



***Report of the
Fourth Meeting of the
Governing Council***



**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

6 - 7 May 2008
Dhaka, Bangladesh

This document records the report of the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). The meeting was held on 6 - 7 May 2008, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The document contains a Progress Report of the BOBP-IGO for the period April 2007 - March 2008 and Workplan for the period April 2008 - March 2009. It also contains the Report of the Third 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.

This document should be cited as:

Anonymous, 2008: Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, Chennai, India. 60p.

Contents

Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council	5
Appendix	
A List of Delegates	13
B Agenda and Timetable	15
C List of Documents	16
D Report on the Activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (April 2007 - March 2008)	17
<i>Annexure I</i>	24
<i>Annexure II</i>	27
E Report on the Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (28 - 29 March 2008, Beruwala, Sri Lanka)	28
F Proposed Programmes and Activities	38
<i>Annexure I</i>	41
<i>Annexure II</i>	42
<i>Annexure III</i>	43
G Regional Programmes/ Activities/ Issues of Topical Importance	44
H Administrative Matters	55



Sitting (L-R): Mr M K R Nair, Mr G Piyasena, Mr Manik Lal Samaddar, Dr Abdulla Naseer, Mr Syed Ataur Rahman.

Standing (L-R): Cdr Afazur Rahman Chowdhury, Mr Md Moniruzzaman, Dr V S Somvanshi, Dr Y S Yadava, Guest, Mr Rafiqul Islam, Mr P D Chowdhury, Mr Rajdeep Mukherjee.

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 6 - 7 May 2008. The Governing Council Meeting (GCM) was attended by representatives of the four member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka), an observer from the WorldFish Center and 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 a recitation of the Holy *Quran*. Mr Manik Lal Samaddar, Hon'ble Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest and chaired the Inaugural Session. Mr Syed Aatur Rahman, Secretary, MoFL, Special Guest; Mr Parikshit Datta Choudhury, Joint Secretary, MoFL; and Mr Rafiqul Islam, Director General, Department of Fisheries (DoF) attended the Inaugural Session, along with senior officials from the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, DoF, the Bangladesh Coast Guard, and representatives from industry and the media.

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 Bangladesh for having agreed to host the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council.

He placed on record his thanks to Mr Manik Lal Samaddar and Mr Syed Aatur Rahman for their support in organizing the meeting. He said that the Fourth Meeting of the BOBP-IGO is being held at a time when the Organisation has completed five years of existence as an Inter-Governmental Body. Dr Yadava said that within a short period of time the BOBP-IGO has established itself as a regional fisheries body of repute and is now well-recognized in the international fisheries arena. The Organisation has established effective relations with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, USA, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and several other international organisations. He thanked the member-countries for their support to take forward the aims and objectives of the BOBP-IGO.

Dr Yadava said that global marine fisheries is passing through a crisis for variety of reasons, ranging from anthropogenic impacts to climate change to excess fishing capacity. He urged member-countries to harness all available expertise and management capacity, and further foster regional cooperation to address the complex problems of the marine fisheries sector. Concluding, Dr Yadava thanked the Government of Bangladesh for the excellent hospitality and courtesies extended to the delegates and to BOBP-IGO Secretariat staff.

4.0 Welcoming the delegates, Mr Rafiqul Islam, Director General, DoF, extended a hearty welcome to the delegates. He said that the fisheries sector plays an important role in providing food and employment security in Bangladesh. The sector contributes about 5.3 percent of the GDP and in terms of foreign exchange earnings, ranks next to the garment industry. However, most marine fishers are poor and lack significant fishing assets.

Mr Islam said there are some 40 000 mechanised fishing boats in Bangladesh, most of which are unregistered. He referred to the 'knowledge gap' among fishers about sea safety measures and weather conditions and about choosing the right fishing gear. This knowledge gap affects their well-being.

Recollecting the activities of the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) in Bangladesh, Mr Islam said that the Programme carried out important developmental works in the marine fisheries sector. During its three decades of existence, BOBP has proved the utility of regional cooperation. He hoped that the BOBP-IGO would review past work and continue to carry out developmental activities, adopting a people-oriented approach to solve local problems. He wished success to the Fourth GCM.

5.0 Mr Abdulla Naseer, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources, Government of Maldives and the current Chairman of the Governing Council, thanked the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the Fourth GCM and for the warm hospitality and courtesies extended to delegates. He expressed his wish to meet fishers of Bangladesh and learn about their situation. He complimented the BOBP-

IGO for key activities carried out over the past years. He said that member-countries should discuss problems in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) region and should be aware of emerging issues. Dr Naseer called for collective thinking to address such issues. He hoped that the deliberations in the Fourth GCM would be successful in addressing such issues.

6.0 Mr Syed Ataur Rahman expressed his deep concern and sympathy for the victims of cyclone Nargis that hit the coastal areas of Myanmar on 04 May 2008. He said that Myanmar is not at present a member of the BOBP-IGO, but we must find ways and means to help Myanmar during this emergency. Mr Rahman also expressed his deep sorrow for the victims of cyclone SIDR that devastated lives and livelihoods in the southern coastal districts of Bangladesh, especially in the Barisal region. He said that the poor and small-scale fishers of that region are still struggling to resume normal life. He expressed his gratitude to those who reached out to the poor and the suffering, to those who lost their livelihoods, and are now gradually recovering from the cyclone damage.

Welcoming the dignitaries and the delegates, Mr Rahman said that at the Third Meeting of the GCM held in Malé, Maldives, Bangladesh had offered to host the next meeting of the GCM. It was his great pleasure to organize the Fourth GCM in Bangladesh. He said that even though Bangladesh has vast fisheries resources in the BoB, the country is yet to realize optimum yields from its aquatic wealth. He called for collective action by BOBP-IGO member-countries to obtain the maximum output from the resources of the BoB in a sustainable manner. He hoped that during the present meeting of the Governing Council, members' recommendations would be accepted so that the objectives of sustainable development and management of the fisheries resources of the Bay could be achieved.

Recalling the activities of the Organisation during the last year, Mr Rahman complimented the BOBP-IGO Secretariat for initiating work on preparing a management plan for hilsa fisheries, one of the most popular commercial fish species of Bangladesh. He said that for better management of the fisheries resources of the BoB, Myanmar should be brought into the fold of the BOBP-IGO. The decision could be taken at the present meeting.

Mr Rahman expressed his satisfaction over the National Workshop on 'Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fishers' in Chittagong organized in January 2008. He said that safety at sea is vitally important issue for the government since the lives of poor fishermen depend on it. He hoped that the Secretariat would implement the outcomes of the Workshop.

Mr Rahman observed that shrimp fisheries play an important economic role in the economy of the southern districts of Bangladesh. However, in recent years, the shrimp fisheries sector faces a spate of problems, including a debate on its environmental impacts. Diseases threaten the shrimp farming sector. Mr Rahman called for assistance from the BOBP-IGO in implementing activities for environment-friendly shrimp cultivation. He thanked the delegates who had come to Bangladesh to attend the GCM, and wished them a very pleasant and memorable stay in the historical city of Dhaka.

7.0 In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest, Mr Manik Lal Samaddar, extended his hearty welcome to the delegates and said that he was delighted to be here. Mr Samaddar expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the victims of cyclone Nargis, which had recently caused unprecedented loss of life and property in Myanmar.

Mr Samaddar said that the BoB is an integral part of the countries surrounding the Bay. It is a valuable resource in terms of food, trade, and employment and also in terms of its rich biodiversity, which supports a wide range of flora and fauna. Bangladesh possesses one of the world's longest stretches of beach in the Cox' Bazaar area. Large quantities of fish are harvested annually from the BoB and some 20 million people engage directly or indirectly in the trade, said Mr Samaddar.

Fisheries and aquaculture play a vital role in the economy of the four BOBP-IGO member-countries. However, due to unsustainable fishing practices, the marine fish production is either stagnating or recording nominal growth in comparison to population growth in the region. Aquaculture has limitations due to the limited water area. On the other hand, marine resources offer great potential. In Bangladesh, the fisheries sector is very important as it contributes 5.43 percent to the Gross Domestic Product, said Mr Samaddar.

Commenting on the contributions of the BOBP-IGO, Mr Samaddar said the organisation has played an important role in popularizing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. It has also initiated activities in the field of monitoring, control and surveillance. The GCM should further enhance regional cooperation in the fisheries sector and work together for a common goal. The GCM is the highest regional forum. With its experience, it will be able to adopt recommendations which will help in the sustainable management and development of coastal fisheries resources in the BoB region. In conclusion, Mr Samaddar said that the BOBP-IGO should now explore the possibility of including other countries engaged in exploitation of the resources of the BoB, as their inclusion in the Organisation would strengthen sustainable development of marine fisheries in the region. Wishing successful deliberations, he declared the Fourth GCM open.

8.0 Mr Parikshit Datta Choudhury, Joint Secretary, MoFL proposed a vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Special Assistant for attending the Inaugural Session of the Fourth GCM. He thanked the Secretary, MoFL, for his support and guidance; the Chairman, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council; the distinguished delegates and other dignitaries for attending the Inaugural Session of the GCM. He also thanked the Director General, DoF and his officials for facilitating the meeting arrangements. He wished the delegates a pleasant and enjoyable stay in Dhaka.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

10.0 Dr Abdulla Naseer opened the floor for the election of the new chairperson. Mr M K R Nair, Fisheries Development Commissioner, India proposed the name of Bangladesh to chair the Fourth GCM. The proposal was seconded by Mr G Piyasena, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Sri Lanka. This was unanimously agreed upon.

11.0 Dr Naseer in his closing remarks thanked the Governing Council and the BOBP-IGO Secretariat for providing the support to him during his tenure as chairperson of the Governing Council. He expressed deep sympathy for families of victims of the recent cyclone in Myanmar.

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

13.0 In his introductory remarks, Mr Syed Aatur Rahman, Secretary, MoFL, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, thanked the delegates for electing Bangladesh to chair the Fourth GCM. He requested the Director, BOBP-IGO, to present the Report of the Organisation for the period April 2007 to March 2008. This Report is attached as ***Appendix D***.

Report of the BOBP-IGO (April 2007 - March 2008)

14.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, presented the report for period April 2007 to March 2008. At the outset he explained the background and rationale for the programmes undertaken by the Organisation.

Dr Yadava said that the BoB is a tropical ecosystem in a monsoon belt. Marine fisheries are a lifeline in the coastal areas of member-countries, particularly in Maldives where it is one of the pillars of the economy. He added that the BOBP-IGO countries constitute a major claim to the resources of BoB, owing to their large population and relatively productive marine waters. These countries rank among the world's poor. Their resource base for implementing an effective management system for marine fisheries is low.

Presenting the capture fisheries statistics of member-countries, Dr Yadava said that the growth pattern over the decade shows a general slowdown, except in the Maldives. 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. Further decline of fisheries would severely impact the livelihood security, food availability and national economies of the BoB countries.

15.0 Dr Yadava then presented a detailed account of the status of various activities undertaken by the BOBP-IGO during the period under consideration. These activities relate to the South Asia Component of the Global Project on 'Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries (*GCP/GLO/200/MUL*)' implemented by the FAO

(Fisheries Industries Division) through the BOBP-IGO; the Fisheries Resource Management Programmes, which include organization of the Regional Workshop on 'Monitoring, Control and Surveillance for Marine Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal; and two Regional Consultations for Preparation of Management Plans for Hilsa and Shark Fisheries; Capacity Building and Information Services, which includes translation of the Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) into Bangla, Dhivehi, Sinhala, Telugu and Oriya; publication of theme-based annual calendars, laminated placards on safety at sea, the quarterly newsletter *Bay of Bengal News*, and digitization of the visual archives of the Organisation, etc.

Dr Yadava also informed the GCM about the other supporting activities implemented by the Organisation during the year. These activities include assistance provided to 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 Thailand'; collaboration with the UNDP and the Government of Orissa, India, in preparing a report on 'Development of Marine Fisheries and Post-harvest Sectors in Orissa'; and the Secretariat's participation in the virtual conferences of the Consortium to Restore Shattered Livelihoods of Communities in Tsunami-affected Nations (CONSRN), which operates from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand; an Expert Consultation on 'Low Cost Fisheries Management Strategies and Cost Recovery' held at Georgetown, Guyana from 4 - 7 September 2007; and a Technical Consultation on the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep Sea Fisheries in the High Seas, held in Rome, Italy, 4 - 8 February 2008.

16.0 Opening the floor for discussions on the Report, the chairman complimented the Organisation for making significant contributions during the year.

17.0 Mr G Piyasena, delegate from Sri Lanka, complimented the BOBP-IGO for the work done during the reported year. He said that safety at sea is an important issue for his country. It is engaging the BOBP-IGO in various ways to take forward implementation of safety at sea programmes. He thanked the BOBP-IGO Secretariat, the FAO and the other member-countries who have supported initiation of safety at sea activities in the region.

18.0 The delegate from Maldives, Dr Naseer, appreciated the work carried out by the BOBP-IGO. He said that the Government of Maldives and he in his personal capacity, worked closely with the BOBP-IGO towards implementation of the programmes. He said that the safety at sea requirements of Maldives are unique in the sense that there are no serious accidents or mortalities at sea. Maldivian fishers have by tradition mastered the art of fishing. Fishing boats in the Maldives are also different from those of other member-countries, as most of them are well-equipped. However, with the fast modernization of the fishing fleet, it is increasingly felt that working knowledge on the use of various communication and navigation equipment is weak. This area needs strengthening to make fishing safer and more sustainable. The Safety at Sea Project should include such training aspects in its activities in Maldives. This would help bridge the existing knowledge gap, and also enable fishers to go out for multi-day fishing, as opposed to the single-day fishing in vogue now.

Dr Naseer mentioned the increasing incidences of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing in the Maldivian waters. He said that fishers often report the presence of IUU fishing vessels at close quarters, which have an important bearing on their safety and security. Due to the large size of the Exclusive Economic Zone, it is difficult for their Coast Guard to patrol the entire area. He urged the Governing Council to consider the issue of illegal fishing within the context of the BOBP-IGO and suggested that member-countries should work closely on this issue.

19.0 Mr M K R Nair, delegate from India, complimented the Director of BOBP-IGO for the excellent accomplishments during the year. Expressing his grief over the loss of life and property in Myanmar due to cyclone Nargis, Mr Nair said that the BOBP-IGO may consider some timely interventions. He enquired about funding arrangements for the Safety at Sea Project, and observed that the programmes being implemented by the BOBP-IGO do not seem to include many gender-centric activities. As women perform important roles in the marine fisheries sector, he urged the Secretariat to consider this aspect. Dr V S Somvanshi, delegate from India, said that statutory measures are needed to support the Safety at Sea Project. The standards aimed at under the Project cannot be sustained in a statutory void, he said.

20.0 Mr Rafiqul Islam, delegate from Bangladesh, suggested that the CCRF should be adapted to the needs of member-countries. He expressed his concern over IUU fishing, and emphasized on the need for effective monitoring, control and surveillance in the marine waters.

21.0 While acknowledging the good work done by the Secretariat, the chairperson suggested that the Secretariat may consider taking up more activities for which additional funds could be mobilized. He also suggested that the Secretariat may prepare a mission and vision statement for the next five years for the Organisation and place it for approval at the next meeting of the Governing Council. This should include a strategic action plan for implementation of the Organisation's activities.

22.0 Dr Giasuddin Khan, Observer representing the WorldFish Center, thanked the BOBP-IGO for inviting his Organisation to take part in the Fourth GCM. Dr Khan said that he was honoured to be present in the GCM. Complimenting the BOBP-IGO for the excellent work done despite time and human resource constraints, he said that Bangladeshi fishers are more vulnerable to risks at sea than others; the minimum safety requirements on board fishing vessels should be promoted at the earliest. He also supported the need for adaptation of the CCRF, and said that a country-specific approach may be useful in proper implementation of the Code.

Referring to the work of the former BOBP, Dr Khan said that it had passed through three phases and carried out important activities. He suggested that these activities be reviewed to see whether some of the recommendations made earlier were still valid. If so, it might be advisable to pursue those recommendations also. He said that basic studies on the health of the fish stocks are very important. The historical trends in fish production should be analysed to plan for the future growth of the marine fisheries in the region. Such analyses will also form a base for the development of the proposed mission and vision statements and the strategic action plan, said Dr Khan.

23.0 The delegate from Sri Lanka, Mr Piyasena said that the proposed legislation for boat construction norms is being finalized for presentation to the Parliament. The Government proposes to convene a stakeholder consultation in this connection, and BOBP-IGO's assistance will be required to facilitate the process. He also observed that many important fishery resources have depleted rapidly in the coastal waters of the region. There is an urgent need for a specific management plan for such resources. The Canadian International Development Agency is helping Sri Lanka in preparing management plans for a few important fin and shell fish species, but more species need to be included in the ambit of management plans. The BOBP-IGO can provide technical inputs for such plans in association with the FAO. The delegate also mentioned that fisherwomen play an important role in augmenting the family income; their role and scope should be identified. He further said that Sri Lanka fully endorses the proposed mission and vision statement and formulation of the strategic action plan.

