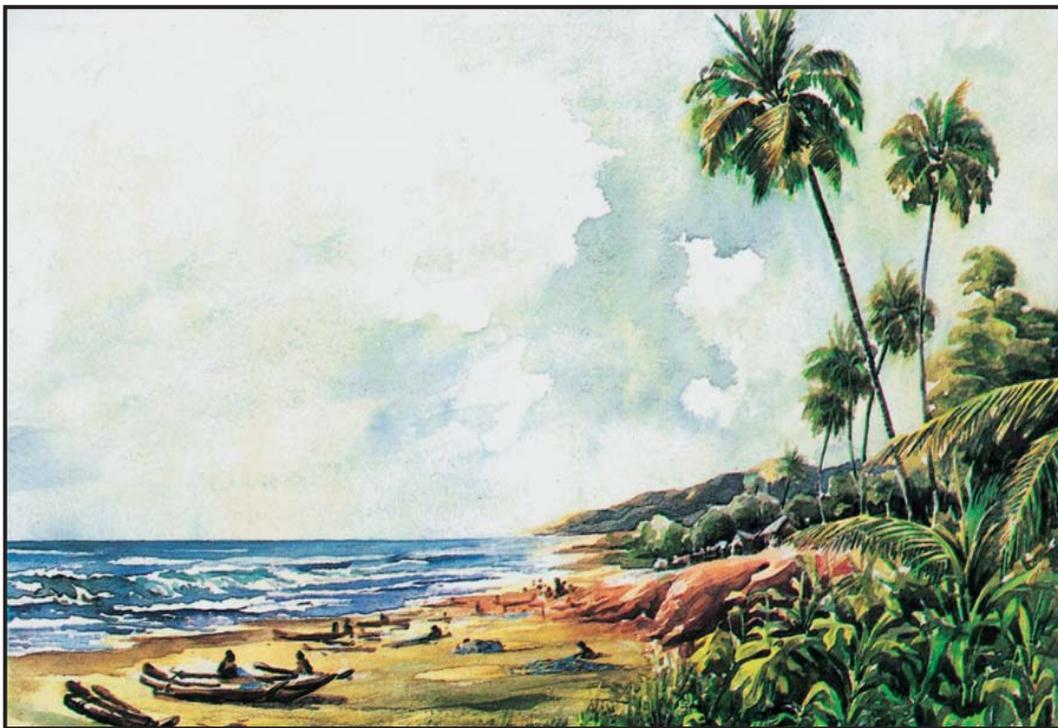




***Report of the
Sixth Meeting of the
Governing Council***



**REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

15 - 16 July 2010
Colombo, Sri Lanka

This document records the report of the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). The meeting was held on 15-16 July 2010 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The document contains a Progress Report of the BOBP-IGO for the period April 2009 - March 2010 and Workplan for the period April 2010 - March 2011. It also contains the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO held in Malé, Maldives on 2-3 June 2010.

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

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

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*Sitting (L-R): Mr Khin Ko Lay, Mr Hussain Sinan, Mr Tarun Shridhar,
Dr Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Dr Rajitha Senaratne, Dr Damitha de Zoysa,
Mr Shamsul Kibria, Dr Y S Yadava, Mr Indra Ranasinghe.*

*Standing (L-R): Mr Rajdeep Mukherjee, Mr W Pathirana Sirisena,
Mr Shantha Bandara, Dr Md Gulam Hussain, Dr HPK Hewapathirana,
Mr Miao Weimin, Dr Ansy Mathew NP.*

REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM-6) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 15-16 July 2010. The GCM-6 was attended by representatives of the four member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka), delegates from Myanmar and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations as observers and the Secretariat staff of the BOBP-IGO. A list of delegates is attached as *Appendix A*.

2.0 The Inaugural Session of the Meeting began with the National Anthem of Sri Lanka followed by Lighting of the Traditional Lamp. Hon'ble (Dr) Rajitha Senaratne, Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MFARD) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and also chaired the Inaugural Session. Senior officials from the MFARD, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR), National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka, Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation, Ceylon Fisheries Corporation and Cey- Nor Foundation Limited attended the Inaugural Session. The Session was covered by representatives of local print and electronic media.

3.0 Mr Indra Ranasinghe, Director General, MFARD welcomed the delegates. He said that Sri Lanka is delighted to host the GCM-6 and thanked the Hon'ble Minister for gracing the occasion. Mr Ranasinghe hoped that GCM-6 would be successful in providing directions to the Organisation to address issues concerning the Bay of Bengal (BoB) region. He wished the delegates a pleasant stay in Sri Lanka. The full text of Mr Ranasinghe's welcome address is placed as *Appendix B*.

4.0 Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO, welcomed the delegates and the dignitaries on behalf of BOBP-IGO and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Sri Lanka for having agreed to host the Meeting. He said that the GCM was being held in Colombo for the second time, the first meeting being held in the year 2005. Dr Yadava said that the global fishery was at cross roads and facing several challenges. He said that the decade of 1990s could be described as a 'decade of preparation'. The global community understanding the threats to the fisheries sector joined hands in the 1990s to formulate the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), the Rio Declaration on Sustainability and Convention on Biological Diversity along with other agreements/consensus to chart a sustainable path for the sector. However, the 2000s, which was supposed to be the decade of implementing these global instruments passed by without significant developments and could thus be termed as a 'decade of lost opportunities'. He urged the member-countries to make up for the lost time to ensure sustainability of the fisheries resources, which is also the objective of the BOBP-IGO.

Dr Yadava placed on record his gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for sparing his valuable time to chair the Inaugural Session. He thanked the representatives from the member-countries, the observers from Myanmar and FAO for attending the GCM-6 and the guests for participating in the Inaugural Session and for their support to the Organisation.

5.0 Mr Tarun Shridhar, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and the current chair of the Governing Council extended a hearty welcome to the delegates. He said that the BOBP-IGO and its forerunner BOBP have a presence of three decades in the region and the Organisation is an excellent example of regional cooperation. Mr Shridhar said that the importance of BOBP-IGO cannot be underestimated, especially in respect of the BoB region, which is largely dominated by small-scale fisheries. Mr Shridhar highlighted the fact that fisheries in the Bay were important from the livelihoods point of view and the increasing technical barriers in trade (TBTs) were affecting the interests of developing countries. Reiterating his trust on BOBP-IGO, Mr Shridhar said that time has come to assign management responsibilities to BOBP-IGO. Mr Shridhar invited Myanmar to become a full member of BOBP-IGO as it would further consolidate regional efforts in sustainable development of fisheries in the BoB region. Closing his speech, Mr Shridhar thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting the GCM-6 and wished the meeting every success.

6.0 Dr Damitha de Zoysa, Secretary, MFARD, Government of Sri Lanka welcomed the delegates and said that the Government of Sri Lanka is happy to host the GCM-6. Comparing the objectives of BOBP-IGO to those of the Government of Sri Lanka, she said that sharing of common concerns is the bottom-line of compatibility of the Organisation with its member-countries and congratulated the Secretariat for their good work. Reiterating full support and cooperation of her Government to the Organisation, Dr de Zoysa wished the GCM-6 all success. The full speech of Secretary, MFARD is placed as *Appendix C*.

