted shortly.

B. Disposal of assets and purchase of new assets:

The BOBP-IGO inherited two cars, a Volvo Sedan and a Toyota Corolla, from the former Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) in July 2003. The Volvo Sedan, petrol version, was imported by the BOBP in March 1992. The car started giving trouble from 2000 onwards and in 2004 it developed major problem with respect to its fuel pump. The spare parts of the Volvo are not easily available in India and have to be ordered from abroad. Since the model is also obsolete, it is difficult to get the spare parts, which otherwise are very expensive. The fuel consumption of the car is also very high and therefore it may not be advisable to go in for repairs.

The Toyota Corolla, a diesel version, was imported by the BOBP in early 1996. This car has also been giving trouble since 2005, and has since then necessitated major repairs. In this case also the spare parts are to be imported from abroad, which makes the repairs costly. Further, like the Volvo, this model of Toyota has also become obsolete, making it difficult to source the spare parts.

In view of the age of the two cars and the fact that spare parts are costly and difficult to source, it is proposed to dispose the two cars. As the two cars were imported through the State Trading Corporation of the Government of India, necessary formalities would have to be completed for their disposal.

With the disposal of the two cars, the BOBP-IGO would need one vehicle for the project related activities, etc. It is, therefore, proposed to purchase one utility vehicle, preferably a four-wheel diesel model at a cost of around US \$ 15 000 – 17 000. The car will be procured following competitive bidding from established car dealers in Chennai.

The Governing Council may consider the proposal and give its consent.

C. Reappointment/Advertisement for the posts of Director and Senior Programme Advisor:

The Agenda proposes filling up of the posts of Director, BOBP-IGO and the Senior Programme Advisor.

Director, BOBP-IGO: The present incumbent (Dr Y S Yadava) was appointed by the Governing Council at its First Meeting held at Chennai, India from 7-8 September 2004 for a period of three years from the date of his joining the post. The said period ends on 30 September 2007. The Secretariat proposes that Dr Y S Yadava may be considered for reappointment to the post of Director, BOBP-IGO for second term of three years at the existing terms and conditions. A note received from Dr Yadava requesting the Governing Council to consider the reappointment is submitted separately.

Senior Programme Advisor: The post of Senior Programme Advisor was filled up w.e.f 11.5.2005 by appointing Dr Tabrez Nasar for a period of three years. However, Dr Nasar resigned from the post w.e.f 23 October 2006. It is proposed to fill up the said post by appointing a suitable candidate from the member-countries. The advertisement indicating the qualification and other requirement of the post is placed in *Annex*.

The Governing Council may consider the two proposals and give its consent for the reappointment of Dr Y S Yadava to the post of Director, BOBP-IGO and advertisement of the post of Senior Programme Advisor.

C. Secondment from Member-Countries:

The BOBP-IGO has so far been running with a small complement of staff. However, there are so many programme ideas and needs that require a larger strength of technical people. Given the scope of the Organisation's budget, it is also difficult to hire full time additional Professional staff. This issue was discussed in the first meeting of the Governing Council, wherein it was suggested that the BOBP-IGO may engage consultants as and when need arises. This was a good suggestion. However, it was later discussed in the Second Meeting of the Governing Council and also in the two meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that consultants may serve the purpose but effectively do not contribute to the human resource development (HRD) of the national governments.

Keeping the above in mind the Secretariat proposed to have a few more people on board by requesting the member countries to depute staff on "secondment". This will not only add to the much needed human resource capacities of the BOBP-IGO but will also ensure diversity in the perspectives of the programmes as it will be represented by technical staffs from each of the member-countries.

What is proposed is to (a) identify programme priorities; (b) identify a person from each of the member-countries who would be appropriate for that particular need; and (c) depute them to be stationed at the BOBP-IGO headquarters at Chennai, India.

The proposed deputation or 'secondment' period would be from 12 to 18 months and if there is a need for the individual to stay back for a longer period, it can be done so with the mutual consent between the BOBP-IGO and the concerned member-country. In the case of the person leaving in 12 or 18 months, another person will replace him/ her so that the continuity is maintained.