24.0 The delegate from Maldives (Dr Naseer) said that the BOBP-IGO is doing an excellent job given the manpower and funds at its disposal. He said that the Dhivehi version of the CCRF, translated by the BOBP-IGO, was used extensively during the stakeholder consultations to finalise the new fisheries legislation of the country. Each and every participant at the Consultation was provided with a copy of the Code. He also concurred with the idea of the mission and vision statement and the strategic action plan for the Organisation. He said that member-countries should guide the Secretariat in preparing the proposed road map, which was to be submitted to the Governing Council at its next meeting. The archives of the former BOBP and the documentation created by the BOBP-IGO should be put to maximum use, said Dr Naseer.

25.0 Dr V S Somvanshi, delegate from India, complimented the Secretariat for the good work done during the year. He was pleased that programmes conducted by the Secretariat were looking at the (i) safety of fishers (ii) fishing boat construction and (iii) the fish stocks. He suggested that the Secretariat may now look into possible ways and means for integrating the outcomes of such programmes into the policy documents and into legislation and making suggestions to member-countries.

26.0 Responding to the queries of member-countries, the Director of the BOBP-IGO said that the objectives of assimilating the principles of CCRF would be addressed in two stages. The first stage is to familiarize and popularize the document among stakeholders by circulating translated versions of the main Code and its Technical Guidelines. Adapting the Code to meet local requirements should be attempted in the second stage.

About gender-focus activities, he said that the Secretariat proposes to conduct detailed studies on the role of women in fisheries. He requested member-countries to identify women consultants who could be assigned for the proposed study. He also referred to the suggestions of the GCM on possible interventions in the cyclone-affected areas of Myanmar. He proposed that the BOBP-IGO contact the concerned agency in the Government of Myanmar for suggestions about possible technical inputs from BOBP-IGO, if required.

27.0 Concluding the discussions on the Agenda item, the chair observed that BOBP-IGO had undertaken voluminous and important activities for the development of marine fisheries in the reported year. With these observations, the Governing Council accepted the report of the Secretariat for the period April 2007 - March 2008.

Report on the Third Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

28.0 The Secretariat presented the Report on the Third Meeting of the TAC held at Beruwala, Sri Lanka, on 28 - 29 March, 2008, which is attached as ***Appendix E***.

29.0 Dr Khan from the WorldFish Center enquired about the partnership with other organisations/ projects like the South East Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) who are engaged in the marine fisheries sector in the region. The Director, BOBP-IGO, said in reply that discussions have been going on with SEAFDEC on various activities. But the BOBLME is not fully functional yet. The Secretariat welcomed the suggestion of cooperation among organisations based in the region.

30.0 Commenting on the priorities of Bangladesh regarding stock assessment, the delegate from Bangladesh said that his country, with funding support received from the Islamic Development Bank and the Government of Malaysia, is preparing for stock assessment. This would be completed within two years. The delegate from India suggested that the Fishery Survey of India could consider helping in the stock assessment programme through various arrangements, which can be agreed to by the countries on a bi-lateral or multi-lateral basis. The BOBP-IGO can facilitate such a process. The observer from the WorldFish Center suggested that capacity-building in stock assessment is vital and this suggestion should be taken up on a priority basis.

Role of Technical Advisory Committee

31.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, said that the Governing Council at its Third Meeting discussed the role of the TAC. It recommended that the Secretariat make a thorough assessment of the TAC mandate and functions and present the same to the Governing Council at its next meeting. The issue was accordingly raised in the Third Meeting of TAC, wherein it was suggested that the TAC may *inter alia* play the following roles:

- (i) develop the work plan for the Organisation,
- (ii) suggest policy recommendations to the Governing Council and
- (iii) identify emerging issues in the fisheries sector.

In general, the TAC members were satisfied with the functions of the TAC and also appreciated the task accomplished by the TAC in its three meetings and the inter-sessional discussions held with the Secretariat from time to time. The members were also of the view that the BOBP-IGO is about five years old and it may be premature to examine the role of TAC at this juncture. Such reviews can be conducted after a period of 10 - 15 years. The Bangladesh delegate suggested that in their case the representation of the Department of Fisheries may be more appropriate than the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute and the Secretariat may refer this suggestion to the GCM.

32.0 The Governing Council agreed to the recommendations of the TAC and concluded that the present representation of technical and research organisations in TAC may continue. However, the review of the role of the TAC may be taken up after a period of five years and not as proposed by the TAC. With these observations, the Governing Council accepted the Report of the Third Meeting of the TAC presented by the Secretariat.

Presentation of Programme and activities for the year April 2008 - March 2009

33.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, presented the proposed programme and activities for the year April 2008 - March, 2009, which is attached as **Appendix F**. Brief presentations were also made on identified regional programmes/ activities/ issues of topical importance and the same are attached as **Appendix G**. The work plan proposed that BOBP-IGO would continue with its capacity-building and resource management activities. Further, the Secretariat will carry out two scoping studies on management of small-scale tuna fisheries and management of tiger shrimp fisheries and four new studies on alternative livelihoods, impact of fuel price hike on marine fisheries sector, impact of climate change on marine fisheries and capacity-building for improving food safety in the marine fisheries sector. In addition, the Organisation will prepare a vision and mission document and a strategic action plan to be presented in the next meeting of the GCM.

Replying to the proposed programme and activities by the Secretariat, the GCM agreed to the following changes in the activities:

- (i) For Fisherfolk Week celebrations, the Secretariat will prepare documentaries on developmental issues relevant to the needs of each member-country.
- (ii) On the engagement of local consultants, the process shall be initiated in consultation with the focal points in each member-country.
- (iii) In the proposed study on 'Impact of Fuel Price Hike on Marine Fisheries', a component on the impact on consumers and remedial measures may be included in the study.
- (iv) The Secretariat may develop a base paper on 'Preparation of National Plans of Action on IUU Fishing'.

Administrative Matters

34.0 The Secretariat presented the report of the Auditors for the financial years 2005 and 2006, which were accepted by the Governing Council.

35.0 The Governing Council examined the new panel of auditors proposed by the Secretariat and unanimously approved M/s Varadarajan & Co, Chartered Accountants, #68, 1st Main Road, CIT Nagar, Nandanam, Chennai 600 035, Tamil Nadu, to serve as auditors for the BOBP-IGO for 2007 and 2008.

36.0 The Governing Council agreed to the terms of reference proposed for the post of Senior Programme Advisor. It suggested that the Secretariat should give wide circulation to the vacancy announcement, and write to member-countries for circulation within the ministries/ departments and their constituent agencies/ organisations/ institutions.

37.0 The Governing Council also agreed to the proposal of the Secretariat to recruit a Policy Analyst, who would support the Organisation in implementation of the new programmes. It was informed that the position of Policy Analyst was part of the organisational structure earlier approved for the Secretariat. The GCM approved the terms of reference proposed for the post of Policy Analyst. It suggested that the Secretariat should give wide circulation about the vacancy, and write to member-countries for circulating it within the ministries/ departments and their constituent agencies/ organisations/ institutions.

38.0 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. The member-countries would then propose name(s) of eligible candidates who could be considered by the Secretariat for appointment.

39.0 The Governing Council considered the proposals submitted by the Secretariat for (i) applying a fixed conversion rate for calculating the payment of salary, (ii) increase in dependency allowance and (iii) provision of living allowance for staff recruited from the host country *i.e.* India. After discussing various options, the Governing Council unanimously agreed on the following:

- (i) The US \$/ INR conversion rate as on 01 January 2007 will be taken into account by the Secretariat for calculating the salaries of staff recruited from the host country.

- (ii) A dependency allowance of US \$ 350 per annum will be admissible for all entitled staff of the Organisation.
- (iii) A living allowance restricted to US \$ 500 per annum for Level 1 and General Duty Staff; US \$ 750 for Level 2 staff and US \$ 1 000 for Level 3 staff will be admissible.

Detailed notes on the Administrative matters are attached as **Appendix H**.

Other Matters

40.0 The Governing Council discussed the growth of the Organisation and suggested that in future the BOBP-IGO may also play the role of a management advisory body in the region for sustainable development of fish stocks in the Bay of Bengal. In this regard, it was suggested that the Secretariat may prepare a note along with the proposed organizational structure for meeting the aims and objectives of such a role and present it to the next meeting of the Governing Council.

41.0 The Governing Council unanimously agreed that Myanmar should be requested to join the BOBP-IGO. In this regard, the Governing Council also requested the Government of India to take a lead on behalf of the BOBP-IGO member-countries in using its diplomatic channels to request the Government of Myanmar to join the BOBP-IGO.

Date and Place of the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council

42.0 The Governing Council accepted the kind offer of the delegation of India to host the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council during early 2009. The date and venue would be decided by the Secretariat in consultation with the Government of India.

Adoption of the Report

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

44.0 The Chairperson in his concluding remarks appreciated the active participation of the delegates, and declared the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council closed.

45.0 The Report of the Governing Council was adopted on 07 May 2007.

List of Delegates

Bangladesh

Mr Syed Aatur Rahman

Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka – 1000, Bangladesh
Tel No: + 8802 7161407 (O)
Fax No: + 8802 7161117

Mr Rafiqul Islam

Director General
Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Matsya Bhaban, 13, Shaheed Capt Mansur Ali Sarani
Ramna, Dhaka - 1000, Bangladesh
Tel No: + 8802 9561383 (O)
Fax No: +8802 9562861
Email: dg@fisheries.gov.bd

India

Mr M K R Nair

Fisheries Development Commissioner
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001, India
Tel No: + 91 11 23386379
Fax No: + 91 11 23384030
Mobile: + 986 8222988
Email: fdc@nic.in; m.k.r.nair@lycos.com

Dr VS Somvanshi

Director General
Fishery Survey of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Botawala Chambers, Sir PM Road, Fort
Mumbai – 400 001, Maharashtra, India
Tel: + 91 22 22617101
Fax: + 91 22 22702270
Mobile: + 944 7781860
Email: Somvanshi@rediffmail.com

Maldives

Dr Abdulla Naseer

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture & Marine Resources
Ghazee Bulding
Malé, Republic of Maldives
Tel No: + 96 03 322625
Fax No: + 96 03 326558
Email: abdulla.naseer@fishagri.gov.mv

Sri Lanka

Mr G Piyasena

Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
New Secretariat
Maligawatta, Colombo - 10, Sri Lanka
Tele No: + 94 11 2446183 - 5
Fax No: + 94 11 2541184

The WorldFish Centre

Dr Giasuddin Khan

The WorldFish Center –
Bangladesh Office
Mail: House 22B, Road 7, Block-F
Banani, Dhaka 1213, Bangladesh
Tele No: + 88 02 881 3250
Fax No: + 88 02 881 4624
Email: G.Khan@cgiar.org

Bay of Bengal Programme

Dr Y S Yadava

Director
Bay of Bengal Programme
Inter- Governmental Organisation
91, St Mary's Road, Abhiramapuram
Chennai - 600 018, Tamil Nadu, India
Tel: + 91 44 24936294, 24936188 (O)
+ 91 44 24462875 (R)
Mobile: + 984 1042235
Fax: + 91 44 24936102
Email: Yugraj.Yadava@bobbigo.org;
bobbpsy@md2.vsnl.net.in

Mr S Jayaraj

Publication Officer
Bay of Bengal Programme
Inter- Governmental Organisation
91, St Mary's Road, Abhiramapuram
Chennai - 600 018, Tamil Nadu, India
Tel: + 91 44 24936294, 24936188 (O)
Mobile: + 9840265685
Fax: + 91 44 24936102
Email: s.jayaraj@bobbigo.org;
sjayaraj99@hotmail.com

Mr Rajdeep Mukherjee

Research Associate
Bay of Bengal Programme
Inter- Governmental Organisation
91, St Mary's Road, Abhiramapuram
Chennai - 600 018, Tamil Nadu, India
Tel: + 91 44 24936294, 24936188 (O)
Mobile: + 9884549765
Fax: + 91 44 24936102
Email: rmukherjee@bobbigo.org

Agenda and Timetable

Tuesday, 6 May 2008

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: April 2007 - March 2008
5. Report on the Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO
6. Proposed Programmes and Activities: April 2008 - March 2009

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

7. Proposed Programmes and Activities contd....
8. Administrative Matters
9. Any Other Matter
10. Date and Place of the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council

Wednesday, 7 May 2008

Morning, 1030 hrs

11. Adoption of the Report
12. Close of Meeting

List of Documents

A. Working Documents

BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/2	Report on BOBP-IGO Activities: April 2007 – March 2008.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/3	Report of the Second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/4	Proposed Programmes and Activities: April 2008 - March 2009.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/5	Administrative Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Auditors • Proposal for selection of new Auditor • Advertisement for the posts of Senior Programme Advisor • Advertisement for the posts of Policy Analyst • Secondment from Member-Countries • Provision for Living Allowances, etc

B. Information Documents

BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 1	Provisional List of Documents.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 2	Programme.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 3	Provisional List of Participants.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 4	Report of the Third Meeting of the Governing Council. BOBP/REP/103, 2007. pp. 44.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 5	Taking the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to the Grassroots. BOBP/ REP/106, 2007. pp.14.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2007/Inf. 6	Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries in Developing Countries – Report from the Baseline Study in India, 17 November - 1 December 2007. pp.59.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2007/Inf.7	Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries in Developing Countries – Report from the Baseline Study in Sri Lanka, 6-14 December 2007. pp.30.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2007/Inf.8	Report of the Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, 16-18 January 2008, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2007/Inf.9	Report of the Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries, 14-16 March 2008, Barrackpore (Kolkata), India.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2007/Inf.10	Report of the Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries, 24-26 March 2008, Beruwala, Sri Lanka.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 11	Table and wall calendar on ‘Safety at Sea’ theme.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 12	Laminated placards on issues concerning ‘Safety at Sea’.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 13	Booklet on Inland Fisheries in Bangla language.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 14	Bay of Bengal News, Vol. IV No 12, June 2007. pp. 40.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2007/Inf. 15	A set of 12 Posters on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Bangla, Dhivehi and Telugu languages.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 16	Provisional Itinerary of Participants.
BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 17	Registration Form.

Report on the Activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (April 2007 - March 2008)

A. Background and Rationale

1.0 The Bay of Bengal (BoB) is located in 23° N to 12° N latitude and 80° E to 93° E longitude and covers a total area of 3 660 127 km². It is a tropical ecosystem in a monsoon belt, bounded on the south by the Indian Ocean and surrounded to the north by the Asian continent. Marine fisheries are a lifeline in the coastal areas of the member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), particularly in the Maldives where it is one of the basic pillars of the economy. The marine resources profile of the BOBP-IGO member-countries is given in Table 1.

2.0 The BoB is exploited by 08 countries surrounding the Bay: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. Other countries like Japan, Taiwan, Korea (South) and Australia also exploit the resources of the BoB. During the period 1950 to 2005, fish landing in BoB region increased from 0.91 million tonnes in 1950 to 5.16 million tonnes in 2005, recording a CAGR of 3.18 percent (Figure 1).

3.0 However, decadal break-up of the growth trend shows a slowdown since 1970s. Among the countries there is considerable variation in the development of capture fishery (Table 2). Overall, for the period 1950-2005, Maldives has recorded the highest rate of growth (5.30%) among the BOBP-IGO countries followed by Sri Lanka (4.38%), India (3.21%) and Bangladesh (2.76%). Decade-wise break up shows that there is a slowdown in production in India and Sri Lanka. Maldives has passed through a slowdown phase in the 1970s. Since then the capture fishery in the country is growing over the long-term growth rate for the period 1950-2005. Nearly the same pattern of development can be seen in Bangladesh also. As per contribution in total fish landings, India (67%) and Bangladesh (25%) comprises the majority.