7.0 In his inaugural address, Hon'ble Dr Senaratne extended a warm welcome to the delegates. He said that it is an honor for him to open the GCM-6, which is the policy-making body of BOBP-IGO. Drawing attention of the house to the resource sharing aspects, Dr Senaratne said that countries in the BoB are bound by common heritage and share the same marine resources. However, utilization of these resources is subjected to international pressure, thus hindering the countries to pursue their national interests. Giving examples from recent policy and trade negotiations, Dr Senaratne urged the countries to promote a common regional platform, which would help in protecting the interests of the countries in international forums. In this regard, BOBP-IGO could play the role of a coordinator and urged the member-countries to bring the other BoB rim countries also within the folds of the BOBP-IGO family. He endorsed Mr Shridhar's invitation to Myanmar to join BOBP-IGO. Reflecting on fisheries development scenario in Sri Lanka, Dr Senaratne said that Sri Lanka is currently implementing the *Mahinda Chinthana* programme, which is aimed at increasing the contributions of fisheries sector in the national economy and developing its offshore fishing fleet. He hoped that BOBP-IGO would facilitate the country to realize its objectives. Wishing the delegates a pleasant stay in Sri Lanka and all the success, Dr Senaratne declared the GCM-6 open. The full text of the Hon'ble Minister's speech is placed as *Appendix D*.

8.0 Mr Manoj Priyankara Govinnage, Planning Assistant, MFARD proposed the vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for gracing the occasion and being a source of inspiration. He thanked the Secretary, MFARD for guidance in organizing the Meeting and to Dr Yadava for effective coordination. He thanked the guests for attending the Inaugural Session and wished the delegates a pleasant and enjoyable stay in Colombo.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

10.0 Mr Shridhar opened the Session for the election of the new chairperson. Hon'ble Dr Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Minister of State (MOS) for Fisheries & Agriculture, Government of Maldives proposed the name of Sri Lanka to chair the GCM-6. The proposal was seconded by Mr Shamsul Kibria, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Government of Bangladesh. This was unanimously agreed upon.

11.0 Mr Shridhar in his closing remarks complimented the Secretariat for competently handling the work programme during his tenure as the chair.

Mr Shridhar said that BOBP-IGO is a shining example of regional cooperation and member-countries should provide best cooperation to take it to new heights as it is their own Organisation. He wished Dr de Zoysa, the newly elected chair, a successful term.

12.0 Thanking the outgoing chair for his guidance, Dr Yadava moved a resolution to express gratitude on behalf of the Organisation. Delegates from Bangladesh seconded the resolution and the Governing Council noted the contributions of Mr Shridhar in development and functioning of the BOBP-IGO. Dr Yadava also welcomed the new chairperson of the Governing Council.

13.0 In her introductory remarks, Dr de Zoysa placed on record her appreciation for the leadership provided by India during the Fifth GCM and thanked the delegates for choosing Sri Lanka as the new chair. She requested the Director, BOBP-IGO to present the Report of the Organisation for the period April 2009 to March 2010. This Report is attached as *Appendix G*.

Report of the BOBP-IGO (April 2009 - March 2010)

14.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, presented the report for the period April 2009 to March 2010. Explaining the guiding philosophy behind the activities of BOBP-IGO, Dr Yadava said that the Organisation is involved in improving responsibility in fisheries management and representing the concerns of its member-countries in international arena. The Organisation has adopted the 4D strategy where a programme is executed through discussion, demonstration, dissemination and delivery. He said that under the 4D strategy, programmes are conceived for pilot-scale implementation and feedbacks are disseminated both to the local and national (or international) audience; the outputs or the deliveries of the programmes are recorded and discussed with the concerned stakeholders and finally the community and national governments are encouraged to manage or replicate the programmes with technical support from the Organisation.

15.0 Dr Yadava then presented an activity matrix of the programmes undertaken by the Secretariat during April 2009 – March 2010 as per the work programme agreed at the Fourth Meeting of the TAC held in Dhaka, Bangladesh and subsequently endorsed by the Governing Council at its Fifth Meeting (GCM-5) held in Chennai, India. The activities undertaken broadly aimed at building capacity in the member-countries, improving management of fisheries resources and fish stocks shared in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the member-countries and Myanmar and improving safety at sea for small-scale fisheries. In particular, capacity building activities were aimed at preparing member-countries to deal with issues at home and promote implementation of the CCRF through vernacular translations (so far translated in Bangla and Tamil languages) of the Technical Guidelines (TGs) of the CCRF and training of fisheries officials from the member-countries.

Dr Yadava said that these activities could potentially benefit 1.2 million fishers in Bangladesh, East Coast of India and the Andaman and Nicobar Island of India and northern Sri Lanka. In addition to regular capacity-building programmes, the BOBP-IGO was extensively involved in preparing a strategic roadmap to address the technicalities that arose from the European Union's (EU) Regulation regarding legality of fisheries products meant for EU market (EU-IUU Regulation¹). To this effect, the Organisation prepared analytical documents assessing the capacity of the member-countries to deal with the EU-IUU Regulation and organized a Strategic Meeting in Sri Lanka in September 2009. Dr Yadava said that the Organisation also initiated a training programme on 'adapting to climate change' for fisheries officials. The first training programme in this regard was conducted with seed money from the United Nations Institution for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Bannai Small Grants Fund for Capacity Development in Sea and Human Security in India.

On programmes concerning fisheries management, Dr Yadava said that the final National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (NW-MCS) was organized in Sri Lanka fulfilling the preliminary requirement as suggested in the 2008 *Chittagong Resolution* of the BOBP-IGO member-countries. Since all the member-countries have now their MCS Action Plan, the next step would be to implement the Plans in a time-bound manner. Dr Yadava said that preparation of management plans for hilsa and shark fisheries had progressed and the member-countries had prepared national roadmaps detailing the requirements to formulate management plans. Further, preparation of regional management plans for shark and hilsa was also under progress in partnership with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME).

Explaining the other major activity undertaken by the Secretariat, Dr Yadava said that the Global Project on 'Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries (*GCP/GLO/200/MUL*)' implemented by the FAO (Fisheries Industries Division) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH- Alaska Center) of the USA through the BOBP-IGO successfully concluded during December 2009. The Project brought out hitherto overlooked issues concerning safety at sea of small-scale fishers and initiated technology transfer for cost-effective solutions to safety. The outcome of the Project would benefit over 70 000 fishing vessels and their crews in the member-countries. However, during the final months, the compliment of external staff for the Project was discontinued leaving the Secretariat to trade-off with some in-house projects to complete the safety at sea activities in the member-countries.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated(IUU) fishing.



Dr Rajitha Senaratne



Dr Damitha de Zoysa



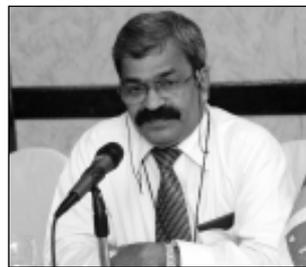
Mr Tarun Shridhar



Mr Shamsul Kibria



Dr Hussain Rasheed Hassan



Mr Indra Ranasinghe



Mr Khin Ko Lay



Dr HPK Hewapathirana



Mr Miao Weimin



The GCM in progress

The Organisation also participated in various regional and international events by collaborating with other agencies, informed Dr Yadava. Evaluating the performance of the Secretariat, Dr Yadava said out of 16 core activities for the year 2009-10, only two activities could not be brought to a satisfactory conclusion due to time-constraint.

16.0 Opening discussions on the Report, the chair complimented the Organisation for making significant contributions during the year. The chair then opened the Report of the Secretariat for discussion.

17.0 Mr Shridhar (delegate from India) said that in various global fora some forms of fisheries subsidies were being agreed to, but they were also being associated with fisheries management systems (FMS) being practiced by the countries. He said that the stipulations relating to FMS are being more prescriptive, which are often not feasible at the implementation level. In this regard, he suggested that the Governing Council should place high priority on capacity building in stock assessment and related areas. Responding to this, Director, BOBP-IGO suggested that the services of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, India may be provided for capacity building of junior and middle level staff of the member-countries in data collection, collation and other methodologies for fisheries statistics in general and stock assessment in particular. The GCM agreed to the suggestion of the Secretariat.