It is expected that the person being seconded to BOBP-IGO will continue receiving the full benefits of his/ her service including full salaries from his/ her home country. In addition to this, the BOBP-IGO will top it up with a modest package that will take care of the day-to-day living of the individual and his/ her family in a city like Chennai. Such packages will range from US \$ 9 000 to 12 000 per annum and would depend on the qualification, experience and position of the seconded staff in the home country.

The purpose of this idea is three folds; (a) it will fill in the much needed human resources capacity at BOBP-IGO; (b) it will serve as a capacity building strategy for the member-countries; and (c) will become a strong basis for networking between and amongst member-countries and the Secretariat.

The Governing Council may like to further consider the proposal and suggest suitable approaches for secondment of staff to the Secretariat.

D. Provision of Living Allowances:

Article E of the "Employment Conditions" in the document BOBP/INF/18 states thus:

"During discussion of Study of Employment Conditions it was pointed out that a flat sum of US \$ 500 annual as living allowance might not be adequate. It is likely that if numerous government staff is to be seconded, family circumstances will be too varied to be covered adequately by a single figure. It is suggested that some experience be gained and adjustments be made on that basis. The amount could serve as a minimum."

While the above is true for staff seconded from other member-countries, it also stands true for staff seconded from the host country, that is, India. For that matter, this also applies to any staffs that are local (from India) but do not have a house or residence in Chennai and live in a rented house.

As such, it is being proposed that:

- (i) A minimum of at least 20 percent of the present salary of any staff but not exceeding the actual rental may be given in lieu of living allowances to all staff who are either from outside of Chennai or do not own a house in Chennai;
- (ii) A minimum of 10 percent of the present salary of any staff who has a permanent residence of his/ her own, be given as living costs towards the up keep and maintenance of the housing unit.

The Governing Council may like to consider the proposal as contained in paras (i) and (ii) above.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE POST OF
SENIOR PROGRAMME ADVISER, BOBP-IGO**

The key responsibilities of the Senior Programme Adviser of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) will be development, coordination and oversight of various projects and programmes in the framework of the mandate of BOBP-IGO and will be based in Chennai, India. He/ she will be responsible for the implementation of the Organisation's objectives with special emphasis on programme development and management.

Qualifications:

- a national of a Member-Country* of BOBP-IGO;
- above forty (40) and below fifty-four (54) years of age as on
- education level equivalent to a Master's Degree in Fisheries, Marine Biology, Environmental Sciences, Natural Resources Economics, or related field;
- a minimum period of 7 years (for Ph D) and 10 years (for Masters Degree) in positions of responsibility at national/ international level in programme development and management, with sound experience in international/ regional development;
- strong experience as a team leader and/ or coordinator of various field-based projects, trainings and publications and communications related projects and programmes;
- ability to manage a complex workload and to work on own initiative with limited supervision;
- sound oversight and management experience of web-based information management systems and ICT;
- fluency in both written and spoken English;
- sound health and willingness to travel locally and internationally.

Duration of Appointment will be **three years** from the date of joining the position. He/ she shall be eligible for reappointment for another term, if necessary.

Salary and Benefits are commensurate with internationally recruited positions in similar organisations and as specified in the rules and regulations of the Organisation. The Senior Programme Advisor's scale presently carries a net salary per year from US \$ 12 000 to US \$ 14 700.

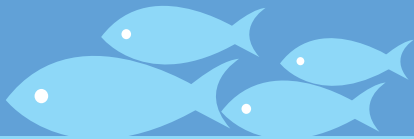
Applications containing full curriculum vitae and the names of three professional referees should be addressed to:

Director
Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
91, St Mary's Road, Abhiramapuram
Chennai – 600 018
Tamil Nadu, India
Tel: # 91 44 24936188; Fax: # 91 44 24936102
Email: bobpysy@md2.vsnl.net.in; yugraj.yadava@bobpigo.org

Closing Date for receipt of applications is Applications can also be sent on the email mentioned above.

BOBP-IGO is an equal opportunity employer

* *Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka*



**BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION**

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