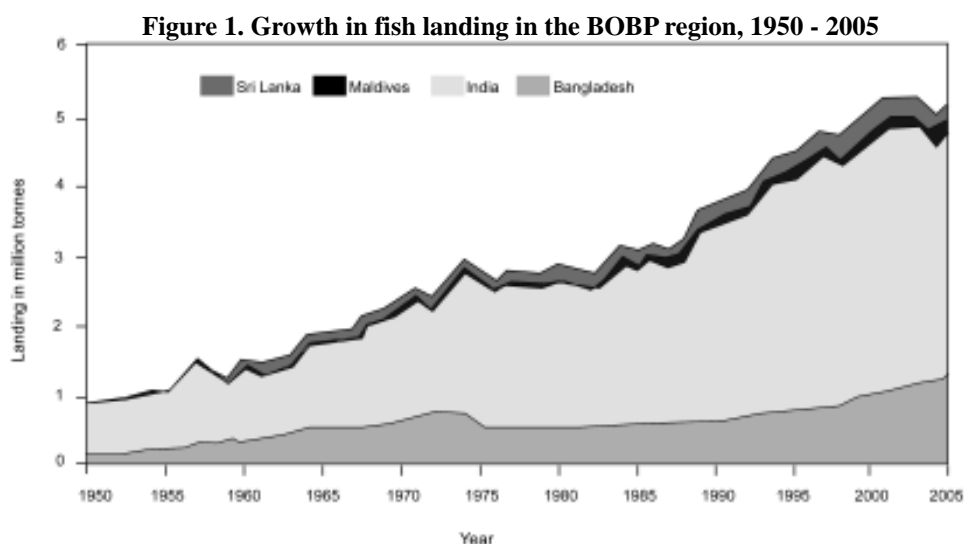


Table 1: Marine profile of the BOBP-IGO member-countries

Profile	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Area	143 998 km ²	3.29 million km ²	90 000 km ²	65 610 km ²
Shelf area (to 200 m)	66 400 km ²	0.53 million km ² approximately	—	27 800 km ²
Exclusive economic zone	41 040 sq. nautical miles	2.02 million km ²	1 000 000 km ²	517 000 km ²
Length of coastline	710 km	8 118 km	an archipelago of approx. 1200 islands	1 770 km

4.0 The BOBP-IGO countries constitute a major claim in the fisheries resources of BoB owing to their large population base and relatively productive marine waters. These countries are among the poor countries in the world with low resource base to implement effective management system in the marine fisheries sector. Table 3 depicts the socio-economic status of the BOBP-IGO member-countries.

5.0 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.

6.0 Increasing human population and reduced productivity of coastal fisheries through unsustainable fishing practices, habitat degradation, post-harvest losses, etc. threaten the livelihoods 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 Maldives), 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.

B. Activities

Table 2: Growth pattern in fish production in the BOBP-IGO member-countries

Year	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Sri Lanka	BOBP-IGO
1950-59	8.07	0.95	2.26	9.72	2.84
1960-69	5.30	2.97	9.53	6.20	3.74
1970-79	-1.10	2.10	-1.77	5.39	1.46
1980-89	1.68	2.69	6.31	0.83	2.45
1990-99	3.91	2.18	4.66	5.57	2.72
2000-05	4.84	-1.13	7.73	-8.96	0.09
1950-2005	2.76	3.21	5.30	4.38	3.18

Table 3: Socio-economic status of the BOBP-IGO member-countries

Parameter/ Country	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Sri Lanka
HDI Rank	137	126	98	93
Human development index (HDI) value, 2004	0.53	0.611	0.739	0.755
GDP index	0.49	0.58	0.65	0.63
Human poverty index (HPI-1) Rank	85	55	36	38
Total population (millions), 2004	139.2	1 087.10	0.3	20.6
Annual population growth rate (%), 2004-15	1.7	1.3	2.4	0.7

7.0 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.

8.0 The BOBP-IGO implemented the following activities based on the agreed work programme at the second meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held at Chennai, India during 2 - 3 February 2007 and the

subsequent endorsement to the Work Programme by the Governing Council (GCM) at its Third Meeting held in Malé, Maldives during 5 - 6 May 2007.

9.0 The South Asia Component of the Global Project on 'Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries (*GCP/GLO/200/MUL*)' implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Fisheries Industries Division) through the BOBP-IGO was initiated in May 2007. The Project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The Project activities will build on recommendations from the Chennai Declaration¹ and the IFISH-3 Conference and include the following aspects:

- Provision and analysis of data to identify the causes 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.

The Alaska Centre of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), USA is also involved in the Project and will be funding the component on surveillance and monitoring of fishing-related accidents at sea. The first phase of the Project will conclude in December 2008.

10.0. The joint FAO-IMO Project on 'Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Sri Lanka and India on Small Fishing Vessel Safety' has also been initiated and will complement the South Asian activities of the Project 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.

11.0 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 (CCRF) were translated into Tamil by the BOBP-IGO and released in a Stakeholder Meeting in Chennai in June 2007. Besides fishermen representatives from all the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, India, officers of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu; officials of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries), Government of India; the Indian Coast Guard and a number of NGOs attended the Consultation. The Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Government of India chaired the Consultation and also released the Technical Guidelines. A number of sets of the TGs have also been provided to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Sri Lanka for distribution amongst the Tamil speaking fishers in Sri Lanka.

- (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).

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

- (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*

12.0 After the visit of the FAO Global Coordinator on Safety at Sea to Chennai in June 2007, the Director, BOBP-IGO and the FAO Regional Project Coordinator undertook the first mission to the member-countries in July - August 2007. During these visits, the mission had detailed discussions with the focal points in each member-country on the modalities of implementation of the Safety at Sea Project. Interactive sessions were held with the concerned Ministries/ Departments/ Agencies and other stakeholders in the member-countries on the areas that needed priority attention. The meetings were also utilized to prepare for the proposed national workshops on safety at sea in the member-countries.

13.0 The National Workshop on 'Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries' for Sri Lanka was organized in Negombo, Sri Lanka from 11-12 October 2007. About 45 participants representing the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering, Ceylon Fishery Harbour Corporation, Coast Conservation Department, Cey-Nor Foundation Ltd., Fisheries Co-operative Societies, Boat Yards, Sri Lanka Navy and private stakeholders attended the two-day Workshop. The larger objectives of the National Workshop were to prioritize the content and mode of delivery of an awareness building program; identify an appropriate fishing center for conducting pilot activities; identify focal agencies/ persons for the formation of a committee to facilitate project activities; and seek endorsement and support of all stakeholders. The Workshop concluded with an agreed action plan for implementation of the Safety at Sea Project. It was also agreed that the Project activities in Sri Lanka would be implemented in Beruwala.

14.0 Mr Oyvind Gulbrandsen, Consultant carried out a detailed assessment of the quality of construction and designs of fishing vessels operated by the small-scale sector in India and Sri Lanka during the period November - December 2007. The Consultant was fielded under the Global Project on 'Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries (GCP/GLO/200/MUL)'. The output of this assessment would be in the form of guidelines for construction of fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) fishing vessels and wooden fishing vessels (below 24 meter in length) commonly used in the region. The guidelines will also deal with the standards for setting up of FRP boatyards in the region. The results of the Baseline Studies conducted by Mr Gulbrandsen in India and Sri Lanka have been circulated to the national governments.

15.0 The National Workshop on 'Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries' for India was organized in Chennai, India from 3 - 4 December 2007. About 40 participants representing the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India; Department of Fisheries of the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu; Indian Coast Guard; Fisheries Education Institutions; Fisheries Associations; Fishing Boat Manufacturers; Non-governmental Organisations attended the Workshop. Representatives from the NIOSH, USA; and the FAO of the United Nations also attended the National Workshop. The Workshop was chaired by the Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Government of India. The Workshop concluded with an agreed plan of implementation as also the identification of the project sites in Andhra Pradesh (Visakhapatnam) and Tamil Nadu (Chennai).

16.0 The Regional Workshop on 'Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (RW-MCS) for Marine Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal' was held at Chittagong, Bangladesh, on 16 - 18 January 2008. Twenty-three participants representing the Ministry/ Department of Fisheries; the Coast Guard and the Navy; Mercantile Marine Department; Fisheries Research Institutions; Boat Builders and Fish Exporter of the member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka); FAO of the United Nations and experts attended the Regional Workshop. The Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh chaired the Regional Workshop. Based on the country status reports presented by each member-country and discussions at the RW-MCS, the participants adopted the 'Chittagong Resolution', which is a significant outcome of the Regional Workshop. The full report of the RW- MCS has been circulated to the member-countries and also to the participants.

17.0 The National Workshop on ‘Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries’ for Bangladesh was organized in Chittagong, Bangladesh from 21 - 22 January 2008. About 50 participants representing the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh Navy/ Coast Guard, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Marine Fisheries Academy, Mercantile Marine Department, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, Fisher Associations/ Cooperative Societies/ NGOs/ CBOs/ Boatbuilders, FAO and Experts attended the two-day Workshop. Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of the Peoples’ Republic of Bangladesh chaired the National Workshop. Besides finalizing the plan of action, the National Workshop also agreed on the project site (Cox’s Bazaar) for implementation of the activities.

18.0 The FAO Fishery Officer attached to the Safety at Sea Project made a detailed field visit to sites in Patuakhali, Kuakata, Barisal, etc in Bangladesh from 23 - 29 January 2008 to make a first-hand assessment of the fishing boats with respect to their construction, availability of communication and safety equipment, preparedness of the crew in safety aspects, etc.

19.0 The first Regional Consultation on the Preparation of a Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries (RC-HF) was held at the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore (Kolkata), on 14 - 15 March 2008. Eleven delegates representing Bangladesh, India and Myanmar took part. Based on the deliberations, the Regional Consultation agreed on a set of activities to be implemented by the member-countries (Bangladesh, India) and the observer country (Myanmar). These include preparation of comprehensive status papers on hilsa fisheries resources; stakeholder consultation on management aspects of hilsa fisheries in each of the three countries; setting up of a data collection, collation and compilation mechanism; setting up of a National Task Force (in respect of India and Myanmar; Bangladesh has already set up a Task Force); setting up of a ‘Hilsa Portal/ Website’ to post all information on the hilsa fisheries of the BoB region; and preparation of ‘awareness material’ on conservation and sustainable exploitation of hilsa fisheries. The RC-HF also agreed on a time-frame for completion of the activities and for convening the next Consultation. The full report of the RC-HF has been circulated to the participating countries and the participants.

20.0 The first Regional Consultation on ‘Preparation of a Management Plan for Shark Fisheries (RC-SF)’ was held in Beruwala, Sri Lanka on 24 - 26 March 2008. Fourteen delegates representing India, Maldives and Sri Lanka participated in the Consultation. Based on the deliberations, the Regional Consultation agreed on a set of activities to be implemented by the member-countries (India, Maldives, Sri Lanka). These include preparation of comprehensive status papers on shark fisheries resources; stakeholder consultation on management aspects of shark fisheries in each of the three countries; setting up of a data collection, collation and compilation mechanism; setting up of a National Task Force; setting up of a ‘Shark Fisheries Portal/ Website’ to post all information on the shark fisheries of the BoB region; documentation of a couple of case studies on indigenous traditional knowledge on management of shark fisheries; and preparation of ‘awareness material’ on conservation and sustainable exploitation of shark fisheries. The RC-SF also agreed on a time-frame for completion of the activities and for convening the next Consultation. The full report of the RC-SF has been circulated to the participating countries and the participants.

21.0 Based on the recommendations of the National Workshop on Safety at Sea in Sri Lanka, a baseline study was carried out in Beruwala, Sri Lanka during March 2008. The objective of the study was to assess the knowledge gap at the level of fishers, fisher communities and boat builders with respect to the sea-safety measures. The study encompasses information on type of crafts in operation, their construction and safety practices, their understanding of standard safety signals, concerns and practices of the boat builders and the communities. The study was carried out in association with the Ministry/ Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Sri Lanka. All together, 14 fishing craft owners, five community members and five boat building yards were considered during the survey. The survey observed that the boat building yards generally keep a record of their operation and adhere to standard guidelines of the Ministry. However, the knowledge gaps among the fishers in using international sea safety signals and standard safety practices like navigation training, use of VHF, use of protective gear, carrying first aid box and boat handling were unsatisfactory. It was also observed that electronic media, like television may play a major role in awareness building among the fisher community. The report of the study is under finalization.

22.0 The Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the BOBP-IGO was held at Beruwala, Sri Lanka from 28 - 29 March 2008. A copy of the Report of the TAC is placed as Working Document BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/3 and will be further considered under the Agenda item on TAC. Besides, delegates from the member-countries, observers from FAO also attended the TAC Meeting.

23.0 Like every year, the BOBP-IGO came up with the 2008 desk calendar. The theme of the 2008 calendar is safety at sea. In addition to the desk calendar, a single sheet wall calendar was also prepared on the same theme. These calendars have been shared and distributed far and wide to a worldwide audience. Copies of the two calendars are placed here for the information of GCM.

24.0 Under the Safety at Sea Project, a set of six laminated placards have been prepared covering the following aspects:

- (i) Diesel engine checklist
- (ii) Outboard motor checklist
- (iii) Safety first!
- (iv) Outboard motor and periodic inspection and service
- (v) Cyclone warning signals
- (vi) Standard marine distress signals

As a part of the awareness and training drive, these placards will be translated into local languages and distributed to the fishers for display in the boats.

25.0 Preparatory discussions and visits were undertaken to Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), New Delhi and Mumbai in India to finalise the NIOSH assisted Project on 'Surveillance and Prevention of Mortality in Small-scale Fishers in South Asia'. The proposed project will be for duration of five years and would be implemented by NIOSH in cooperation with the FAO and the BOBP-IGO.

C. Information Services

26.0 The following documents/ publications were either printed or are under preparation.

a) Newsletters, Bay of Bengal News

- i) Vol. IV No 11, June 2007 (Ref: BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf.13)
- ii) Vol. IV Nos.12 – 13, September - December 2007 (in press)

b) Reports

- iii) Report of the Third Meeting of the Governing Council, May 2-3, 2007. BOBP/ REP/ 103. 44 p.

c) Posters

- (iv) A set of 12 posters on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) were prepared in English language during the year 2007. These posters have now been translated into Bangla, Tamil, Telugu, and Dhivehi languages for distribution in the member-countries. The posters have been received very well by the community and are in great demand.

27.0 The visual archives of the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) and the present BOBP-IGO are being digitised to create a library in the electronic format. A total of about 50 000 visuals available in the archives have been digitized so far. The text describing the important features of each photograph is now being added to the visuals.

28.0 A large number of requests were received for the reports, newsletters and other publications of the 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.

29.0 A matrix on the progress of activities approved in the Third Meeting of the Governing Council is enclosed as **Annexure I**.

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

30.0 The BOBP-IGO is assisting 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 Thailand'. The purpose of the Training Project in Thailand is 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.

31.0 The BOBP-IGO collaborated with UNDP and the Government of Orissa, India in conducting a Study on 'Development of Marine Fisheries and Post-harvest Sectors in Orissa'. The report of the Study is under finalisation.

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

32.0 Virtual conferences of the Consortium to Restore Shattered Livelihoods of Communities in Tsunami-affected Nations (CONSRN). CONSRN is a framework for multi-agency cooperation and was set up in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand. The virtual conferences are held regularly to discuss progress and plans in tsunami recovery (BOBP-IGO is the founding member of CONSRN).

33.0 Expert Consultation on 'Low Cost Fisheries Management Strategies and Cost recovery' held at Georgetown, Guyana from 4 - 7 September 2007 (Director, BOBP-IGO participated at the invitation of FAO, Rome).

34.0 Technical Consultation on the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep Sea Fisheries in the High Seas held at FAO, Rome from 4 - 8 February 2008 (Director, BOBP-IGO participated at the invitation of FAO, Rome).

F. New Initiatives

35.0 Partnering with the Swedish Maritime Administration, Sweden in organizing an International Training Programme on 'Marine Management - Good Governance in Practice', which would be held in Sweden from October 6 - 31, 2008 and in the Bay of Bengal region from May 25 - 29, 2009. The objective of the Training Programme is to enhance managerial and technical skills and covers subjects of strategic importance to economic and social development. The Swedish Maritime Administration will cover full board, accommodation, training cost and an allowance for daily subsistence of the selected participants. The BOBP-IGO will cover the international air travel cost to and from Sweden for one participant each from the member-countries.

36.0 Preliminary discussions have been initiated with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) to study the demand and supply issues around small-scale fisheries, for developing country fisheries that target markets that are sensitive to certification and eco-labelling. This includes supply chain characteristics for seafood products from selected case studies in the member-countries and analysis of possible constraints to marketing of products from certified small-scale fisheries. The MSC is an independent non-profit organization that promotes sustainable fisheries through eco-labelling and fishery certification programme.

G. BOBP-IGO Staff

37.0 The staff position of the Organisation during the period under report is enclosed as *Annexure II*.

H. Suggested Actions by the Governing Council

38.0 The Governing Council is invited to note the activities implemented by the Secretariat during the period April 2007 - March 2008. It may wish to highlight and suggest improvements for action of the Secretariat.