On possible impacts of climate change on fisheries, Mr Shridhar said that the Governing Council had rightly placed high priority on capacity building at all levels and emphasized on the need to build the capacities of traditional/small-scale fishers and fisheries managers operating at the field-level. He also emphasized on the need to link adaptive strategies to livelihoods in the fisheries sector, since any adverse impact of climate change would jeopardize the livelihoods of millions of fishers in the region. Mr Shridhar said that BOBP-IGO should be a leader in this regard and suggested that this agenda should also receive high priority in the work programmes of the Organisation.

Drawing reference to the discussions held in GCM-5, the delegate suggested that the Secretariat should compile the recommendations of all the meetings of the Governing Council held in the past and indicate action taken/progress of work under each of the recommendations. Such a compilation would serve the purpose of a ready reckoner on action taken by the Secretariat on the directives of the GCM.

The delegate said that the Secretariat was doing excellent work in the field of safety at sea for small-scale fishers, which was also reflected by the number of documents published and the programmes undertaken during the current year. He emphasized on continuation of the good work carried out on safety issues of small-scale fishers, especially on recording of accidents at sea and placed India's full support to the programme.

On translation of the TGs of the CCRF in vernacular by the Secretariat, the delegate recalled the decision of GCM-5 and said that the time lag between the publication of the document in English by FAO and its translation and printing should be reduced. He informed that the Government of India, through its diplomatic channels, had initiated dialogue with Myanmar concerning its membership of BOBP-IGO. He also said that the Secretariat should interact more frequently with the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Secretariat dealing with fisheries matter so that BOBP-IGO could play a larger role within the BIMSTEC framework.

18.0 Hon'ble Dr Hassan (delegate from Maldives) said that "BOBP-IGO is our own Organisation and we need to provide more support to the Organisation so that its output is commensurate with the needs of the member-countries." He said that the issue of fish stocks assessment is being increasingly linked to trade negotiations and supported the views of the other delegates to lay more emphasis on capacity building in the member-countries on fisheries data collection and analysis. With respect to Maldivian fisheries, the Hon'ble Minister said that Maldives harvests a quarter of the Indian Ocean skipjack tuna, which is also the main species harvested in the Maldives. He said that although Maldives was yet to become a full-fledged member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), it is helping IOTC in assessing tuna resources in the Indian Ocean. "Assessment of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is available for yellowfin and big-eye tuna species, but lacking for skipjack. However, the available data on skipjack indicates that the resources of this species are moderately exploited, but with larger purse seiners targeting such stocks, depletion can take place," said Dr Hassan. "Building capacities for stock assessment should be a priority and the member-countries should cooperate more in this area."

The Hon'ble MOS further said that climate change has a very significant effect on tuna fisheries of Maldives. Climate change affects both vertical and horizontal distribution of tuna stocks and also adversely impacts the bait fisheries, which are basically distributed in the coral reef ecosystem. With the warming of the sea, the tuna will move southwards and the stocks will not be available in the northern waters. He said that Maldives would be willing to cooperate in all international and regional initiatives on matters related to climate change and its impact on fisheries. He complimented the Secretariat for the good work done during the reporting period and also requested the delegate from Myanmar to join the BOBP-IGO as a member at the earliest.

19.0 Mr Shamsul Kibria, delegate from Bangladesh complimented the Secretariat for a very comprehensive presentation on the work undertaken during the period under report. While agreeing to the need for capacity-building in stock assessment and fisheries resource management, he said that Bangladesh was feeling the impact of various trade measures on its seafood exports to some countries, which were more or less in the nature of TBTs. He suggested that the BOBP-IGO member-countries should collectively review the TBTs and if required have a common position on such barriers against their seafood trade.

On matters related to livelihoods, the delegate said that Bangladesh fully endorsed the need for alternative/additional livelihood opportunities and supported increased interventions in safety at sea of small-scale fishers. The delegate welcomed the idea of a donor's workshop for soliciting funds for improving the vital aspect of fisher's safety at sea and reiterated his government's intent to improve the monitoring and recording of accidents at sea. "Studies on the impact of climate change on fisheries should be given a focus and Bangladesh and India should cooperate on matters of mutual interest in this area. Further, Myanmar should become a member of BOBP-IGO at the earliest, which would be beneficial for both Myanmar and the other member-countries of the Organisation," said the delegate.

20.0 The delegate from Maldives (Mr Hussain Sinan) said that the programme on capacity building in stock assessment should not only be for scientists but also for field-level staff who are involved in day-to-day data collection programmes. Their capacity enhancement would directly reflect on the quality of the data collected.

21.0 The delegate from Bangladesh (Dr Gulam Hussain) said that BOBP-IGO should assist the member-countries in capacity building on curbing the menace of IUU fishing in the region. He informed that Bangladesh is considering placing restrictions on shark fishing and is also proposing to become a member of the IOTC. The delegate said that the impact of climate change will be more severe for coastal fisheries including hilsa fisheries in Bangladesh. On safety at sea programmes conducted by BOBP-IGO, he complimented the Organisation for the good work done to reduce accidents at sea and said that the proposed reporting mechanism on accidents at sea should have a coast-wide coverage in Bangladesh. He also requested BOBP-IGO to facilitate demonstration of the FRP floats so that the floats could be popularized in mechanized fishing boats, which go out for fishing for longer duration. He further reiterated the suggestions of the other delegates that the member-countries should have a collective voice on trade issues that affect seafood exports from the region.

22.0 Appreciating the work carried out by the Secretariat, the delegate from Sri Lanka said that fisheries in the coastal waters of Sri Lanka are multi-species, but in the offshore waters fishers mostly target single species *i.e.* tuna and tuna-like species. In such a situation it is also necessary to build capacities for stock assessment and monitoring of single species/stocks. The delegate supported the views of the other member-countries in carrying forward safety at sea activities, especially in the context of monitoring and reporting of accidents at sea.

23.0 The Hon'ble MOS said that fisheries management is very important. "Until recently, fisheries in Maldives were based on 'open access'. Beginning from 01 January 2010, all fishing vessels that catch fish for export are licensed and regulated. After meeting the requirements of the EU-IUU Regulation, Maldivian fish exports to the EU have benefited in both volume and value. A third party certification of tuna by the Marine Stewardship Council is also on the anvil and this would give a further boost to the Maldivian tuna exports. He said that the buyers (importers) have the right to buy fish that they feel is harvested using sustainable practices, and reject those that are caught using unsustainable practices. However, it needs to be seen that such measures are not based on TBTs and discriminate countries," said Dr Hassan.

24.0 The Governing Council discussed the growing issues in fish trade and their linking with fisheries management and agreed that the BOBP-IGO may have to involve more in trade related matters and assist the member-countries in capacity- building and providing technical support as and when needed. The Governing

Council also agreed that fish stock assessment may not be looked in isolation but in the larger ambit of fisheries management. Citing some of the discussions in trade-related negotiations, the Governing Council said that it is not only that trade is being linked with fisheries management, but attempts are also being made to prescribe management norms/modalities that should be applied by the developing countries. Recognizing the complexities of fisheries management in developing countries, which are set in tropical warm waters and where fisheries are characterized by multi-species, multi-gear and highly dispersed nature, the Governing Council said that such fisheries have evolved over ages and are set in their own social, cultural and political milieu. Each fishery has its distinct identity and science may not always provide universal solution for managing such fisheries; rather management practices would have to be location-specific and guided by local needs and be participatory in nature. It further agreed that while science and technology would shape such fisheries for a better tomorrow, traditional knowledge and wisdom on which these fisheries have evolved over ages would go hand in hand.

25.0 The Governing Council noted the increasing focus on mariculture to enhance production from coastal waters and suggested that BOBP-IGO member-countries should develop mariculture programmes such as grouper and crab farming, pearl culture, etc. The Governing Council also agreed that available expertise and technology in the member-countries should be shared for developing mariculture.