Matrix on the Progress of Activities Approved in the Third Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation

Sl. No	Projects	Components	Activities	Present Status	Remark
1	Capacity-Building and Information Services for Fisheries Development and Management in the Bay of Bengal Region	Translation of the Technical Guidelines (TGs) of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) on Marine Fisheries	Translation of 10 TGs and 3 International Plans of Action in Bengali, Dhivehi, Oriya, Sinhalese, Tamil and Telegu	Translated: Bengali (1); Tamil (13) [Including inland fisheries and aquaculture] BOBP-IGO is coordinating with the Ministry/ Department of Fisheries of the member-countries for translation of the TGs. As of now, proposals have been sent to Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka and the Governments of Andhra Pradesh Telegu and Orissa in India for translation of the TGs.	A continuous process
		Printing of the Technical Guidelines	—	Printed: Bengali (1); Tamil (11)	-do-
		Setting of a Regional Information Network	—	On-going activity. The process of networking within the member-countries is in the process. Further, networking is also being undertaken for preparation of management plans for hilsa and shark fisheries to serve the specific objectives of the programmes.	
		Organisation of Fisherfolk Week	Distribution of awareness material. Financial support	No specific proposal received from the member-countries. Posters on the CCRF were provided for distribution during fisherfolk week/ day to Maldives and India (Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu)	
		Information Dissemination	Publication of BBN, a quarterly newsletter. Printing of Posters. Printing of theme-	One issue of BBN was published. The remaining two issues for 2007 are under print. 12 set of posters simplifying and visualizing CCRF messages were published in English (reference posters), Tamil, Bengali, Dhivehi and Telegu.	-do-

Sl. No	Projects	Components	Activities	Present Status	Remark
			based Calendars.	The 2008 Calendar is published in desktop and wall calendar formats. The theme is 'Safety at Sea'.	
		Archiving of visual documentation of the BOBP.		All negatives and photographs have been digitized. Photoshop work and contextualization is presently being carried out.	
2	Fisheries Resource Management	Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries	To collate scientific data on hilsa and chalk out management options.	The First Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries was held in Barrackpore (Kolkata), India from 14 - 15 March 2008. The next consultation is proposed to be organised in Bangladesh in late 2008.	Key issues were identified and a status report on hilsa is under preparation.
		Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries	To collate scientific data on sharks and chalk out management options.	The First Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries was held in Beruwala, Sri Lanka from 24 - 26 March 2008. The next consultation is proposed to be organized in the Maldives in late 2008.	Key issues were identified and a status report on sharks is under preparation.
		Organisation of a Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS).	To discuss ways and means to secure responsible and sustainable management of fisheries resources in the region.	The Regional Workshop on MCS was held in Chittagong, Bangladesh from 16 - 18 January 2008. The significant outcome of the Workshop was the "Chittagong Resolution". Preparation for National Workshops on MCS is under process to carry forward the recommendations of the Regional Workshop	Key issues were identified and a status report on MCS in the region is under process.
3	Project on 'Safety at Sea for Small-Scale Fisheries in Developing Countries' (GCP/GLO/200/MUL)	Implementation of the project in the member-countries.	Organising National Workshops in the member-countries to identify key issues of safety at sea followed by a pilot-scale implementation of the Project recommendations.	National Workshops were organized in Bangladesh (January 2008), India (December 2007) and Sri Lanka (October 2007). In Maldives, detailed discussions have been held with the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources and other concerned agencies and the activities for implementation are being worked out. Sites for the pilot-scale implementation have been identified as Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh, Royapuram and Vishakhapatnam in India and Beruwala in Sri Lanka.	The First Regional Workshop of the Project is proposed to be organized in Chennai from 7-8 July 2008.

Sl. No	Projects	Components	Activities	Present Status	Remark
4	FAO-IMO Project on Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Sri Lanka and India on Small Fishing Vessel Safety	Guidelines for fishing boat construction and establishment of boat yards	—	The pilot-scale activity for Maldives is under finalization. Baseline studies have been carried out in India and Sri Lanka. Prototype posters on 'Safety at Sea' have been prepared and sent to member-countries for their suggestions before they are printed for distribution to the fishers. A FAO/ BOBP-IGO Consultant has carried out extensive study on small fishing vessels in India and Sri Lanka and also the on the status of boat yards. The guidelines are under finalization.	—
5	Training programme on the CCRF for field-level and middle-level fisheries operatives in the member-countries.	Class room and field project-based training programme	—	Modalities of the programme have been finalized. The training programme will be carried out in collaboration with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, India from 15 - 27 June 2008. The BOBP-IGO is coordinating with the member-countries for nomination of suitable candidates for the programme.	—
6	Capacity-building for improving food safety in marine fisheries.	Capacity-building through training and awareness on fish handling and preservation on board fishing vessel and at the fishing harbour/ fish landing centre.	Stakeholder consultations; formation of groups/ associations for training and awareness programmes and mobilization of community action for cleaner fishing harbours.	The proposal was discussed in the Third meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the BOBP-IGO. Based on the inputs received at the meeting, a base paper has been prepared and submitted to the GCM-4 for its consideration.	—
7	Alternative Income Generation (AIG) for Small-scale Fisheries.	—	Review of the options of AIG in small-scale fisheries.	A base paper was presented to the TAC at its Third Meeting. Based on the inputs of the TAC a revised paper is submitted to the GCM-4 for its consideration.	—

Staff Position January April 2007 - March 2008

<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.	Jayaraj S	Publication Officer	08/06	Till date
General Duty				
1.	V Srinivasan	Administrative Assistant	11/03	Till date
Consultants/ Casual Assignments/ General Duty				
1.	Rajdeep Mukherjee	Research Associate	09/04	Till date
2.	Ram Mundhe	Research Scholar	09/04	09/07
3.	M Paramasivam	Consultant	05/05	Till date
4.	Surajit Das	Research Scholar	11/07	2/08
5.	M Krishna Mohan	Secretary	01/08	Till date
6.	Cheryl Verghese	Secretary	01/08	Till date
FAO Staff				
1.	R Ravikumar	Regional Project Coordinator	05/07	Till date
2.	Roger Kullberg	Fishery Officer	12/07	Till date

**Report of the Third meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee
(28 - 29 March 2008, Beruwala, Sri Lanka)**

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in Beruwala, Sri Lanka on March 28 and 29, 2008. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and observers from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

2.0 The Inaugural Session began with the lighting of the lamp. The Hon'ble Neomal Perera, Deputy Minister of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources (MoFAR), Government of Sri Lanka attended the Inaugural Session along with the senior officers of the MoFAR and other concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of Sri Lanka.

3.0 Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO, welcomed the delegates and dignitaries on behalf of the BOBP-IGO and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting the Third Meeting of the TAC. Dr Yadava thanked the Hon'ble Deputy Minister for having agreed to attend the Inaugural Session. He said that the TAC is constituted under Article 11 of the Constitution of the BOBP-IGO and plays an important role in identifying key issues/ areas for intervention by the Organisation. Dr Yadava urged member-countries to thoroughly discuss and review the work done so far and set future directions for the activities to be pursued by the Organisation.

4.0 Mr G Piyasena, Secretary, MoFAR extended a hearty welcome to Hon'ble Neomal Perera, delegates from member-countries and the observer from FAO. He said that member-countries have both the will and capacity to work closely with the BOBP-IGO and the meeting of the TAC is very important in terms of setting directions for the Organisation. Mr Piyasena hoped that the meeting will conclude with important outputs that would lead to the sustainable development and management of fisheries in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) region.

5.0 In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Neomal Perera, Deputy Minister for MoFAR extended a hearty welcome to the delegates and expressed his delight for participating in the Inaugural Session of the TAC meeting. He said that during the Second Meeting of the TAC in Chennai, Sri Lanka agreed to host the Third Meeting of the TAC and hoped that the arrangements made for the meeting were acceptable to the delegates.

Hon'ble Neomal Perera said that the BOBP-IGO is a unique regional fisheries body, specifically mandated to assist the member-countries in increasing the livelihood opportunities and improving the quality of life of the small-scale fishers in the BoB region. He hoped that the meeting would focus on wide ranging and constructive technical issues that affect the fisheries sector in this region. He appreciated the BOBP-IGO Secretariat for organizing a three-day Regional Consultation in Sri Lanka on 'Preparation of Management Plans for Shark Fisheries' in the member-countries. The Hon'ble Deputy Minister thanked the Government of Sri Lanka and the BOBP-IGO for their efforts in improving the fisheries sector of Sri Lanka and hoped that this fruitful partnership will continue. Wishing successful deliberations, he declared the Third Meeting of the TAC open.

6.0 At the conclusion of the Inaugural Session, Mr Indra Ranasinghe, Director General (Fisheries Development), MoFAR proposed a vote of thanks.

Adoption of the agenda and election of the chairperson

7.0 The Technical Advisory Committee adopted the agenda and agreed on the arrangements for the meeting.

8.0 Mr P Sivaraj, delegate from India and the acting chairperson opened the floor for election of the new chairperson. Mr Md Moniruzzaman, delegate from Bangladesh proposed the name of Sri Lanka to chair the Third Meeting of the TAC, which was seconded by Dr M Shiham Adam, delegate from Maldives. This was unanimously agreed upon.

9.0 Mr Sivaraj in his closing remarks appreciated the effort of the BOBP-IGO Secretariat and the member-countries for the programmes/ activities undertaken during the year 2007- 2008. He said that the BOBP-IGO is doing a commendable job in promoting sustainability of marine fisheries sector in the region.

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

11.0 Mr G Piyasena thanked the delegates for choosing Sri Lanka to chair the Third meeting of the TAC and invited the BOBP-IGO Secretariat to present the report on activities of BOBP-IGO for the period April 2007- March 2008.

Report on BOBP-IGO activities

12.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO presented the report for the period April 2007 to March 2008. At the outset he explained the background and rationale for the programmes undertaken by the Organisation. Dr Yadava said that the Bay of Bengal (BoB) is a tropical ecosystem in a monsoon belt and marine fisheries are a lifeline in the coastal areas of the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO, particularly in Maldives where it is one of the basic pillars of economy. He added that the BOBP-IGO countries constitute a major claim in the resource base of BoB owing to their large population and relatively productive marine waters. These countries are among the poor countries in the world with low resource base to implement effective management system in the marine fisheries sector. Presenting capture fisheries statistics in the member-countries, he said that the decadal break up of growth pattern shows a general slowdown, except in the Maldives. Dr Yadava said that the increasing human population and reduced productivity of coastal fisheries through unsustainable fishing practices, habitat degradation, post-harvest losses, etc. threaten the livelihoods of millions of small-scale fishers in the Bay and further decline of fisheries would severely impact the livelihood security, food availability and national economy of the BoB countries.

13.0 Dr Yadava then presented a detailed account of the status of various activities undertaken as per the agreed work programme at the Second Meeting of the TAC held at Chennai, India during 2 - 3 February 2007 and the subsequent endorsement to the Work Programme by the Governing Council (GCM) at its Third Meeting held in Malé, Maldives during 5 - 6 May 2007.

Safety at Sea

14.0 The South Asia Component of the Global Project on 'Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries (GCP/ GLO/200/MUL)' implemented by the FAO (Fisheries Industries Division) through the BOBP-IGO was initiated in May 2007. The Project activities have been designed to build on the recommendations of the Chennai Declaration and the IFISH-3 and the major objectives include 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 their enforcement; development of improved communication systems and applying FAO draft guidelines for construction and repair of small fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) fishing vessels. The Alaska Center of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), USA is also involved in the Project and will be funding the component on surveillance and monitoring of fishing-related accidents at sea.

Preparatory missions were undertaken by the Director, BOBP-IGO and the FAO Regional Project Coordinator to the member-countries during July - October 2007. During these visits, the mission had detailed discussions with the focal points in each member-country on the modalities of implementation of the Safety at Sea Project. Interactive sessions were held with the concerned Ministries/ Departments/ Agencies and other stakeholders in the member-countries on the areas that needed priority attention. The meetings were also utilized to prepare for the proposed national workshops on safety at sea in the member-countries.

To progress the implementation of the Project, National Workshops were organized in Negombo, Sri Lanka (11-12 October 2007), Chennai, India (3-4 December 2007) and Chittagong, Bangladesh (21-22 January 2008). Representatives from concerned Ministries and Department, fishers and fishers associations, boat builders and other service providers and NGOs attended the workshops. In the workshops, information, service and policy gaps regarding sea safety issues were identified and National Actions Plans for pilot- scale implementation

were designed. It was decided that the pilot-scale implementation of the programme will be carried out in Beruwala in Sri Lanka, Royapuram and Vishakhapattanam in India and Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh.

The joint FAO-IMO Project on 'Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Sri Lanka and India on Small Fishing Vessel Safety' was also initiated during the period. This Project focuses on the assessment of the present situation regarding standards of the boats built in tsunami replacement activities and to find appropriate measures to improve the situation and 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.

Mr Oyvind Gulbrandsen, FAO/ BOBP-IGO Consultant carried out a detailed assessment of the quality of construction and designs of fishing vessels operated by the small-scale sector in India and Sri Lanka during the period November - December 2007. The final output of this assessment would be in the form of guidelines for construction of FRP fishing vessels and wooden fishing vessels (below 24 meter in length), commonly used in India and Sri Lanka. The guidelines will also deal with the standards for setting up of FRP boatyards in the region.

The FAO Fishery Officer (Mr Roger Kullberg) attached to the Safety at Sea Project made a detailed field visit to sites in Patuakhali, Kuakata, Barisal, etc in Bangladesh from 23 - 29 January 2008 to make a first-hand assessment of the fishing boats with respect to their construction, availability of communication and safety equipment, preparedness of the crew in safety aspects, etc.

15.0 The Regional Workshop on 'Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (RW-MCS) for marine fisheries in the Bay of Bengal' was held at Chittagong, Bangladesh, on 16 - 18 January 2008. Twenty-three participants representing the Ministry/ Department of Fisheries; the Coast Guard and the Navy; Mercantile Marine Department; Fisheries Research Institutions; Boat Builders and Fish Exporter of the member-countries; FAO and experts attended the Regional Workshop. Based on the country status reports presented by each member-country and subsequent discussions, the participants adopted the 'Chittagong Resolution', which is a significant outcome of the Regional Workshop.

Resource Management

16.0 Two Regional Consultations were organised for preparation of management plans for hilsa fisheries, covering Bangladesh and India (and Myanmar as observer country) and shark fisheries covering India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries (RC-HF) was organised in Barrackpore (Kolkata), India on 14 - 15 March, 2008. Eleven delegates took part in the Consultation, which took a stock of the existing status of hilsa fisheries resources and came out with an action plan to initiate the preparation of a management plan. This includes preparation of comprehensive status papers on hilsa fisheries resources; stakeholder consultation(s) on management aspects of hilsa fisheries in each of the three countries; setting up of a data collection, collation and compilation mechanism; setting up of a National Task Force (in respect of India and Myanmar; Bangladesh has already set up a Task Force); setting up of a 'Hilsa Portal/ Website' to post all information on the hilsa fisheries of the BoB region; and preparation of 'awareness material' on conservation and sustainable exploitation of hilsa fisheries. The RC-HF also agreed on a time-frame and decided that the second meeting on preparation of management plan for hilsa fisheries will be organised in Bangladesh during the last quarter of 2008, subject to the concurrence of the Government of Bangladesh.

17.0 The Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries (RC-SF) was held in Beruwala, Sri Lanka during 24 - 26 March, 2008. Fourteen delegates representing India, Maldives and Sri Lanka participated in the Consultation. Based on the deliberations, the Regional Consultation agreed on a set of activities, which includes preparation of comprehensive status papers on shark fisheries resources; stakeholder consultation on management aspects of shark fisheries in each of the three countries; setting up of a data collection, collation and compilation mechanism; setting up of a National Task Force; setting up of a 'Shark Fisheries Portal/ Website' to post all information on the shark fisheries of the BoB region; documentation of a couple of case studies on indigenous traditional knowledge on management of shark fisheries; and preparation of 'awareness material' on conservation and sustainable exploitation of shark fisheries. The RC-SF also agreed

on a time-frame for completion of the activities and for convening the next consultation in Maldives during the last quarter of 2008, subject to the concurrence of the Government of Maldives.

Miscellaneous

18.0 The other works carried out by the BOBP-IGO during the reference period include publication of calendars for 2008. The theme of the calendar is centered on sea-safety measures. In addition to the desk calendar, a single sheet wall calendar was also prepared on the same theme. A set of six laminated placards have been prepared under the safety at sea programme covering distress signals and checklists. The placard will be distributed to the fishers to raise their awareness on sea safety measures.

19.0 Preparatory discussions and visits were undertaken to Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), New Delhi and Mumbai in India to finalize the NIOSH assisted Project on 'Surveillance and Prevention of Mortality in Small-scale Fishers in Southern Asia'.

20.0 BOBP-IGO has published one newsletter, 12 posters on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in English, and initiated a process to translate them in regional languages of the member-countries (Bangla, Dhivehi, Oriya, Sinhalese, Telugu and Tamil) as a part of its information dissemination services. Archiving of over 50 000 photographs spanning over three decades of the programme is in the final stage of framing and contextualization.

Supportive activities

21.0 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 Thailand'. The BOBP-IGO also collaborated with UNDP and the Government of Orissa, India in preparing a report on 'Development of Marine Fisheries and Post-harvest Sectors in Orissa'.

22.0 Dr Yadava also highlighted the Secretariat's participation in the virtual conferences of the Consortium to Restore Shattered Livelihoods of Communities in Tsunami-affected Nations (CONSRN), which is set up in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand; Expert Consultation on 'Low Cost Fisheries Management Strategies and Cost recovery' held at Georgetown, Guyana from 4 - 7 September 2007 and Technical Consultation on the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep Sea Fisheries in the High Seas held at Rome, Italy from 4 - 8 February 2008.

Discussion on BOBP-IGO activities

23.0 Mr Sivaraj (India) replying to the presentation made by the Director, BOBP-IGO on the activities of the Organisation said that India endorses the activities carried out by the Secretariat. Mr Simon Funge-Smith, Senior Fishery officer, FAO said that the activity report highlights the problems of the region. Commenting on the catch statistics presented by Director, BOBP-IGO, he said that although the landings show slight increase in production, yet the trend is inconclusive. Generally, there is an increase in the quantity in all the countries but qualitatively the catches are showing disturbing trends as we are fishing down the food chain. Mr Funge-Smith said that the BOBP-IGO should inform this trend to the national governments and also to the FAO since this would present a clear picture from the field. Dr (Ms) Champa Amarasiri, delegate from Sri Lanka informed that the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICIDA) is supporting their country in strengthening the fisheries data base.

24.0 Mr Sk Mostafizur Rahman, delegate from Bangladesh observed that his country should also be included in the Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries. He said that in recent years large quantities of shark juveniles are being caught in Bangladesh waters and this situation calls for urgent attention of the government as well a management plan for protection of shark fisheries. The TAC recommended that the Secretariat may raise the issue in the next Governing Council meeting for any modification in the arrangements for the proposed regional management plan for shark fisheries.

25.0 Mr Rahman enquired whether any initiative has been made to increase the reach of BOBP-IGO to other countries in the BoB region. The Secretariat informed that discussions were in progress with Myanmar

for their participation in the BOBP-IGO. The TAC suggested that the members of the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme should become members of the BOBP-IGO and advised the member-countries to use their diplomatic channels to support the effort of the Secretariat in this direction.

26.0 Dr Amarasiri (Sri Lanka) said that the present level of effort deployed in the coastal waters of Sri Lanka was optimum, leaving little scope for further increase. Some scope of increasing effort in offshore waters did exist, which could be directed towards tuna fisheries. However, there are reports of over-exploitation of yellow fin tuna and this must be taken into account while considering any increase in the offshore waters. Mr Sivaraj, delegate from India informed that the offshore waters in India are yet to be exploited for tuna and tuna like species. Dr Shiham Adam, delegate from Maldives said that the Indian Ocean skipjack stocks are resilient and there are no indications of their over-exploitation.

27.0 Mr Funge-Smith (FAO) said that his Organization is considering a Regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on improved utilization of tuna, which will be implemented through INFOFISH, an inter-governmental body based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Some of the BOBP-IGO member-countries might also be included in the Regional TCP. While planning for tuna fisheries, the member-countries must look at the potential where expansion can take place. This should be carried out in consultation with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the issue can be raised in the IOTC Working Party on the Tropical Tunas, which would be held later this year. Dr Amarasiri (Sri Lanka) was of the view that the member-countries must prepare their own plans before approaching the IOTC.

28.0 The member-countries were of the view that the BOBP-IGO may consider organising a consultation on the tuna fisheries by inviting representatives of the industry as well as from the government to chalk out a strategy. It was also suggested that the Director, BOBP-IGO attend the next meeting of IOTC.

29.0 Mr Rahman (Bangladesh) suggested that joint stock assessments should be undertaken by the member-countries. The delegate from India informed that the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is able to carry out such regional surveys. The Secretariat suggested that the BOBP-IGO could support the participation cost of one scientist/ technical officer from each member-country in the fishing vessels of FSI as a part of its capacity building programme. However, such joint stock assessment programmes should be agreed through bi-lateral or multi-lateral agreements among the member-countries. The delegate from Sri Lanka mentioned that accessing data from the joint surveys were at times difficult and often negated the objectives of such joint assessments.

30.0 The TAC advised the Secretariat to encourage the governments of the member-countries to formulate multi-lateral agreements and if possible chalk out a strategy identifying key institutions for easy and timely dissemination of data amongst the stakeholders. The TAC with the above observations of the members complimented the Secretariat on the excellent work done during the period and accepted the report on the progress of activities.

Member-Countries: Proposals and Priorities

Bangladesh

31.0 Mr Rahman presented the proposals and priorities for Bangladesh. He said that even though his country possessed vast marine waters with immense opportunities to produce sizeable quantities of fish, but due to various impediments it is becoming increasingly difficult to realize the actual potentials.

He identified key areas in the marine fisheries sector of Bangladesh where BOBP-IGO could play a major role. These include networking amongst member-countries to provide information on fish stocks and creation of a fish data base, formulation of management plans covering important fish species, implementation of an effective MCS system, preferably on regional basis, and regional cooperation in weather-forecasting system. He suggested that networking may also be considered for community-based organisations in the fisheries sector.

Mr Rahman said that there is an urgent need for demarcation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Bangladesh, and protection of nursery grounds of important fin and shell fish species in the Sundarbans mangrove forests, covering both India and Bangladesh. He said that management practices for shared stocks should be harmonized among the countries for their effectiveness, which might also include uniformity in banning destructive fishing practices and declaration of closed seasons for fishing. The RC-HF is a right step in this

direction and the management plans should be finalized by the member-countries at the earliest. He also proposed that a marine park may be considered for establishment in St Martin's Island.

Mr Rahman suggested that the BOBP-IGO should consider some alternative income generation activities for the shrimp fry collectors and alternative gear for the estuarine set bag net fisheries. There is also a need for alternative design and construction material for fishing boats in Bangladesh. He further suggested that the BOBP-IGO may consider engaging national coordinators in each country for implementation of its country programmes. The Organisation can also depute staffs from the member-countries to build their capacity. He added that the BOBP-IGO should raise common fund for sea safety of small-scale fishers and also to help rebuild the livelihoods of people affected by the cyclone Sidr. In this regard it was also suggested that the marine fishers may be issued with National identity cards, with the information in both Bangla and English languages.

India

32.0 Mr P Sivaraj discussed the priorities for India. He said that the present activities of the BOBP-IGO were in line with the priority areas of his country. Activities such as safety at sea and MCS implemented by the BOBP-IGO have also been included by the Government of India in its programmes for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. The BOBP-IGO is playing an important role in creating awareness among the fishers and promoting sustainable fisheries in India. The Organisation should further step up its efforts in dissemination of the CCRF so that it reaches a critical mass of stakeholders in the marine fisheries sector of the country. Mr Sivaraj suggested that the BOBP-IGO may carry out programme to transfer useful technologies from one member-country to the other, especially in the field of small and medium-sized fishing boat construction. He felt that regional programmes like the BOBP-IGO can play very useful role and the member-countries should make full use of such bodies.

Maldives

33.0 Dr Shiham Adam presented the proposal and priorities for Maldives. He said that while tuna fisheries continued to be the main stay of fisheries sector in the Maldives, coastal fisheries (especially reef fisheries) are an important source of income and livelihoods for communities in outer atolls of the Maldives. Many fishermen operate part-time or do fishing on opportunistic basis. Tourism has now expanded to nearly all regions and atolls and this has increased the demand for reef fishes.

The main issues affecting marine fisheries in Maldives concern the stocks of target species like groupers, which are declining on account of high fishing effort. Due to expansion of tourism, the market price of fish products is increasing and this has resulted in more pressure on the stocks and high incidence of targeting spawners. Presenting a picture of shark fisheries in Maldives, Dr Adam said there is conflict in use of sharks between non-extractive (tourism) and extractive uses. However, the reef sharks are severely depleted and the gulper sharks are over-exploited in the Maldives. The other fisheries that needed attention include aquarium fishes, sea cucumbers and lobsters. Presently, Maldivian ornamental fishes have limited access to foreign markets; they are mostly exported to Sri Lanka from where they are re-exported to markets abroad.

Dr Adam said one of the priorities for Maldives is to develop mariculture in order to reduce pressure on the wild fish stocks. The Government of Maldives has announced 11 potential aquaculture sites to be leased on long-term basis for aquaculture, which is expected to catalyse mariculture through private investments in Maldives. There is also a need for building capacity in human resources and institutions to support such activities. Another major priority for Maldives is development of bait fisheries, which is the lifeline for tuna fisheries. There is excessive use of bait in tuna fisheries in the Maldives as compared to other important tuna fishing nations. The Government of Maldives is putting effort on exploring new bait grounds as well as new technologies like use of underwater light. Pilot study on possibility of keeping bait in holding pens is another priority area for the Maldives.

Sri Lanka

34.0 Dr Amarasiri presented the proposal and priorities for Sri Lanka. She said that the objectives of marine fisheries policy of Sri Lanka are to improve the nutritional status and food security of the people by increasing

the national fish production in conjunction with minimization of post-harvest losses and improvement in quality and safety of fish products to acceptable standards; increase employment opportunities in fisheries and related industries; provide increased opportunities and facilities for furthering trade and marketing prospects in both domestic and foreign markets and better the socio-economic status of the fisher communities in Sri Lanka in a sustainable manner.

35.0 Dr Amarasiri stated that the priority for Sri Lanka is to develop coastal tuna longline fishery. For this reason there is a need to enhance the skills and capacities of small-scale tuna longliners and improvement on-board and post-landing fish handling and processing. In order to ensure a continuous supply of low cost, good quality bait, the country is planning to initiate milk fish farming and to introduce bait fishery in coastal areas. Dr Amarisiri said that Sri Lanka needs a tuna fishery management plan and fleet development plan to exploit its tuna resources in a sustainable manner.

Discussions

36.0 Initiating discussions on the country proposals and priorities, Dr Adam said that development of milk fish hatchery for bait fishing is also of importance to Maldives. Dr Yadava informed that at present India is importing milk fish from the Philippines. He added that Sri Lanka has the enabling environment for setting up of milk fish hatcheries and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Bangkok could be associated to develop milk fish farming in the region.

37.0 Dr Funge-Smith endorsed the proposal of the Secretariat for associating NACA and said that such plan should be developed from economic considerations. He said that the Philippines has good technology in milk fish farming and is now moving towards a cage-based milk fish culture. He, however, cautioned that issues related to disease transfer should be carefully considered. He also informed that NACA had already developed technology for grouper fisheries.

38.0 In response to MCS priorities of Bangladesh, Dr Yadava said that the countries may like to first develop their national MCS action plans through stakeholder consultations. He also informed that the Secretariat is networking with FAO and other international agencies for exploring the scope of external assistance and funding. Mr Funge-Smith suggested that the BOBP-IGO may discuss possible collaborations with the FISHCODE programme and the IUU Monitoring Network of DFID. He also suggested that information networking should be strengthened. With regard to the damage caused by cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh, Mr Funge-Smith informed that FAO had mounted a mission and the major findings of the mission shall be shared with the BOBP-IGO.

Presentations on Regional Programmes/ Activities/ Issues of topical importance

39.0 Under the new activities proposed for initiation during 2008-2009, the Secretariat proposed four programmes, which include preparatory studies on alternative livelihoods for fishers, impact of rising fuel price on marine fisheries, impact of climate change on marine fisheries and capacity building for improving food safety in marine fisheries.

40.0 The objective of the study on alternative livelihoods is to design livelihood strategies for fishers through a comprehensive study of the socio-economic parameter in a case-by-case manner. This is to encourage the fishers to think beyond fishing and subsequently to encourage them to reduce fishing effort. Additionally, the study is expected to improve the portfolio of the fishers by reducing their vulnerability to various shocks.

41.0 The study on impact of fuel price hike on marine fisheries is proposed in the background of spiraling increase in diesel price and lagging fish prices. The objective of the study is to address the problem of small-scale fishers who are operating on the margin and to develop a coping strategy for consideration of the member-countries as also the fishers and their associations.

42.0 The changing climate is affecting fisheries in many but uncertain ways. The proposed study on climate change is developed to record and monitor research efforts in the member-countries in tracking the impact of climate change, particularly on the coastal fisheries. The objective of the programme is to sensitize the concerned stakeholders and dissemination of relevant information in order to help them take informed decisions.

43.0 The study on capacity-building in food safety in marine fisheries aims at creating awareness amongst different levels of stakeholders on the safety and hygiene of fish and fish products, through improved handling of fish on board the boat and subsequently at the fishing harbour/ fish landing site.

44.0 Mr Indra Ranasinghe, delegate from Sri Lanka said that activities such as mariculture, aquaculture, construction work, dress making, etc were tried on pilot-scale basis as alternative livelihoods for fishers in Sri Lanka during the last four years. Of all the alternative vocations, aquaculture (sea bass farming in the Negombo lagoon) was found to be the most successful activity. The lessons learnt from the Project on Alternative Livelihoods in Sri Lanka are as follows:

- Working with groups is more rewarding than working with individuals.
- The consent of the community as a whole is required when undertaking activities such as mariculture in common property area.
- Agriculture on household basis was not successful.
- In construction work, the income levels were high.
- Divers can be used for eco-tourism.
- Good technical guidance is needed for any alternative livelihood activity.

Mr Ranasinghe further stated that alternative income generating projects should focus on both fishery-related and non-fishery related alternatives. However, for non-fishery related activities, family-supported income generation project through provision of micro-finance is a basic requirement and revolving funds were found to be useful in this regard in Sri Lanka. He was of the view that micro-finance should be available at low interest rates in order to make the efforts successful. The delegate from Maldives said that the proposed study by the BOBP-IGO is timely. The Bangladesh delegate said that the ECFC Project (Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Communities Livelihood Security) implemented by Bangladesh in Cox's Bazaar area had alternative livelihood components, which were implemented very effectively. The lessons learnt from that Project should also be considered while developing new projects/ activities on alternative livelihoods. Representative of FAO opined that micro-finance is a key pillar for promoting alternative livelihoods. He said that the Government of Spain is providing funds to FAO for implementation of a programme through the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA). Sri Lanka is proposed to be included under the programme.

45.0 Commenting on the proposed study on the impact of rising fuel price on marine fisheries, Dr Adam said that the proposed study is the need of the hour. The Government of Maldives has already proposed a subsidy scheme for the fishers, which will offset price hike by about 20 percent. However, the fishers are increasing engine power. He suggested that the study may also look into the fuel efficiency aspects. The Bangladesh delegate said that the fuel subsidy for fishing boats was introduced 10 years back in his country. They endorsed the study and hoped that it would also throw light on the use of alternative fuel such as LPG. Mr Ravikumar, FAO Regional Sea Safety Coordinator said that fishers are increasing the engine power without any genuine requirements to do so. It is more of a rat race and needs to be curbed. The chairperson informed that no subsidy was provided by the Government of Sri Lanka on fuel used by the fishers. However, the Cey-Nor Foundation, which looks into the marketing aspects of the fisheries sector, provides guaranteed price to the fishers. This scheme is working well for the last seven years and presently 19 commercial varieties of fish species are covered under this scheme. Mr Funge-Smith said that subsidies can artificially keep the price of fish low, resulting in their over-exploitation.

46.0 Commenting on the proposed programme on climate change, Mr Rahman, delegate from Bangladesh said that with global warming and its impact on the oceans, his country would be severely affected. Hence the study commands merit and Bangladesh strongly endorses it. Dr Adam (Maldives) said that the issues connected with climate change and their impacts on marine fisheries are very complex. Therefore, caution must be exercised while drawing the terms of reference for the study. Mr Sivaraj, delegate from India strongly supported the study as any impact that the climate change may have on the marine fisheries will affect the livelihoods of millions of small-scale fishers in the country.

Safety at Sea Project

47.0 Mr R Ravikumar presented the progress report of the Safety at Sea Project (*GCP/GLO/200/MUL*) implemented by the BOBP-IGO in the member-countries. He said that the Project is being implemented on a pilot-scale basis, with the larger objective of creating awareness and training of fishers. Mr Ravikumar said that the awareness material to be produced under the Project includes posters on safety precautions, check lists in regional languages, leaflet on international conventions and user manuals, training course material and technical guidelines for fishing vessels. He also displayed the sample awareness material produced under the Project and requested for suggestions from the member-countries.

Mr Ravikumar said that since mid-eighties there have been no new initiatives into fishing boat construction by either FAO or any other technical body competent in the area. In the last two decades, the fishing boat building industry has gone through a chaotic phase. Under the FAO-IMO component of the Safety at Sea Project, a baseline study on boatbuilding has just been concluded. Since boat construction quality has direct implications on the safety of fishers, the BOBP-IGO could take up this issue in a larger way and also seek technical assistance for boat building in the member-countries.