26.0 Mr Miao Weimin, Observer representing FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) and the BOBLME Project expressed his sincere thanks to BOBP-IGO and the host government for inviting FAO-RAP and BOBLME Project to GCM-6. He recalled the cooperation and support of BOBP-IGO that FAO had been enjoying in implementation of its global and regional activities and the activities of the BOBLME Project and highly appreciated the active participation of BOBP-IGO in all the activities of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC). He heartily complimented BOBP-IGO for the activities implemented and achievements made, as reported to the Governing Council. He said that most of the issues and concerns raised by the Governing Council in this meeting are common to other countries in the Asia-Pacific region and FAO-RAP and APFIC will consider these issues while developing their future work plan. Responding to the concerns of some of the delegates on implementation of the new EU-IUU regulation regarding catch documentation, he said that improvements in fisheries management is of great importance for every country to achieve long-term sustainability of capture fisheries and environmental integrity. However, implementation of new standards/regulations set by importing countries should be a gradual process. On the contrary, with limited consultation with seafood producing countries and without allowing sufficient time for carrying out improvements may lead to potential trade barriers. He said that FAO appreciates the efforts of BOBP-IGO in assisting its member-countries in coping with the issue. Noting BOBP-IGO's pursuit in expanding its scope and mandate, he hoped that BOBP-IGO will continue to provide support and facilitation to FAO's global and regional activities and also implementation of the activities of the BOBLME Project in its member-countries.

27.0 Mr Khin Ko Lay, Observer from Myanmar thanked the BOBP-IGO for extending invitation to his government to participate in GCM-6 and complimented the Organisation for the excellent work carried out during the year. He said that his country was also facing many challenges in exporting fish and fish products for various reasons. "Although we are exporting fish and fish products to many countries, but we need more facilities and expertise for survey of the aquatic resources as also for monitoring drug residues in the aquaculture products. In the past Myanmar has benefited from the training programme on stock assessment conducted by SEAFDEC, but carrying out stock assessment on regular basis is expensive. We are thankful to BOBP-IGO for involving us in many activities and I will take up the matter regarding Myanmar's participation in the BOBP-IGO as a regular member with my Government," said the delegate. The full text of Mr Lay's remarks is placed as *Appendix H*.

Report of the Fifth Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

28.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO presented the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the TAC held at Malé, Maldives on 2-3 June 2010. The Report is placed as *Appendix I*.

29.0 The Director informed that the Fifth TAC reviewed the activities carried out by the Secretariat during April 2009 to March 2010 and expressed its satisfaction over the status of implementation of the programmes. The TAC also identified proposals and priorities for the member-countries (presented on next page) and helped the Secretariat in preparation of the Work Plan for the period April 2010 - March 2011.

Proposals and priorities of the member-countries presented in the Fifth Meeting of the TAC				
Area/ Country	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Resource management	Management plan for shrimp brood stock fishery.	Evaluation of tuna fishing by small-scale fishing vessels.	Management plan for grouper species.	Development of transboundary management units for shared fish stocks.
	Stock assessment of marine fisheries resources and oceanographic studies.	Collaborative programmes on stock assessment and oceanographic studies.	Management plans for live bait fisheries for tuna fishing.	Collaborative programmes on stock assessment and oceanographic studies.
	Management of shared fish stocks and ecosystems.	--	--	Management plan for grouper fishery.
Capacity building & information dissemination	Development of adaptation strategies for impact of climate change on fisheries.	Studies on interaction of new technologies and climate change on fisheries.	Capacity building in fish species identification.	Capacity building in data collection and short and long-term fishery forecasting.
	Technical support for strong MCS.	Application of findings from climate change studies on fisheries at community-level.	Increasing awareness on management plans.	Genetic characterization of stocks.
	Capacity building on improved handling of fish on board and traceability.	Technology inputs for improving hygienic conditions and food safety.	Information dissemination on climate change	Capacity building on improved handling of fish on board.
	Genetic characterization of stocks.	--	--	Rebuilding of north-eastern fisheries sector – capacity building and awareness programmes.
Safety at sea	Technical support for safety at sea and awareness programmes.	Improving living conditions (especially and sanitation) on fishing boats.	Guidelines for construction of fishing boats to ensure their safety.	Continuation of programmes on safety at sea.
	Standards and certification for fishing boat construction.	Standards and certification for fishing boat construction.	--	--

Presentation of Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action (2010-14) and Concept Note on the Modalities and Requirements for Assigning the Role of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation to the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation

30.0 Director, BOBP-IGO presented the Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action (2010-14) of the Organisation and also the Concept Note on the Modalities and Requirements for Assigning the Role of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation to the BOBP-IGO. The two documents are placed as **Appendix J** and **Appendix K** respectively.

31.0 Presenting the Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action (2010-14), Director, BOBP-IGO said that the vision of the Organisation is “***To promote and establish responsible fisheries in a time bound manner to ensure socio-economic well-being of the marine fishers and ecological security of fisheries resources in the Bay of Bengal while catalyzing the growth of the sector to substantiate economic development of the member-countries***”.

Delineating the Strategic Plan of Action, he said that the Strategic Plan is proposed for a duration of five years and is focused on improving management of fisheries resources; safety at sea; penetration of the CCRF to the Grassroots; adapting to climate change; improving hygienic condition in fisheries and enhancement of livelihoods of fishers.

32.0 The Governing Council, while approving the Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action (2010-14) of the Organisation, agreed to the suggestion of the delegate from Bangladesh to highlight the goal of optimizing production, ensuring food security and equity in trade of fish and fish products in the said document.

33.0 The Governing Council agreed, in principle, to the need of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation for the BoB region and resolved that it is high time to expand the scope of mandate and work of BOBP-IGO and in this regard agreed to the following:

- (i) *A Technical Committee will be constituted under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives to prepare a comprehensive report on the need and scope of the RFMO for the BoB region. The Committee will invite FAO and Myanmar as observers. It may also co-opt any other country/ organization or an existing RFMO if need arises.*
- (ii) *The Committee will finalize its report within a time-frame of four months and the report will be circulated to all the member-countries.*
- (iii) *The venue for the meeting of the Technical Committee will be Chennai.*
- (iv) *Based on the examination of the Report by the member-countries, a larger meeting would be convened to further progress the matter.*

Presentation of Programme and Activities for the year April 2010 – March 2011

34.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, presented the proposed programme and activities for the year April 2010 - March 2011. The Governing Council approved the programme and activities for the period April 2010 - March 2011, including the following additional activities:

- (i) *A strategic paper on scope of fisheries management in the BoB Region.*
- (ii) *Capacity building of stakeholders at various levels in fisheries data collection methodologies and stock assessment.*

35.0 The Work Plan for the period April 2010 - March 2011 is presented as ***Appendix L***.

Administrative Matters

36.0 The GCM approved the report of the Auditors for the Years 2008 and 2009 and also agreed to increase the auditing fee from the present INR 33 000 to INR 45 000.

37.0 The Secretariat placed a proposal for increasing the age of the Secretariat Staff and also mentioned that the pay scales might need revision in the near future to bring in parity with other Inter-Governmental bodies working in the region. The GCM-6 agreed to the proposal of the Secretariat to increase the retirement age of the Secretariat staff to 62 years from the present retirement age of 60 years.

38.0 The GCM noted the present status of filling up of the positions of Senior Programme Advisor and Fisheries Resources Officer for the Secretariat and asked the Director, BOBP-IGO to proceed in the matter as per the provisions provided for in the Rules and Regulations of the Organisation.

39.0 The Secretariat reiterated its request for 'Secondment' of suitable staff from the member-countries for placement at the Secretariat for a period ranging from 12-18 months. While agreeing to this proposal, the GCM suggested that the member-countries may be informed of the number of secondment positions to be filled up along with their terms of reference indicating the discipline/subject in which the positions are desired, admissible emoluments, etc for their consideration. The Administrative Matters considered by the GCM are placed as ***Appendix M***.