48.0 The chairperson informed that the draft regulations on Safety at Sea have been agreed to by the Government of Sri Lanka and they will be soon published. The Safety at Sea Project can assist the MoFAR in its implementation through awareness and training.

Secretariat: Work Plan

49.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO presented the work plan of the Organisation for the period April 2008-March 2009. The work plan proposed that BOBP-IGO would continue with its capacity building and resource management activities. Further the Secretariat will carry out two scoping studies on management of small-scale tuna fisheries and management of brood stock of tiger shrimp in addition to proposed new studies on alternative livelihoods, impact of fuel price hike, impact of climate change and capacity building for improving food safety in the marine fisheries sector.

50.0 Commenting on the proposed study on capacity building for improving food safety, Mr Ravikumar informed that under an IMO – assisted project in the mid-nineties, the former BOBP had made several initiatives including preparation of a manual and comic book. Both the publications still hold good as the hygiene and sanitation conditions in many harbours are as bad as they were in the mid-nineties. He said that the two publications can still be made use of with modifications, if necessary. The chairperson said that the member-countries need to produce best practices in fish handling and quality improvement. In Beruwala Fishing Harbour, the waste disposal activity has been successful and could be a model for other harbours in the region. Mr Funge-Smith said that the Secretariat might look at the FAO TCP on ‘Cleaner Fishing Harbours’ being implemented in India. The delegate from Bangladesh said that the condition of fishing harbours and fish landing centres in Bangladesh is bad and needed immediate attention. The proposed programme on capacity building would reduce the gap between member-countries on hygiene and sanitation aspects of fishing harbours. The delegate from Sri Lanka said that while designing new boats, proper preservation and handling aspects should be taken into account.

51.0 The TAC endorsed the work plan for the period April 2008 - March 2009 and recommended the Secretariat to present the same in the next meeting of the Governing Council.

Secretariat: Review of Role of TAC

52.0 In accordance with the recommendation of the Governing Council at its Third Meeting, the Secretariat requested the TAC to evaluate its role within the framework of the institutionalization of BOBP-IGO and suggest measures to make it more effective. The representative of FAO suggested that the role of TAC should be spelt out more clearly and suggested that the TAC may *inter alia* play the following roles:

- (i) to develop the work plan for the Organisation,
- (ii) to suggest policy recommendations to the Governing Council and
- (iii) to identify emerging issues in the fisheries sector.

In general, the members were highly satisfied with the functions of the TAC and also appreciated the task accomplished by the TAC in its three meetings and the inter-sessional discussions held with the Secretariat from time to time. The members were also of the view that the BOBP-IGO is about five years old and it may be premature to examine the role of TAC at this juncture. Such reviews can be conducted after a period of 10-15 years.

53.0 Mr Moniruzzaman, delegate from Bangladesh suggested that in their case the representation of the Department of Fisheries may be more appropriate than the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute. The chair suggested that the Secretariat may raise the issue in the next meet of the Governing Council.

Date and place for the second TAC meeting

54.0 The TAC agreed to convene the Fourth Meeting of the Committee during early 2009 in Bangladesh, subject to the concurrence of the Government of Bangladesh.

Concluding session: Adoption of the report

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

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

57.0 In his concluding remarks, Mr Piyasena, chairperson said that the delegates participated very actively in the two-day meeting and were able to finalize the work plan for the Organisation for the period April 2008 - March 2009. He hoped that the BOBP-IGO will grow further and provide more support to the member-countries in development of their small-scale fisheries, especially on issues concerning resource management, livelihoods, etc. He thanked the BOBP-IGO Secretariat for its efforts in preparation of the meeting and also the report. He also thanked the staff of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for their assistance in organisation of the meeting and wished the delegates a safe return journey.

58.0 The Report of the TAC was adopted on 29 March 2008.

* * *

Proposed Programmes and Activities

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

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

Duration: April 2008 - March 2009

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 April 2008 – March 2009:

- Translation of the FAO CCRF Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries in the national languages of the member-countries and printing of copies of the translated versions for circulation to concerned institutions/ agencies/ fishermen associations, etc.
- Training Programme for Junior and Middle-Level Fisheries Staff of member-countries on implementation of the CCRF. The training will be conducted in collaboration with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, India.
- Developing 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. This would also include the setting up of two dedicated portals on Hilsa Fisheries and Shark Fisheries.
- Awareness and capacity building on safer fishery products in marine fisheries in the member-countries.
- 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, 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.
- Studies on alternative livelihood strategies for marine fisheries sector, impact of rising fuel price on marine fisheries sector and impact of changing climate and on marine fisheries sector.

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

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. Training of middle and junior-level fisheries staff in

implementation of the CCRF will enable development of a cadre of trained people to implement the provisions of the Code and its Technical Guidelines in the member-countries.

- Information dissemination through publications (Bay of Bengal News, etc.) and electronic networking (website and Information Networking).
- Cleaner fishing harbours and fish landing centres, improved handling of fish and fish products, better understanding of the food quality and safety, traceability and certification requirements.
- Education, sensitisation and promotion of participatory and community-based system of management of fisheries and aquatic resources through organisation of Fishermen's Week.
- Improved understanding on alternative livelihoods in marine fisheries, identification of coping strategies for marine fisheries on account of fuel price hike and greater awareness and understanding of the impact of climate change on marine fisheries.

Title: Fisheries Resource Management
Member Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka
Duration: April 2008 – March 2009

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 April 2008– March 2009:

- Organisation of National Consultations on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in the member-countries and formulation of national plans within the framework of the Chittagong Resolution.
- Organisation of the Second Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries in the member-countries.
- Organisation of the Second Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries in the member-countries.
- Scoping study on small-scale tuna fisheries management plan and fleet development plan (including management of the bait fisheries).
- Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp fisheries management.

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

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Formulation of a national plan for implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance programmes for management of marine fisheries and also to address some of the issues on regional basis.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report on the status of Hilsa fisheries in the member-countries (Bangladesh, India) and observer country (Myanmar) and to further progress towards the formulation of national action plans for sustainable exploitation/ conservation of Hilsa fisheries.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report on the status of Shark fisheries in the member-countries (India, Maldives, Sri Lanka) and to further progress towards the formulation of national action plans for sustainable exploitation/ conservation of Shark fisheries.

- Preparation of a comprehensive report based on the scoping study and to present the outcome of the study in a regional meeting involving public and private sector representatives.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report based on the scoping study and presentation of the outcome of the study to a group of stakeholders for formulation of an action plan for sustainable development of tiger shrimp fishery.

Title: Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries

Member Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka

Duration: April 2008 – March 2009

Immediate Objectives:

The objectives of this Programme are aimed at improving the livelihood of small-scale fishing communities by decreasing the number of accidents at sea and the effects of such accidents.

Work Plan:

As a part of the South Asia component of the FAO/ SIDA Global Project on ‘Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries (GCP/GLO/200/MUL)’, BOBP-IGO will implement the following activities during April 2008–December 2008:

- Provision and analysis of data to identify the cause of accidents;
- Education and training of trainers, extension workers, fishermen and inspectors in safety requirements and production of awareness material such as posters, comic books, video films, etc.;
- Awareness programmes to build a culture of sea-safety within artisanal and small-scale fishing communities;
- Comprehensive integration of sea safety issues into fishery policy and management frameworks; and
- Applying FAO/ IMO/ ILO draft guidelines for design, construction and equipment for small fishing vessels.

A Work Plan detailing various activities is enclosed in [Annexure III](#).

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- An enhanced awareness of sea-safety within the fishing community operating in the small- scale sector;
- An improved system of reporting and analysis of incidents at sea causing loss of life or serious accidents to fishers and fishing craft;
- Rules and regulations for Design, Construction and Equipment of fishing vessels in the small-scale fisheries sector adapted and amended from the FAO/ IMO/ ILO draft voluntary guidelines, presented in a form that is easily understood by the small-scale boat building industry; and
- Integration of ‘Safety at Sea’ as an important element of fishery management.

**Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
Proposed Programmes and Activities April 2008 - March 2009**

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

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

	Activity	April 2008 - March 2009												
		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
A	Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries													
	1. Translation of the Technical Guidelines of the CCRF in National Languages													
	2. Training of Junior and Middle-level Fisheries Staff in implementation of CCRF													
	3. Printing of the Guidelines													
B	Organization of Fishermen's Week													
C	Information Networking													
D	Awareness and capacity building on safer fishery products													
E	Information Dissemination													
F	Studies on issues of topical importance													
	1. Alternative livelihoods													
	2. Impact of fuel price hike on marine fisheries													
	3. Climate change and marine fisheries													

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

**Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
Proposed Programmes and Activities April 2008 - March 2009**

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

Programme: Fisheries Resource Management

Activity		April 2008 - March 2009												
		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
A	Organisation of National Consultations 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)													
D	Scoping study on tuna fisheries													
E	Scoping study on tiger shrimp fisheries													

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

**Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
Proposed Programmes and Activities April 2008 - March 2009**

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

Programme: Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries

Activity		April 2008 - March 2009											
		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
A	Provision and analysis of data to identify the cause of accidents												
B	Education and training of trainers, extension workers, fishers and inspectors in safety requirements												
C	Awareness programmes for artisanal and small-scale fishing communities												
D	Comprehensive integration of sea safety issues into fishery policy and management frameworks												
E	Applying FAO/ IMO/ ILO draft guidelines for design, construction and equipment for small fishing vessels												

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

Regional Programmes/ Activities/ Issues of Topical Importance

A. Alternative Livelihood Strategies for Marine Fishers

1.0 Background and Rationale

An important aspect of sustainable marine fisheries development is control on fishing effort or in other words regulated access to ensure that the fish stocks are exploited within the maximum sustainable yield of the marine waters. The control on fishing effort often requires removal of excess fishing effort either through encouragement or through monitoring or both. In the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) member-countries, fisheries is in an open access regime. Fisheries is also the sole source of livelihood in coastal areas and as a tradition for million of peoples. External interventions which impact their livelihoods, for example, seasonal ban on fishing, entry prevention in certain areas, etc often, create socio-economic tensions. Consequently, the control measures are either contested or flouted and usually fail to achieve the goals of sustainable fishery. Such practices also end up with jeopardized livelihoods, social tensions and increased unemployment.

On the contrary, unregulated access has also led to declining catch per unit effort resulting in lower revenue per capita from fishing. In the given scenario, the low levels of income, negligible savings and limited access to public finance is creating fewer openings for the fisher to move out to other professions by himself or by investing in the health and education of his offspring. The situation is of an expanding vicious cycle of poverty, which implicate a threat to both the well-being and development of the fishers and also the sustainability of marine fisheries in the member-countries.

The Third Meeting of Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO held in Malé, Maldives in May 2007 acknowledged the gravity of the problem of controlling fishing effort and ensuring well-being of fishers in the member-countries. The Governing Council recommended that the BOBP-IGO should research alternative livelihood options suitable for the marine fishers in the member-countries and promote the same for sustainable marine fisheries development in the Bay of Bengal region.

Among the BOBP-IGO member-countries, alternative livelihood for fishers was promoted in Bangladesh through the Government of Bangladesh/ UNDP project on Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Communities Livelihood Security in Cox's Bazaar (2001 – 2006). The programme was successful in creating alternatives in the form of animal husbandry, value added products, handicrafts, etc and improve the livelihoods of the target group: small and marginal fishers. In Sri Lanka, pilot-scale alternative livelihood programmes are in the process for the last 4 years. The learning of the project are that group-based approaches are more successful than individual-based approaches. During the programme it was observed that alternatives like aquaculture (sea-bass farming) are attractive in terms of implementation and profitability for the fishers. Further, in terms of finance, revolving funds were found more effective in addressing the issues of the fishers.

2.0 The objective and methodology of the proposed programme

'Alternative livelihood' comprises two words: alternative - an array (more than one) choices (*not possibilities*) and livelihood – a means of living which is legal (*and ethical*). Together, alternative livelihood for fishers implies a situation where a fisher in his/ her capacity is able to choose the best livelihood for him/ her from a larger set of alternatives than is available to him/ her now. While governments have already initiated some programmes to deal with fisheries management, which in some cases also includes alternative livelihood components, but their success has so far been limited due to insufficient design and implementation. The alternative livelihood rests on a host of factors including but not limited to age, gender, education, skill, net economic return, social background and market conditions.

Research on marine environment and market trends indicates that there are a set of possible alternatives available to fishers. These include:

Within marine production system	Outside marine production system
Mariculture	Agriculture, Animal husbandry
Aquaculture	Agriculture labour
Sea ranching	Construction work
Sea-weed farming	Transportation business
Value-added fish products	Sewing, handicrafts, etc
Eco-tourism, etc.	Petty trade, grocery, etc

The main objective of the alternative livelihood programme is to ensure responsible and sustainable management of fisheries resources through controlling fishing effort by encouraging fishers to think about viable alternative livelihood avenues. It is also expected to bring a paradigm shift and foster development in the marine fisheries by allowing portfolio diversification and thus reducing the vulnerability of the fishers to natural and market shocks. However, in any given situation, shifting to an alternative livelihood depends on willingness of the fisher, local institutions and capacity of the fisher. In this background, the objectives of the proposed programme are to:

- **Measure the willingness** of the fishers to adopt alternatives, comprising:
 - (i) Socio-economic condition of the fishers at present,
 - (ii) Change in economic activity due to control measures,
 - (iii) Attitudes of the generations towards fishing and alternatives.
- **Measure the scope available** to the fishers for alternatives, comprising:
 - (i) Assessment of level of education of the fishers at present, and after 10 years, through present level of enrolment and dropout figures,
 - (ii) Assessment of condition of fisher SHGs/ individuals involved in value addition or other alternatives in these areas,
 - (iii) Assessment of business trend in fishing and alternative sectors,
 - (iv) Assessment of coastal resources, land and environment to evaluate the scope of aquaculture, mariculture and eco-tourism, and
 - (v) Evaluation of the existing role of formal and informal credit/ finance institutions including micro-finance and their role in financing alternative ventures.
- **Measure the effective scope** of alternative livelihood for fishers:
 - (i) Identification of skill and knowledge gaps of the fishers relative to those needed for alternative livelihood,
 - (ii) Identification of gaps in policy, physical and financial capital need to promote alternative livelihoods, and
 - (iii) Identification of NGOs/ Training Institute for strategic partnership like public mobilization, training, capacity building, micro finance and marketing.

3.0 The Proposed Work Plan

The following activities are proposed under the Programme.

- (i) Review of existing marine fisheries management programmes and analysis of incorporated livelihood components;
- (ii) Review of the existing demographic data on fishers;
- (iii) Assessment of the present and alternative options on a case-by-case basis;
- (iv) Assessment of existing institutional and organizational structure; and
- (v) Preparation of a report on livelihood status and requirements in the member-countries.

4.0 Likely Outputs

While it is recognized that there are no unique solutions to the livelihood situation prevailing in the member-countries, the proposed programme, based on the detailed situation analysis, is likely to provide a road map to

meet the livelihood requirements of the marine fisheries sector of the member-countries. The following output is expected from the Programme:

- (i) Development of management strategy and identification of institutional capacity with recommendations for integrated coastal area management.
- (ii) Development of framework for implementation of livelihood programmes.
- (iii) Capacity building through organisation of training programmes and hands on workshops.
- (iv) Encouragement of NGO and donor agency involvement in livelihood programmes.

5.0 Suggested Actions by the Governing Council

The Governing Council is invited to suggest on the proposed programme on ‘Alternative Livelihood Strategies for Marine Fishers.’

B. Impact of Rising Fuel Price on Marine Fisheries Sector

1.0 Background

Rising fuel prices during the last few years have created a unique situation in the marine fisheries sector. Fossil fuel (mainly diesel) accounts on an average 1/3rd of the running cost of mechanised fishing vessels (MFVs) in the Bay of Bengal. During the last one decade (1995- 2006), the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) data in India shows that the price of diesel has increased at the rate of 15 percent annually against 3 percent increase in the price of marine fish products. Taking the case of India as a general indicator, it implies that in the member-countries of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), fishing operations have become relatively costly during the last decade. Also the estimations of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations show that during 1995 to 2005 fuel cost as a percentage of revenue in developing countries has increased from 18.52 percent to 43.26 percent. Another important aspect of fisheries trade in the BOBP-IGO member-countries is that a typical fisher has little control over price determination. Therefore, it can be assumed that the scope of profit has sharply reduced in recent years for the MFVs sector in the BOBP-IGO member-countries.

In the member-countries, except the Maldives, fuel is subsidized and sold at below the market price. However, as the oil price keeps increasing the fiscal scenario for the governments is getting bleaker and how long the subsidy can be continued is a hotly debated issue. In this scenario, if the subsidy is reduced/ withdrawn, the retail price of the fuel may reach to a new height, subject to the international situation.

Apart from subsidy on oil imports, various schemes for fishers were introduced or planned in the member-countries to cushion the effect of the price rise. For example, in India, registered MFVs are entitled to a subsidy on per liter of fuel within their allotted quota. In Sri Lanka, the government announced subsidized kerosene for the fishers for a limited time period. Apart from that, the government has fixed minimum prices for commercially important species to offset the oil shock. In the Maldives, the government is considering a proposal to extend financial support to the fishers to battle the fuel price rise. Similarly, in Bangladesh also the fishers receive a subsidy on the fuel price.

However, during the developmental stage of MFVs, in many cases it has been observed that competition to capture the fishing ground led the boat owners to augment the engine capacity beyond the capacity of the boat. They have operated under belief that augmented engine capacity meant more speed and hence more chance to capture the fishing ground. However, technically, speed of the craft depends as well as on the design and construction of boat and the excess capacity of the engine ultimately leads to distortions in the fuel economy of the boat. Given this scenario, using appropriate engine and management practices, it can be argued that the MFVs could reduce their fuel bill to a considerable extent.

In member-countries of the European Union, it has been argued that while the immediate and short run impact of price rise in fuel may negatively impact the fishing industry, in the long run, it will be helpful in reducing fishing effort, increasing the fish stocks and ultimately in the recovery of the fishing industry from improved catch per unit of effort. However, in the context of the BOBP-IGO member-countries (as in most of the other developing nations), where most fishers lives on a daily earning, such income shocks may be more serious in

nature. In addition, majority of the fishing operations in such countries, excluding the commercial fishing enterprises, run on start-of-the-season non-institutional credit arrangements. Since the fishers are bound by such credit relations, impact of fuel price hike in fishing effort may be quite different from that predicted for the European fisheries.

2.0 Rationale

Depending on the strategy of the fishers to cope up with the fuel price hike, there may be different final predictions/ outcomes. One assumption is that the fishers are not likely to change their strategy in the short run – they will fish for the same number of days, travel to the same fishing grounds and use the same type of gear to fish. Though in the medium to long run there may be investments in fuel saving equipment, reduction in the number of fishing days and changes in fishing methods. However, as mentioned earlier, due to low financial capital, subsistence fishing and credit commitment decisions on fishing operations is constrained and cannot be made in isolation to maximize profit.

In the above background, the actual short-run response of the fisher on fuel price hike may be summarized as follows:

- (i) No action or modification: the fishers absorb the shock through reduced profits;
- (ii) Fishers reduce fishing effort;
- (iii) They fish in waters reserved for non-fuel using vessels to keep their traveling cost constant;
- (iv) More potent (but destructive) fishing practices are used to increase efficiency;
- (v) Supplement reduced fishing effort in offshore waters but increase effort in inshore waters by use of country craft (by another family member or associate).

In an ideal situation, options (iii) and (iv) may be difficult for the fisher due to possible legal bindings and effective monitoring, control and surveillance. However, under a weak monitoring regime, they can be viable options.

The complexity of the situation leads to an array of possible outcomes – some of which are suitable for sustainable marine fisheries and development of fisher and some are not. Therefore, the implications of rising fuel price and its impact on marine fisheries sector of the BOBP-IGO member-countries merits an in-depth study to design timely interventions in the trend, adapted practices and policy interventions.

3.0 Objective of the programme

Marine fishing is the sole source of livelihoods for millions of people living in the coastal areas of the member-countries. The mechanized and motorized sectors are the source of livelihoods directly and indirectly for nearly half of them. Any setback on the sector due to rising fuel price will hard hit the population, which is already living on the margin. It is, therefore, proposed to undertake a detailed study on the impact of fuel price hike on the marine fisheries sector, with the following major objectives:

- (i) Operational impact of fuel price hike on marine fisheries:
 - *Measure changes in the fishing effort before and after the diesel price hike (2004).*
 - *Measure any change in the distribution of fishing effort between inshore and the offshore waters before and after fuel price hike.*
- (ii) Techno-economic aspect of marine fisheries with respect to fuel price hike:
 - *Measure the excess engine capacity of the MFVS and identification of the potent categories where capacity is excess.*
- (iii) Socio-economic impacts:
 - *Simulate the response of the fishers if the price rise continues considering his socio-economic status.*
- (iv) Business strategy impacts:
 - *Measure changes in profitability before and after the diesel price hike.*
 - *Assess the role of subsidy on fuel available to the fishers and also the use of such subsidy as a tool in management of marine fisheries.*

4.0 The Proposed Work Plan

The major components of the proposed study are as follows:

- (i) Change in the time taken for reaching the fishing grounds before and after the fuel price hike (e.g. 2004);
- (ii) Change in the number of fishing days before and after the fuel price hike;
- (iii) Change in the fuel bill before and after the fuel price hike;
- (iv) Change in the selling price of fish before and after the fuel price hike;
- (v) Change in the investment in (a) fishing boat, (b) gear and (c) engine before and after the fuel price hike;
- (vi) New arrangement/ initiative by the government/ fishers (like subsidies, improved management) to manage fuel price hike;
- (vii) Change in the fish landings and their composition before and after the fuel price hike; and
- (viii) Type of boat and engine capacity.

The study is proposed to be carried out in fish major landing centres of the member-countries, viz., Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh, Royapuram in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, Malé in the Maldives and Beruwala in Sri Lanka. The study is proposed to be carried out through collection and analysis of primary and secondary data and discussions/ meetings.

5.0 Likely Outputs

The study is expected to shed light on coping strategy of the fishers with rising fuel prices since 2004. Further, the analysis will provide inputs to understand the impact of fuel price hike on fish stock and changes in the social benefits from the adjustment procedure. It will also be helpful to evaluate the need (including the demand raised by the fishers) for more subsidies to cope with rising fuel prices.

6.0 Suggested Actions by the Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee is invited to suggest on the proposed study on 'Impact of Rising Fuel Price on Marine Fisheries Sector'.

C. Impact of Changing Climate on Marine Fisheries Sector

1.0 Background

One of the possible factors that led to extinction of dinosaurs is a change in the climate. Climate, is the long-term (30 years +) average of weather of an area and by definition is ever-changing. However, climate change is the most debated issue in public discourses and media in 21st Century and refers to the increasing temperature and correlated variations in rain and moisture, wind flow and hydrosphere that is possibly affecting the flora and fauna on the Earth. Climate change is one of the critical global challenges of recent time and recent events have emphatically demonstrated our growing vulnerability to the present direction of climate change. Climate change impacts, as research shows, may range from affecting agriculture- further endangering food security, sea-level rise and the accelerated erosion of coastal zones, increasing intensity of natural disasters, species extinction and the spread of vector-borne diseases.

How will climate change affect the physical environments of oceanic and estuarine ecosystems? Change in climate means there is a change in precipitation and evaporation rates, constituents of the hydrologic cycle, which affect surface runoff, and groundwater and ocean levels. A rise in global temperature, generally, would increase regional evaporation in the lower latitudes and increase regional precipitation in the higher latitudes. Shifts in the evaporation/ precipitation regime could have significant consequences to the continents, including worsening conditions for flood control and water storage. In addition, excess runoff (in relation to evaporation) will contribute to groundwater levels. Approximately, 6 percent of the total water influx to the oceans and seas comes from direct groundwater discharge. An increase in the amount of groundwater entering the ocean would lead to a net gain in oceanic volume.

Increased oceanic volume and concomitant sea level rise have tremendous implications for coastal environments. Sea levels have risen (0.1–0.3 m over the past century) in conjunction with the rising global temperature. Depending on model factors, predicted increases range from 0.3 to 5.0 m, possibly inundating almost

1 million km² of the coastal land. This rise is occurring at a faster rate than plants can colonize and establish wetland habitat. Therefore, many tidal wetlands, estuaries, mangroves, and other shallow-water habitats may be lost if climate change continues at the predicted rates.

2.0 Rationale

Worldwide, marine and freshwater fisheries generate over US\$130 billion annually, employ at least 200 million people, and billions of people rely on fish as an important source of protein. However, climate change is warming oceans, rivers and lakes and threatening fish stocks already under pressure from overfishing, pollution and habitat loss, says a report by Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF- Nature). The decline in fish yield could have a devastating impact on human populations, particularly in poorer countries that rely on fish for protein. Higher temperatures reduce oxygen levels, stunt growth, reduce food supplies and can force fish to seek cooler waters to which they may not be as well adapted. Extremes in environmental factors, such as elevated water temperature, low dissolved oxygen or salinity, and pH, can have deleterious effects on fishes. Suboptimal environmental conditions can decrease foraging, growth, and fecundity, alters metamorphosis and affects endocrine homeostasis and migratory behavior.

Long-term studies on the impact of climate change on fisheries in the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) member-countries have been limited. A study conducted by the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Sri Lanka has highlighted the lack of long-term research monitoring on the subject. Besides assessing the direct impact of climate change on fisheries, it is also a methodological challenge to segregate the effect of fishery and climate change and other factors from the total effect on fish stock and fish behaviour.

As an early indication of the impact of climate change on marine life, a Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), India study has revealed that the highly popular oil sardines have moved up to new geographical zones as the seas there have begun to warm up. Oil sardines, an essentially tropical species, have been observed to establish in new territories and contribute to the fisheries along the North-West and North-East coasts of India. Species like the threadfin bream appear to have shifted the months of peak spawning towards the colder months, off the coast of Chennai. As the seas have warmed, the season when copepods were found in large abundance off the coast of Mangalore, Karnataka, India have now shifted to the colder months. On the other hand, in the Maldives, the Marine Research Centre has found rising temperature as one of the key factors for problems in the coral reefs. False trevally (*Lactarius lactarius*) is an economically and culturally important fish in Tamil Nadu, India. It ranks as one of the most preferred, high-quality fish in the Gulf of Mannar region. But climate change has contributed to a drastic decline of the fishery over the last few years because of increased water temperatures and decreased rain (which flushes critical nutrients from the land into the Gulf of Mannar), says a report by WWF-Nature.

3.0 Objectives of the Programme

The immediate objectives of flagging this issue is to sensitize the fisheries administrations and concerned R & D Institutions in the member-countries on the impending threats of climate change on marine fisheries. The objectives of this programme are also to collect and compile available scientific information on the subject and sharing the same with the concerned agencies/ institutions within the region and also with the large global community. Since prevention of climate change is beyond the means of the fisheries sector, the programme will learn from the precautionary measures suggested/ undertaken elsewhere in the world and will focus on adaptation of such measures in the region. At the same time it is also necessary to create awareness among the fishers about the possible impacts of climate change on fisheries and building their capacity through dissemination of information on possible coping strategies that will emerge from the scientific research.

4.0 The Proposed Work Plan

The proposed work plan shall include the following:

- (i) Collection and compilation of available information on changes in fish stocks (composition, sizes, migratory patterns, abundance, breeding behaviour, etc) in the member-countries through networking

with the concerned national and international research organisations.

- (ii) Identification of causes for such changes, viz. fishery induced or climate induced and networking of information within member-countries through organising workshop of concerned scientific bodies.
- (iii) Discussions on the findings within the member-countries and on a regional basis to identify coping strategies.
- (iv) Creating awareness amongst different stakeholders through print and electronic media.

5.0 Likely Outputs

- (i) A regional status document on the impact of climate change on fisheries, which shall also include a regional action plan.
- (ii) Increased awareness-level amongst different stakeholders on the subject.
- (iii) Possible funding from donor agencies on implementation of the regional action plan.

6.0 Suggested Actions by the Governing Council

The secretariat invites the suggestion of the Governing Council to implement the proposed study on ‘Impact of Changing Climate on Marine Fisheries Sector’.

D. Proposal on Awareness Building and Training on Safer Fishery Products

1.0 Background

Concern for safety of food products has scaled to prominence in the international trade discussions following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round in 1995. Since then, sanitary and phytosanitary standards and regulations in developed countries have become increasingly comprehensive and stringent, in some cases led to restricting trade or rejecting shipments mostly from the developing countries for their failure to meet the safety standards. The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries also highlighted the importance of safety of fish products for consumption and stated that the “States should adopt appropriate measures to ensure the right of consumers to safe, wholesome and unadulterated fish and fishery products” and that the “States should set minimum standards for safety and quality assurance and make sure that these standards are effectively applied throughout the industry. They should promote the implementation of quality standards agreed within the context of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and other relevant organisations or arrangements”.

During its third meeting in Malé, Maldives in 2007, the Governing Council also expressed its concern about the standard of fishery product in the member-countries and ways and means to improve it. Accordingly, the Governing Council asked the Secretariat to prepare a proposal on the issues encompassing possible activities that can be carried out within the Secretariat’s capacity to address the issue. The present proposal spells out the action plan and its justification considered by the Secretariat for the perusal of the Governing Council.

2.0 Quality of Fish and Fish Products

According to the standard ISO 8402 Quality is “*the totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bear on its ability to satisfy stated or implied needs*”. In the case of fish products, it entails aspects related to gastronomic delights, purity, nutrition, safety, consistency, fairness (in labelling, weight or species), value and product excellence. In international fish trade, two of the prominent aspects looked at are safety and sensory quality (related to the level of spoilage). The quality of captured fish and fish products relies principally on hygienically-produced products under Good Hygienic Practice (GHP) that are safe for human consumption.

When harvested in a clean environment and handled hygienically until consumption, fish is very safe. Unfortunately, unhygienic practices, insufficient refrigeration and sub-standard manufacturing practices can be at the origin of many outbreaks of fish-borne illnesses like fish-borne intoxications and fish-borne infections. In the case of infections, apart from *Vibrio* species (*L. monocytogenes* and *Cl. Botulinum*) all the other micro-organisms that cause the majority of the fish-borne illnesses are caused by contamination from the environment, the handlers or the water.

3.0 International standard on hygiene and fish safety

Food hygiene relates to “*all conditions and measures necessary to ensure the safety and suitability of food at all stages of the food chain*”. These hygienic measures aim at preventing or reducing fish contamination and microbial growth. They encompass aspects related to the hygienic design of facilities on-board, during transportation, processing and distribution, to personnel hygiene, cleaning, sanitation and pest control.

Regarding the hygienic design of handling, processing, storage and distribution operations, premises, equipment and facilities should be located, designed and constructed to ensure that:

- contamination is minimized;
- design and layout permit appropriate maintenance, cleaning and disinfecting and minimizing air-borne contamination;
- surfaces and materials, in particular those in contact with fish, are non-toxic in intended use and, where necessary, suitably durable and easy to maintain and clean;
- where appropriate, suitable facilities are available for temperature, humidity and other controls, as well as personnel hygiene facilities and toilets and potable water supply;
- there is effective protection against pest access and harbourage;

The Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system of assuring food safety and quality has now gained worldwide recognition as the most cost-effective and reliable system available. It is based on the identification of risks, minimizing those risks through the design and layout of the physical environment in which high standards of hygiene can be assured, setting measurable standards and establishing monitoring systems. HACCP also establishes procedures for verifying that the system is working effectively.

Labelling and certification of fish and fish products

The European Union introduced new labelling requirements for fishery products from 1 January 2002 specifying that all products (some processed products are excepted) shall carry labels that state production method (capture or farmed), catch area of wild species (FAO fishing area) and country of production in the case of farmed fish products, Latin name and commercial name.

Traceability

Traceability is the ability to trace the history, application or location of any entity by means of recorded identifications. The data requirement for traceability includes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vessel<ul style="list-style-type: none">– identity: name and number– ices area of fishing– length of trip– method of fishing– treatment on board• Date and time of landing the catch• Fish<ul style="list-style-type: none">– species– date of capture/harvest• Landing declaration<ul style="list-style-type: none">– handling details– shore treatment– grading method– storage conditions– quality grade– packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality standard<ul style="list-style-type: none">– weight and quality by species of catch– date of catch– sale terms including weight,– date of sale quality, packaging, price• Sales note<ul style="list-style-type: none">– date of sale– purchaser– date and time of dispatch– transporter• Transport document
---	---

4.0 The role of fisheries harbours

In tropical waters, fish is a highly perishable commodity, requiring well-developed and efficient landing and handling facilities, marketing centres and distribution channels to move the harvest to the final consumer in the shortest possible time. Moreover, the longer the time required for this operation, the greater the post-harvest care is required to retain the same catch in good condition.

In this context the role of a fishing harbour is very vital. A fishing harbour can be identified as the provision of a group of facilities to enable proper execution of most of those activities which take place between the harvest of fish and its consumption and the basic unit to ensure traceability of fisheries product. A totally comprehensive fishing harbour unit would include cold storage, ice-plant, administrative offices, and several other facilities within the harbour complex. Added to this, the connecting roads, parking areas for private and commercial vehicles, space around the halls for loading, net repair halls and areas for future expansion, make managing the fishery harbour complex, a formidable task for the harbour manager. Managing this multiplicity of functions is akin to managing a mini-municipality¹.