Other matters

40.0 The Governing Council suggested that the report of the auditors, as also other meeting documents, should be circulated to the member-countries in advance.

41.0 The Governing Council suggested that the Secretariat should present an Annual Report to the GCM, which in brief should cover both financial and administrative reports of the Secretariat. Further, the Annual Report should also provide a statement of performance of the individual staffs of the Organisation.

Date and Place of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council

42.0 The Governing Council accepted the kind offer of the delegation of Maldives to host the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council during 2011, subject to the approval of the Government of Maldives. The date and venue would be decided by the Secretariat in consultation with the Government of Maldives.

Adoption of the Report

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

44.0 The chairperson in her concluding remarks appreciated the active participation of the delegates, and declared the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council closed.

45.0 The Report of the Governing Council was adopted on 16 July 2010.

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Welcome Address by Director General, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka

Hon'ble Dr Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development; Hon'ble Dr Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Minister of State for Fisheries & Agriculture, Government of Maldives; Dr Damitha de Zoyza, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development; Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO); Mr Tarun Shridhar, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Government of India and current chairman of the Governing Council of the BOBP- IGO; Heads of Institutions attached to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MFARD); distinguished participants; distinguished invitees; ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka and the BOBP-IGO, it gives me a great pleasure to welcome all of you to this Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO. We in Sri Lanka are delighted to host this Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council in Colombo after the last meeting, which was held in Chennai, India in 2009.

We are honored to have with us Hon'ble Dr Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development as the chief guest and Dr Damitha de Zoyza, Secretary, MFARD and I extend a warm welcome to them for being present here despite their busy schedule. I also welcome Dr Yugraj Yadava Director, BOBP-IGO and Mr Tarun Shridhar, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Government of India and the current chairman of the Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO.

Let me extend a warm welcome and sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Dr Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Minister of State for Fisheries & Agriculture, Government of Maldives for his participation in the Governing Council Meeting.

I extend a warm welcome to all the foreign delegates from India, Bangladesh and Maldives including the observer members from Myanmar and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I would also like to extend hearty welcome to all the participants, especially the Chairmen, Director Generals, Directors and other officials from the MFARD and its Institutions.

I am sure the proceedings and discussions of the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council will contribute to the formulation of the Activity Plan for the year 2010- 2011 and will also be able to review the outputs and outcomes of the past activities that have been implemented by the BOBP-IGO Secretariat.

Let me once again welcome you all and wish you a very pleasant stay in Sri Lanka.

Thank you!

**Speech by Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development,
Government of Sri Lanka**

Hon'ble (Dr) Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development; Hon'ble (Dr) Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Minister of State for Fisheries & Agriculture, Government of Maldives; Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO); Mr Tarun Shridhar, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Government of India and the current chairman of the Governing Council of BOBP-IGO; Distinguished Delegates; Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasant duty to extend a warm welcome to you all on behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development on the occasion of the inauguration of the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council of BOBP-IGO. The Ministry is happy to be associated with this meeting as one of the member-countries of the Organisation and also as the host of the event.

The objective of the BOBP-IGO is to provide enduring regional cooperation among the countries of the Bay of Bengal region and aims at the socio-economic development of fisheries, fishers and fish farmers. The core objectives of BOBP-IGO are to increase awareness and knowledge of the needs, benefits and practices of coastal fisheries management; enhancement of skills through training and education; transfer appropriate technologies and techniques for development of small-scale fisheries; promoting women's participation in coastal fisheries development at all levels and the establishment of a regional information network. These core objectives are very similar to the development objectives of Sri Lanka's fisheries sector. Therefore, we have a keen interest as well as expectations from the achievements of the objectives of the BOBP-IGO. I can assure you that our Ministry will do its utmost to collaborate with other member-countries of the BOBP-IGO towards achieving these objectives.

The Governing Council is the policy making body of the BOBP-IGO and as such this meeting is a significant event in the functioning of the Organisation. I understand that the main purpose of the Governing Council, which is meeting for the sixth time since inception of the Organisation, is to monitor the progress and impacts of the ongoing programmes and activities and to discuss the proposed work programme and activities for the period April 2010 to March 2011. I hope the Governing Council will succeed in undertaking an objective evaluation of the programmes undertaken in the past and decide on the future programmes in conformity with our priorities. We should learn from our past experience and be bold enough to adopt innovative policies and measures for finding solutions to the problems that we are confronted with in the fisheries sector.

I would also like to take this opportunity to place on record our appreciation of the dedicated services being rendered by Dr Yadava, Director of the BOBP-IGO towards development of fisheries in our sub-region.

Distinguished delegates, I wish you a very fruitful and productive meeting. It is my fervent hope that your deliberations will pave the way for a brighter future for the fisheries industry and the fisher-communities in the Bay of Bengal region.

Thank you!



**Inaugural Address by Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development,
Government of Sri Lanka**

Hon'ble. (Dr) Hussain Rasheed Hassan , Minister of State for Fisheries & Agriculture, Government of Maldives; Dr Damitha de Zoysa, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development; Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO); Mr Tarun Shridhar, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Government of India and current chairman of the Governing Council of the BOBP - IGO; Distinguished Delegates from the Member-Countries of the BOBP-IGO; Chairmen and Heads of Institutions under my Ministry; Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed honoured to have been invited to inaugurate the Sixth Governing Council Meeting of the BOBP-IGO and to make this address. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the organizers for the kind invitation extended to me.

Sri Lanka is privileged to have got this opportunity to host the Sixth Governing Council Meeting and on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka I wish to thank the member-countries for this privilege bestowed on us. I understand that the Governing Council, which is the policy making body of the BOBP-IGO is meeting in Sri Lanka for the second time. Distinguished Delegates, I extend you all a very warm and cordial welcome to Sri Lanka.

The Government of His Excellency Mahinda Rajapakse places high emphasis and priority on regional co-operation. In this context, I wish to reiterate Sri Lanka's firm commitment to extend our continuous support to BOBP-IGO. The member-countries of BOBP-IGO namely India, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka share common fish stocks; many commercial fish species are highly migratory and move between our Exclusive Economic Zones. Many fisheries issues are also common to all of us. Therefore, a regional fishery body like the BOBP-IGO is both useful as well as necessary to serve as a platform for addressing common issues and to share and exchange experiences and information of mutual relevance.

Sri Lanka is currently implementing a Ten-Year Fisheries Development Plan formulated by my Ministry within the policy framework known as *Mahinda Chinthana*, which articulates His Excellency the President's vision for the future. Our Ten-Year Plan primarily focuses on increasing fish production for improving the nutritional status and food safety, improving the quality of fish and reducing post-harvest losses, increasing employment opportunities and improving the social and economic status of fishing communities and increasing foreign exchange earnings through exports and concomitantly conserving the coastal and aquatic environment. Apart from the above mentioned objectives, we now have a new and formidable challenge in rehabilitating and developing the fisheries sector in the newly liberated areas in the Northern and Eastern regions of our country.

I am sure regional experiences will be very useful to us in striving to meet some of the aforementioned challenges, particularly regarding strategies to increase production in the offshore sub-sector. I presume BOBP-IGO is well placed to assist member-countries to access such experiences relevant and useful to them. Let us hope that it would also be possible to broad base the membership of the BOBP-IGO and enhance its effectiveness by including some of the other countries on the rim of the Bay of Bengal like Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia in the near future. I would like to propose that the Governing Council should consider ways and means of bringing these countries to the fold of the BOBP-IGO.

I understand that one of the principal functions of the Governing Council is to take decisions regarding initiatives and activities to be undertaken by the Organisation in order to address some of the high priority fishery issues confronting the member-countries. It is my fervent wish that the deliberations of the Governing Council will be productive and will result in developing an action programme which will be beneficial to the member-countries.

I hope our distinguished foreign guests will have a pleasant stay in Sri Lanka.

Thank You!



Agenda and Timetable

Morning, 0830 hrs

1. Registration
2. Inauguration of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Meeting
4. Election of the Chairperson
5. Reports on BOBP-IGO Activities for the Period April 2009 - March 2010 and Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO
6. Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action (2010-14) of the Organisation
7. Evaluation of the Scope of Mandate and Work of the Organisation

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

8. Proposed Work Programme and Activities: April 2010 - March 2011
9. Administrative Matters

Friday, 16 July 2010

Morning, 0900 hrs

10. Administrative Matters contd...
11. Any Other Matter
12. Date and Place of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council
13. Adoption of the Report
14. Close of Meeting

List of Documents

A. Working Documents:

<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/WP1</i>	Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/WP2</i>	Report on the Activities of the BOBP-IGO (<i>April 2009 – March 2010</i>).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/WP3</i>	Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action (2010-14) of the Organisation.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/WP4</i>	Concept Note on the Modalities and Requirements for Assigning the Role of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation to the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/WP5</i>	Proposed Work Programme and Activities: April 2010 – March 2011.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/WP6</i>	Administrative Matters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Report of the Auditors</i> • <i>Review of Employment Conditions of the Secretariat Staff</i> • <i>Filling up of the posts of Senior Programme Advisor and Fisheries Resource Officer</i> • <i>Secondment from Member-Countries</i> • <i>Other Administrative Matters</i>
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/WP7</i>	Report of the Meeting of the Governing Council.

B. Information Documents:

<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.1</i>	Provisional List of Documents.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.2</i>	Tentative Programme.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.3</i>	Provisional List of Participants.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.4</i>	Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, 2-3 June 2010, Malé, Maldives.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.5</i>	Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, 15-16 June 2009, Chennai, India.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.6</i>	Report of the Second Regional Training Course on CCRF 21 June – 04 July 2009, Chennai/ Mumbai, India.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.7</i>	Report of the Training Programme on Adapting to Climate Change: Field-Level Capacity Enhancement Programme, 12-18 July 2009, Chennai, India.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.8</i>	Report of the Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries, 9-11 August 2009, Kulhudhuffushi, Maldives.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.9</i>	Report of the Regional Strategic Meeting on European Union Regulation on IUU Fishing, 11-12 September 2009, Negombo, Sri Lanka.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.10</i>	Report of the National Workshops on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Sri Lanka, 25-26 November 2009, Kelawewa, Sri Lanka.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.11</i>	Report of the Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries, Chittagong, Bangladesh, 8-9 February, 2010.

<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.12</i>	Bay of Bengal News, Vol. IV No 17-18, Sep-Dec 2008.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.13</i>	2010 Calendar of BOBP-IGO (Fishers of the Bay).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.14</i>	A set of five Technical Guidelines of CCRF (in Tamil Language).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.15</i>	Work in Fishing Convention (in Tamil Language).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.16</i>	Guidelines for the eco-labeling of fishery products from marine capture fisheries (in Tamil Language).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.17</i>	Strategy for improving information on status and trends of capture fisheries (in Tamil Language).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.18</i>	Putting into practice the ecosystem approach to fisheries (in Tamil Language).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.19</i>	Maintaining Marine Engines in Fishing Boats – A Step-by-Step Guide for Fishers of Bangladesh (A video film in English and Bangla Languages).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.20</i>	Safety Guidelines for Small Fishing Vessels (<i>BOBP/REP/112</i>).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.21</i>	Training Manual on the Construction of FRP Beach Landing Boats (<i>BOBP/REP/119</i>).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.22</i>	Guide to Simple Repair of FRP Boats in Tropical Climate (<i>BOBP/MAG/27</i>).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.23</i>	Poster on ‘Cetaceans of the Tropical Indian Ocean’.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.24</i>	Poster on ‘Commercially Exploited Groupers of the Maldives’.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.25</i>	Registration Form.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2010/Inf.26</i>	Provisional Itinerary of the Delegates.



Report on the Activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (April 2009 - March 2010)

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) is mandated to promote, facilitate and secure the long-term development and utilization of coastal fisheries resources of the Bay of Bengal (BoB) based on responsible fishing practices and environmentally sound management programmes. Drawing strength from the mandate, the Organisation has undertaken work programmes on issues of immediate concern to the member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka) and long-term programmes towards achieving sustainability in capture fisheries production in the region.

1.2 The Organisation has also taken upon itself the task of protecting and promoting the interests of the member-countries in global arena. Towards this, the Organisation is working in forging new relationships with relevant regional and international organizations, and strengthening ties with strategic partners in the region. A major outcome of these activities is the development and implementation of a Global Project on Safety at Sea (*GCP/GLO/200/MUL*) in the member-countries. The Global Project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in cooperation with the BOBP-IGO has successfully brought out hitherto overlooked facets in safety of fishers and fishing vessels, prompting the national governments to take suitable measures.

1.3 Furthermore, continuing its legacy as a 'field programme', the Organisation is enhancing its activities to penetrate the grassroots through discussion, demonstration, dissemination and delivery(4D). Under the 4D strategy, programmes are conceived for pilot-scale implementation and feedbacks are disseminated both to the local and national (or international) audience; the outputs or the deliveries of the programmes are recorded and discussed with the concerned stakeholders and finally the community and national governments are encouraged to manage or replicate the programmes with technical support from the Organisation. As a policy, the Organisation involves mainly local resources to carry out the activities so that by the end of the project life there is capacity generation at the local level and the institutional memory remains intact. This also has a comparative advantage over externally-driven projects in the sense that the activities promoted do not die/collapse after the project cycle and even if they are scaled down it is easy to revive them. It is also a moot point that this method is more participatory and cost-effective.

2.0 Activities in 2009-10

2.1 Based on the recommendation of the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC-4) of the BOBP-IGO, the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM-5) of the BOBP-IGO approved a set of activities under the broad categories of capacity building, resource management and safety at sea for the year 2009-10 (see page 28). Considering the resource and time constraints, GCM-5 further prioritized the activities. Accordingly, the Secretariat was asked to deal with the situation arising out of a new European Union's Regulation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (EU-IUU) Fishing making certification of catch necessary for all consignments of fish and fish products to the EU market from 01 January 2010.

2.2 Although, trade issues were not dealt by the BOBP-IGO earlier, but GCM-5 opined that the requirements of the EU-IUU Regulation were more aimed at curbing IUU fishing and thereby aiming at sustainability of the resources, which is also one of the mandates of BOBP-IGO. **Table 1** shows the list of activities assigned to the Secretariat for the year 2009-10 and a summary of activities undertaken during the period under report and their status of completion is placed in *Annex 1*.

Table 1: Approved activity matrix for 2009-10 (Priority assignments are in bold)

Capacity Building & Information Services	Fisheries Resource Management	Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries
Strategic meeting to deal with European Union's Regulation on IUU Fishing.	Organisation of National Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Sri Lanka.	Provision and analysis of data to identify the causes of accidents.
Translation of the Technical Guidelines of the 1995 FAO CCRF.	Second Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries.	Education and training of trainers, extension workers, fishers and inspectors.
Training Programme on Implementation of the CCRF.	Second Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries.	Awareness building and outreach programmes.
Capacity building on fisheries information for assessment of fish stocks.	Scoping study on small-scale tuna fisheries management plan and fleet development plan.	
Capacity building for improving food safety.	Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp brood stock fishery.	
Information Dissemination (Networking, Newsletter, Posters).		
Studies on alternative livelihoods.		
Studies on climate change.		