The fishing harbour complex is a hub of activities with nearly all of them being potential waste generators. In the absence of adequate facilities for collection, treatment and disposal systems, these wastes pollute the harbour complex and the harbour waters. Floating material, escape from the area and end up along the coastline and beaches causing further damage to the ecology and the pristine status of the marine waters. These wastes if not properly handled, lead to contamination of the product and degradation of the harbour environment due to pollution. The cost of correcting the problem 'after the fact' can be very high.

The fishery industry, especially the small-scale sector in the member-countries can ill afford economic losses due to lower prices received for poor quality fish. More significantly, both the USA and the EU have established import regulations for fishery products that are based on HACCP requirements and more and more importing nations are now insisting on clean and hygienic landing places as pre-requisites to the imports. Delays in improving the conditions of the fishing harbour might adversely impact the fish trade and ultimately the livelihood of the artisanal and small-scale fishers.

Strengthening of the hygiene and sanitary conditions in the fishing harbours has assumed significance and is of high priority to the member-countries and during the past years, the member-countries have taken significant steps to improve the condition. In addition, the governments have also recognized the importance of using the standards, guidelines and recommendations adopted by the HACCP as a basis for maintaining hygiene and sanitation standards. It is also generally agreed that these standards, guidelines and recommendations provide the basis for the control of food quality and safety as recommended in the Code of Conduct as adherence to these standards will improve consumer protection and will facilitate the export of marine products into international markets.

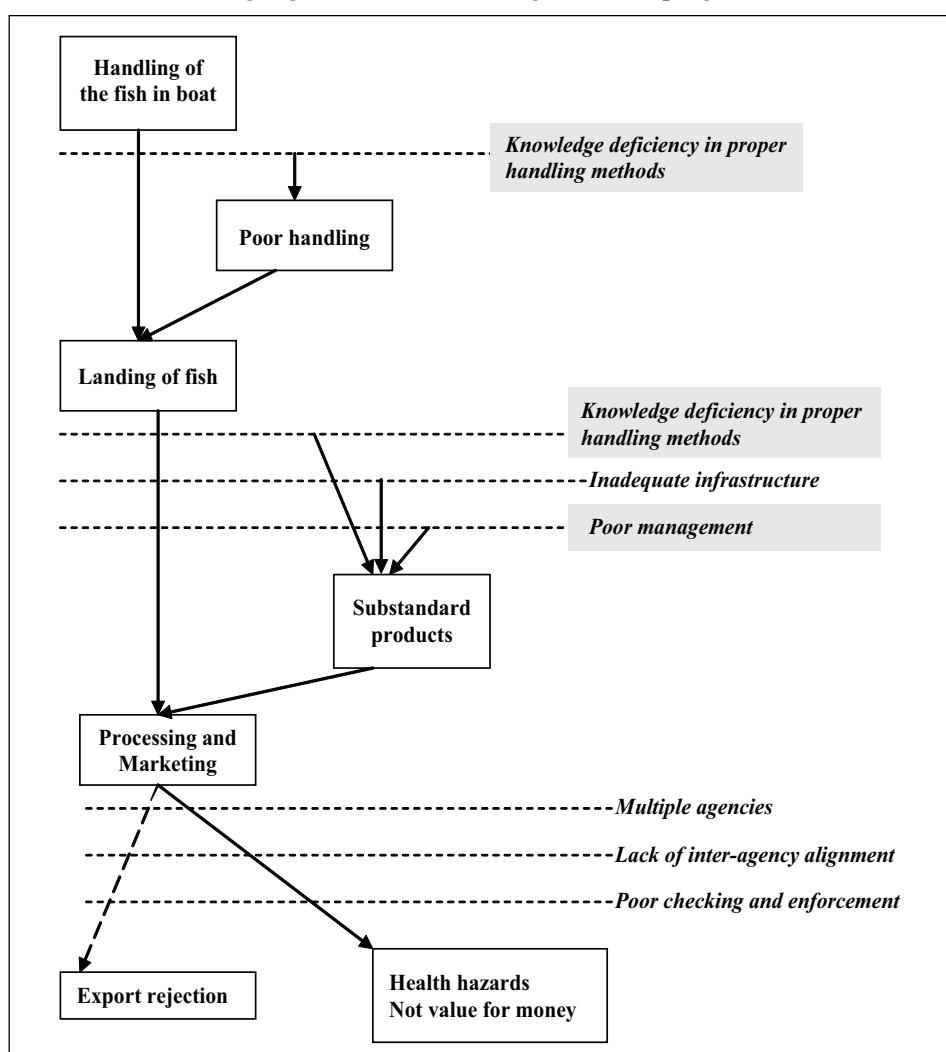
5.0 Operational model and scope of the programme

From withdrawal of a fish from the water to consume it finally involve multiple steps. Mistreatment of the product at any stage can reduce its quality and utility to the final consumer. The possibilities are depicted in **Figure 1**.

As has shown in the figure, in achieving and maintaining a minimum standard of seafood quality assurance for consumers the fisheries harbour can play the most important role. It is becoming increasingly imperative that the member-countries are able to demonstrate that their hygiene and sanitary measures in fishing harbours are based on international standards. Failure to demonstrate this could result in exclusion from international markets and forgo of competitiveness in export of marine products.

¹ JA Sciortino and R Ravikumar, 1999. *Fishery Harbour Manual on the Prevention of Pollution*. BOBP/MAG/22 pp.162.

Figure 1: Levels of the safety of fish products
(The highlighted areas will be targeted in the programme)



In view of the above, the objective of this programme is aimed at building up operational model for safe fishery product in the member-countries on a pilot scale. This project would aim at:

bridging the gap in country's knowledge on cleaner fisheries harbour and safer fisheries product;

mobilizing available expertise in the country and enhanced coordination, cooperation and communication among all those involved in this important post- harvest activity;

developing knowledge to establish the appropriate level of protection in its hygiene and sanitary measures and to understand and meet the appropriate level of protection established by its trading partners. These concepts are fundamental to trade in the WTO environment;

strengthening the control of hygiene, sanitation and fish quality assurance in the member-countries by providing acceptable standards and through these the basis for appropriate regulations;

building within the government, fisher community, industry, and research organisations, the capacity to deal with hygiene and sanitation issues in fishing harbours;

resulting in an increased capacity for the collection and exchange of information on cleaner fishing harbours that will ensure the effective interchange of information and comments from all interested parties; and

establishing model fishing harbour/ fish landing centre which can subsequently be replicated on a country-wide basis.

6.0 The proposed work plan

The project in the pilot stage of implementation may be implemented at Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh, Royapuram in India, Beruwala in Sri Lanka and Malé in Maldives. The fisheries harbours are in different stages of implementing required safety standards and used by a cross-section of fishers. From the logistic side, since these fishing harbours were selected for other BOBP-IGO projects, building up of a new proposal will be cost and time effective.

During its pilot scale implementation the programme will focus on:

- Documenting existing fish handling practices on boat;
- Documenting existing fish handling and transportation practices in the harbour;
- Status of GHP/ HACCP on boat and harbour;
- Documenting awareness/ concern of the stakeholders on safer fisheries product;
- Presenting the findings through national and regional workshops to the stakeholder;
- Utilising the workshops to identify the knowledge gaps/ point of intervention;
- Accordingly design an action plan involving all level of stakeholders to address the knowledge gaps and action points;
- Implementing the action plan on pilot sites;
- Analysis of feed-back to finalise the strategy.

7.0 Suggested Actions by the Governing Council

The Governing Council is invited to suggest on the proposed study on 'Awareness Building and Training on Safer Fishery Products'.

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 functions 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 at its First Meeting from 7 - 8 September 2004 have completed the auditing of the accounts of the BOBP-IGO for the financial years 2005 and 2006 and their reports is placed for consideration of the Governing Council.

B. Appointment of External Auditor by the Governing Council

The Governing Council at its First Meeting held at Chennai from 7 - 8 September 2004 had appointed M/s Siv. Ram & Raj, Chartered Accountants, Chennai, India, The said Firm audited the accounts of the BOBP-IGO for the years 2003 - 2006.

The Governing Council at its Third Meeting held at Malé, Maldives from 2 - 3 May 2007 directed the Secretariat to present a fresh list of auditors to the Governing Council at its next meeting. Accordingly, the process was initiated to prepare a fresh panel of auditors and expression of interest was received from the following five firms:

- 1) M/s C N Gowrishankar & Co., Chartered Accountants
- 2) M/s CA Murali Associate, Chartered Accountants
- 3) M/s Velu Muthu Associates, Chartered Accountants
- 4) M/s Vardarajan & Co, Chartered Accountants
- 5) Siv. Ram & Raj, Chartered Accountants

Based on the information provided by the five auditing firms, the Governing Council is invited to consider the proposals and select the External Auditor for auditing the accounts of BOBP-IGO.

C. Provision of Living Allowance

BOBP/INF/18 spells out the staff regulations and compensation structure applicable to BOBP-IGO. As per the procedure adopted for institutionalization of BOBP-IGO during the signing ceremony of the BOBP-IGO on April 26, 2003, the posts in the Organisation are classified into three categories: (i) Director, (ii) Professional staff and (iii) Support staff (Article 2.2 of Paragraph 2 of Staff Regulation). Paragraph 3 of Staff Regulation states: the salary scales and allowances of the Organisation shall be determined (i) in case of director by the Council and (ii) in case of employees, by the Council on recommendation of the Director.

The local staffs are entitled to basic pay only. As per the Employment Conditions of the BOBP-IGO, any staff appointed by the BOBP-IGO will serve the first year on probation and subject to satisfactory completion of probationary period one incremental step may be awarded. In addition, Paragraph III D of Employment Conditions allowed for dependency allowance of US\$ 275 per annum per dependant for a maximum number of three dependants (spouse and two children and all non-working) and also educational allowances for the siblings who are in school.

The Employment Conditions also requires that the local staffs be paid in Indian National Rupee (INR) at the prevailing exchange rate of US\$ to INR as circulated by FAO from time to time.

During the last two years, changes in international economic scenario and augmenting inflationary pressure in the domestic front have affected the well-being of the employees of the BOBP-IGO. The changes in the international scenario have led to strengthening of INR like most of the other currencies against United States Dollar (US\$).

The data of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows INR has appreciated sharply against US\$ since mid-2006. According to the Economic Survey of 2007-08, the Rupee appreciated by 8.9 percent against the US dollar during the last financial year between April 3, 2007, and February 6, 2008. The Rupee appreciation against the US dollar over the past 12 months on year-on-year basis (December 2007 over December 2006) at 13.2 per cent was even higher. The published exchange rate of UNDP of US\$ to INR, which is the reference rate used by the BOBP-IGO shows that between January, 2006 and March, 2008, the INR appreciated from INR 45.02/ US\$ in January 2006 to INR 39.75/ US\$ in March, 2008. As the local employees have no protection against the exchange rate fluctuation, they are left with a **salary decrease** compared to the period they were appointed.

Increasing cost of living

As per the Economic Survey 2007-08, deflator for private final consumption expenditures (PFCE) shows that inflation jumped from 3 per cent in 2005-06 to 5.1 per cent in 2006-07 and is projected to be 5.5 percent in 2007-08. The Consumer Price Index for Urban Non-Manual Employees (CPI-UNME)¹ published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India (MoSPI) shows that between June 2006 and February 2008, the cost of living has increased by 109.64 percent at all India level and by 109.69 percent in Chennai. The available data show Chennai as the costliest metro in India and even a small increase in CPI-UNME indicates a significant impact on people's life. The Hindu, India's leading national daily reported that irrespective of economic strata people have begun to feel the punch.

In Chennai, the increasing cost of living is mainly due to rising cost of housing in particular and general rise in the price level. Reports show, in prime residential areas of Chennai the average rental rates for a 2-bedroom flat were increased from INR 4 000-6 000 to INR 6 000-15 000 in last two years². This indicates that even for a modest living an employee is paying about 50 percent of his salary towards housing only. Since, as per the Employment Conditions there is no housing allowance for the local employees, the rising cost of housing has accentuated the discomfort of an employee in view of his declining income since the last two years.

For the local staff the problem is like a double whammy. Due to appreciation of INR their nominal income in Indian Currency has gone down and due to rising prices, they have to spend more for the same level of services.

Considering the scenario presented above, it is suggested that the Governing Council may consider a provision of living allowance for the local employees to compensate for the rising cost of living in the city. As per the existing norms, the living allowance is fixed at US\$ 500/ year per employee. This amount as mentioned in the BOBP/INF/18 might not be adequate. Hence, it is suggested that for the first year of appointment the employee will get a living allowance of US\$ 500 per annum with effect from 2006 with a provision of increment of US\$ 50 per year from the second year onwards.

Also, based on the data of the Government of India, between 2007 and 2008, the allowance of the local staff can be calculated. As mentioned earlier at present the local staff are entitled to dependency allowance and educational allowance. Presently, the educational grant is US\$ 2 500 per year or about INR 8 333 per month. It is suggested that this be increased to US\$ 2 600 per year (an increase of 4 %). Similarly, dependency allowance may be increased from US\$ 275 to US\$ 350 per annum to compensate for exchange rate and inflationary pressure.

¹ http://mospi.nic.in/mospi_cpi.htm

² http://www.ideamarketers.com/?Rental_Values_on_Rise_in_Chennai_&articleid=289532 and <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7322802.stm>

D. Advertisement for the posts of 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. The post was advertised in July-August 2007 and only one application has been received. The said application is placed before the Governing Council for its consideration. In the event of the said application not being considered by the Governing Council, approval may be given for re-advertisement of the position.

E. Advertisement for the posts of Policy Analyst

The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) proposes to recruit suitably qualified person from the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO for the position of Policy Analyst (Professional Level I or II). The position is full time and for a tenure of three years. The suitable applicant should have post graduate degree in social sciences and a minimum of five years work experience in the area of specialization. The ideal candidate should have experience in working in marine fisheries sector especially, on issues related to small-scale fishing in the Bay of Bengal region.

The Governing Council may consider the proposal and give its consent for advertisement of the post of Policy Analyst.

F. 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 within 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.

* * *

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

The Senior Programme Adviser of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) will be responsible for development, coordination and oversight of various projects and programmes in the framework of BOBP-IGO and will be based in Chennai. 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 on2008;
- education level equivalent to a Master's Degree in Fisheries, Marine Biology, Environmental Science, 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;
- 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. Depending on the level of experience, annual basic pay will be in the range of US \$ 12 000 to US \$ 14 700. Besides, the other benefits include dislocation allowance, installation allowance, living allowance, dependency allowance, educational grant, provident fund and health and accident insurance. Applicable package will be communicated to the short-listed candidates.

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

The Director
BOBP-IGO
91, St Mary's Road, Abhirampuram
Chennai – 600 018, Tamil Nadu, India
Tel: # 91 44 24936188; Fax: # 91 44 24936102
Email: info@bobpigo.org

Closing Date for receipt of applications is2008. Applications can also be sent on the email mentioned above.

BOBP-IGO is an equal opportunity employer

*** Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka**

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE POST OF POLICY ANALYST, BOBP-IGO

The Policy Analyst of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) will be responsible for evaluation of marine fisheries institutions and policies, especially of the member - countries to identify their scope and needs in ensuring responsible fisheries and undertaking independent field-based research as required. He/ she will support the Organisation to develop and implement the programmes and will be based in Chennai.

Qualifications:

- a national of a Member-Country* of BOBP-IGO;
- below forty-five (45) years of age as on2008;
- education level equivalent to a Master's Degree in Economics, Mangement, Development and Policy Studies, or related field;
- a minimum period of 3 years (for Ph D) and 5 years (for Masters Degree) in positions of responsibility at national/ international level in policy analysis or related field with a focus on marine fisheries sector and some degree of involvement ideally in the BOBP-IGO member-countries;
- ability to manage a complex workload and to work on own initiative with limited supervision;
- must be a team player with the ability to adapt quickly to different situation;
- fluency in both written and spoken English and at least one more language of the BOBP-IGO member-countries and fluency in use of computers;
- 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. Depending on the level of experience, annual basic pay will be in the range of US \$ 9 600 to US \$ 11 760. Besides the other benefits include dislocation allowance, installation allowance, living allowance, dependency allowance, educational grant, provident fund and health and accidence insurance. Applicable package will be communicated to the short-listed candidates.

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

The Director

BOBP-IGO

91, St Mary's Road, Abhiramapuram

Chennai – 600 018, Tamil Nadu, India

Tel: # 91 44 24936188; Fax: # 91 44 24936102

Email: info@bobpigo.org

Closing Date for receipt of applications is2008. 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**

91, Saint Mary's Road, Abhirampuram, Chennai - 600 018, Tamil Nadu, India.

Tel: +91-44-24936294, 24936188; Fax: +91-44-24936102

E-mail: info@bobpigo.org; www.bobpigo.org