3.0 Capacity building and information services

3.1 The BOBP-IGO, since its inception, is promoting implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). One of the main tasks undertaken by the Organisation is translation of the CCRF and its Technical Guidelines (TGs) in vernacular. The vernacular versions are useful for speedy dissemination of knowledge, especially at the grassroots level and in extension programmes. Further, since the literacy level is rising among the fishers, having the CCRF in their mother-tongue will encourage fishers to approach it more effectively. Towards these objectives, the BOBP-IGO in conjunction with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Government of Bangladesh, translated and produced seven TGs in Bangla language. The set of seven books were released in a stakeholder meeting and distributed amongst the fishers in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh on 26 April 2009. The meeting was attended by fishers from nearby villages; boat owners; and harbour and fisheries officials. Additional sets of the TGs were made available to the MoFL and the Department of Fisheries (DoF) for distribution to the concerned agencies/ organizations/individuals in Bangladesh. Similarly, the Bangla version has also been disseminated to the DoF of the Government of West Bengal in India.

In continuation with the earlier work of translating the CCRF-TGs in Tamil, five new TGs were translated during the reporting year. These are: Supplements to TG- 4: 'Conservation and Management of Sharks' and the 'Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries'; Aquaculture Development (TG-5); Implementation of International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (TG-9); and Increasing the Contribution of Small-scale Fisheries in Poverty Alleviation and Food Security (TG-10). These TGs will be useful for

Quick facts

TGs released in Bangla language

TG 1: FAO Technical Guidelines for Fishing Operations.

Supplement to TG-1: Vessel Monitoring System.

TG-2: FAO Technical Guidelines on Precautionary Approach to Capture Fisheries and Species Introduction.

TG 3: FAO Technical Guidelines for Integration of Fisheries into Coastal Area Management.

TG 4: FAO Technical Guidelines for Fisheries Management.

TG-7: FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Utilization.

TG-8: Indicators for Sustainable Development of Marine Capture Fisheries.

the Indian State/Union Territory of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and Tamil speaking areas in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. In view of the reconstruction of fisheries in these Provinces, the TGs assume all the more importance in knowledge dissemination and adoption of good practices.

The translation of the TGs in Sinhalese (for Sri Lanka) and in Telugu (for the Indian East Coast State of Andhra Pradesh) is in progress.

3.2 Along with the dissemination of the CCRF and its TGs in vernacular, the BOBP-IGO, since 2008, has also initiated a flagship Regional Training Programme on the CCRF (RTC-CCRF) for junior and middle-level fisheries officials of the member-countries. The Second RTC-CCRF was held during 21 June- 04 July 2009 in association with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai. It is one-of-its-kind training programme aimed at building a corpus of fisheries officials in the member-countries well-conversant with the CCRF, its principles and the TGs. The Second RTC-CCRF was attended by 16 participants from Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The first phase of the programme was organised in Chennai during 21-25 June 2009 comprising introduction to CCRF and its technical aspects and field visits. In the second phase in CIFE (25-29 June 2009), participants discussed about integrated coastal management, co-management and preparing group reports on various aspects of fisheries management. In the final phase in Chennai (30 June- 04 July 2009), the participants were assigned the task of preparing awareness campaigns on CCRF applicable to their respective settings.

3.3 Recognizing the short-comings of traditional fisheries management measures to address emerging challenges in fisheries brought in by the changing climate, the BOBP-IGO with funding support from UNITAR (United Nations Institute of Training & Research) organized a training programme entitled “Adapting to Climate Change: Field- Level Capacity Enhancement Programme” for fisheries officials in Chennai, India from 12-18 July, 2009. A total of 15 fisheries officials from the DoF of the Indian East Coast States of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry participated in the programme. The participants were given information on the state of knowledge of the impact of climate change on fisheries, its economic ramifications and ongoing research activities on climate change in relation to fisheries and aquaculture undertaken by national institutions in India. The participants also undertook extensive field visits to neighboring areas for interaction with fisher community on the subject. Based on the course material and information gathered during the field visits, the participants prepared reports on their observations and proposed adaptation strategies.

The BOBP-IGO has also contacted reputed experts in the member-countries to prepare base papers on ‘Climate Change and its Impact on Fisheries’. Experts from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka have submitted their reports while the same from Maldives is under preparation. These base papers will act as pillars to design strategies for preparing the member-countries for adapting to changing climate. Base papers from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka have also been published in the Bay of Bengal News, the quarterly Journal of the Organisation.

3.4 At the behest of GCM-5, a Regional Strategic Meeting (RSM:EU-IUU) was organized to understand the impact of European Union’s Regulation on IUU Fishing [Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008] on the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO. The meeting was held in Negombo, Sri Lanka from 11-12 September 2009 and was attended by representatives of the four member-countries, FAO and INFOFISH.

The RSM welcomed the EU Regulation as it is expected to strengthen the efforts of the member-countries in curbing IUU fishing. The RSM enabled a thorough review of the preparedness of the member-countries regarding the requirements arising out of the EU Regulation. The RSM concluded that while the member-countries had the necessary legal framework to address the requirements of EU-IUU Regulation, in some cases the implementation was challenging due to diverse nature of fisheries and resource constraints. The RSM also discussed at length the problems

Regional Strategic Meeting (RSM) on EU-IUU Regulation

Date & venue: 11-12 September, 2009, Negombo, Sri Lanka.

Participants: Member-countries, FAO, INFOFISH, BOBP-IGO.

Inputs: Analysis of EU trade regulations on IUU fishing; Report on preparedness of the member-countries.

Outputs: Country-wise roadmaps to deal with the requirements; better monitoring to curb IUU fishing; and a final report of the RSM.

of catch certification from small-scale fishery. After the two-day deliberation, member-countries prepared roadmaps to address the issues identified during the discussions.

3.5 Under the sub-programme component ‘Improving Food Safety’, the Secretariat, as a first step, has undertaken audio-visual documentation of the existing practices in post-capture handling of fish at various stages in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. Documentation in Bangladesh was carried out in April 2009 and February 2010 at Cox’s Bazaar and Patharghata in Barguna districts respectively. The BOBP-IGO also interviewed skippers, boat owners, marketing agents, processors, input suppliers and exporters in this regard. With this documentation, fish handling practices from east to west in Bangladesh have been well recorded and are currently being analyzed to prepare a programme of creating awareness and also for suggesting policy interventions at different levels.

In India, documentation of fish handling practices in harbours and fish landing centres and local fish markets in and around Chennai, Tamil Nadu was carried out during October 2009. BOBP-IGO has also contacted fish processors and fish exporters in Chennai to discuss options for private-public partnership in improving fish handling and ensuring safer fishery products.

In Sri Lanka, audio-visual documentation was carried out during September and November, 2009. The documentation was carried out in Negombo Fishing Harbour in September and at St John’s Wholesale Fish Market, Colombo in November.

The documentation includes handling of fish onboard and at the harbour, use of ice and handling and storage of fish at the wholesale/retail points. Collateral information regarding source of water and ice, volume of transactions, state of infrastructure and transportation details were also collected for a critical review of the existing practices, which may lead to possible solutions for improving the situation.

As of now, the Secretariat has completed documentation for Bangladesh and India and the process needs to be completed in Sri Lanka and Maldives. The documentation will be useful for identifying deviations of actual fish handling practices from ideal fish handling requirements and a guidebook/training programme will be developed accordingly to minimize such deviations. Policy directions will also emerge from the documentation and subsequent reviews.

3.6 In order to improve livelihood options of fishers in the member-countries, BOBP-IGO has instituted a study on alternative/additional livelihoods for fishers since 2008-09. Under the study, a host of information on livelihood projects carried out in the member-countries and other part of the world, which may be replicated in the member-countries, are being collected. In this regard, discussions have also taken place with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) and the South Pacific Commission (SPC). Preliminary findings from the study were presented and discussed at the FAO/Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC) Regional Workshop on “Best Practices for Supporting and Improving Livelihoods of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Households”, held in Manila, Philippines on 13-15 October 2009.

In this regard, FAO has initiated an “Extra-budgetary Programme on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security”. The Inception Workshop for the Programme was held in Rome on 27-30 October 2009. The overall goal of the Programme is to ensure that responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources make an appreciable contribution to human well-being, food security and poverty alleviation and include both normative activities and country-level assistance. The BOBP-IGO was invited to participate in the said Workshop and the lessons learnt from the Workshop are also being used for preparing the Report for consideration of the member-countries

3.7 To build capacities at different levels of fisheries operators and also to utilize the expertise and facilities available in the member-countries, the Secretariat organized an eight-day Study tour for Mr Hassan Afsal, Senior Food Technologist, Maldives Fisheries Training Center, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MoFA), Government of Maldives. The objective of the Study tour was to visit training institutions/facilities in India where Maldivian trainees could be deputed for training in value addition of tuna, quality control, training in long-line fishing and fishing technology. During the Study tour, Mr Afsal visited the BOBP-IGO Secretariat and marine fisheries Institutions in Chennai and the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology and the National

Institute of Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology and Training in Kochi, Kerala, India. Mr Afsal in his Study Tour Report has proposed that Maldives could benefit by deputing trainees to India for capacity development in the field of value addition, product handling and development.

4.0 Fisheries resource management

4.1 The Second Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries (RC-SF 2) was held in Kulhudhuffushi, Maldives on 9-11 August 2009. Nineteen delegates representing the four member-countries, regional fisheries organisations and observers took part in the Consultation. The RC-SF 2 was organized in collaboration with the MoFA, Government of Maldives. As per the decision of GCM-5, Bangladesh participated in the Consultation along with the other three member-countries. The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project also participated in the RC-SF 2 and expressed its willingness to further cooperate in the activity.

Management Plan for Shark Fisheries

Date & Venue: 9-11 August 2009, Kulhudhuffushi, Maldives.

Participants: Representatives of four member-countries, FAO, BOBLME, BOBP-IGO.

Inputs: Country status papers, guideline to prepare NPOA.

Outputs: Country roadmaps and timeline to prepare NPOAs and information networking.

The RC-SF 2 reviewed the progress made in the member-countries since the first Consultation. Based on the feedback, all the member-countries prepared their respective roadmaps for preparing a plan of action for management of sharks. A Regional Plan of Action was also prepared to coordinate the efforts of the member-countries. To popularize conservation of sharks, an inter-school drawing competition was organized in Kulhudhuffushi, which attracted large number of students.

4.2 Pursuant to the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on ‘Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (RW-MCS) for Marine Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal’ held in Chittagong, Bangladesh on 16-18 January 2008, the BOBP-IGO had organized National Workshops in Bangladesh (June 2008), India (December 2008) and Maldives (January 2009) to formulate national action plans for implementation of MCS in the respective countries.

The National Workshop on ‘Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries in Sri Lanka (NW-MCS)’ was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MFARD), Government of Sri Lanka. The NW-MCS was held at the National Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture Training Institute, Kalawewa, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka from 25-26 November 2009. Forty-three participants representing 15 national, regional and international fisheries organizations attended the NW-MCS. The NW-MCS examined the existing problems and prospects of fisheries management in Sri Lanka and came out with an Action Plan for strengthening MCS in marine fisheries in the country. The Action Plan has been submitted to the Government of Sri Lanka for its consideration.

4.3 The Second Regional Consultation on Preparation of a Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries (RC-HF 2) was held in Chittagong, Bangladesh on 8-9 February 2010. 15 delegates representing Bangladesh, India and observer country Myanmar, regional fisheries organisations and experts took part in RC-HF 2. The RC-HF 2 was organized in collaboration with the MoFL, Government of Bangladesh. The Consultation reviewed the progress made in the participating countries since the first consultation. The BOBLME Project also participated in the RC-SF 2 and expressed its willingness to further cooperate in the activity.

4.4 Based on the feedback, the member-countries prepared their respective roadmaps for formulating a Plan of Action for management of hilsa fisheries. A Regional Plan of Action was also prepared to coordinate the efforts of the participating countries.

5.0 Improving safety at sea for small-scale fishers

5.1 The South Asia component of the Global Project on ‘Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries in Developing Countries (GCP/GLO/200/MUL)’, implemented by the FAO through the BOBP-IGO, was initiated in May 2007. In order to address the issue of sub-standard boats constructed after the December 2004 Asian tsunami, the Project trained 15 Fibre-reinforced Plastic (FRP) boat builders from selected boat yards from the Indian States of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Puducherry. The training was conducted at

Ayyappa Boat Yard, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India from 13-30 April 2009 with the assistance of two International and two national Consultants. The Training Programme also resulted in a publication entitled 'Training Manual on the Construction of FRP Beach Landing Boats', which is under print (*BOBP/REP/119*). Based on an earlier visit by another International Consultant, a publication on 'Guide to Simple Repair of FRP Boats in Tropical Climate' was prepared and is also under print (*BOBP/MAG/27*).

5.2 To promote improved and safer design of traditional fishing craft, the Project constructed two FRP boats with improved design and new engine layouts. The two boats (IND 30 and IND 30A) were launched in June and July 2009 and provided to a fishing village about 60 km south of Chennai city (Devaneri Fishing Village, District Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu) for undertaking trials and reporting on their performance. The BOBP-IGO is monitoring their operations and would make recommendations once the trial period is over by the end of 2010.

5.3 The Project also resulted in transfer of technologies between the member-countries on good practices in safety at sea. The use of FRP floats as a personal floatation device in case of emergencies is a time-tested equipment. The FRP floats were first tested under a FAO Technical Cooperation Programme in India in 1998 and became successful in the East Coast State of Andhra Pradesh. In order to promote similar floats in other member-countries, six prototypes have been fabricated for sending to Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka for testing and popularization among their fishers.

5.4 The final Regional Consultation of the South Asia component of the Global Project on Safety at Sea was held in Chennai, India from 4-5 June 2009. It was organized jointly by the FAO and the BOBP-IGO. The objective of the Consultation was to evaluate the accomplishments under the Project in South Asia; seek endorsements for Project activities; present the Safety Guidelines for Fishing Vessels under 24 m in Length; and to discuss sustainability of safety at sea initiatives by member-countries. 32 participants representing Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, project consultants, FAO and BOBP-IGO attended the Consultation.

5.5 As a part of Safety at Sea activities, the BOBP-IGO in association with the FAO and Sida has produced a bi-lingual (English and Bangla languages) video film on "Maintaining Marine Engines in Fishing Boats – A Step-by-Step Guide for Fishers of Bangladesh". The film will be useful for small-scale marine fishers of Bangladesh and also for other stakeholders concerned with their operations.

5.6 A video film on engine maintenance for boats using long-tail propulsion drive, which is in vogue in the east coast of India, was completed in English last year. The same has now been translated into Tamil and Telugu languages. Fishers of about 43 615 motorized fishing boats in the Indian States of Orissa (southern part), Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry will be benefited from this video. Copies of the video are now being distributed through the Fisheries Extension Wings of the Department of Fisheries, fisher associations and NGOs in India.

5.7 Under the Global Project, the BOBP-IGO published a Safety Guide entitled "Safety Guide for Small Fishing Boats (*BOBP/REP/112*)" in collaboration with FAO/Sida and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The purpose of this Safety Guide is to present simple measures to ensure that new boats will satisfy internationally accepted safety standards. The target group consists of boat designers, skippers and government officials responsible for drafting new regulations and for safety supervision. This safety guide has highlighted the main problems and indicates what practical measures can be taken to avoid them. The guide, prepared by Mr Ø Gulbrandsen, Consultant to the Project, mainly deals with small boats of < 15 meter in lengths, which

Improving Safety at Sea for Small-Scale Fishers

Project: The FAO-Sida-IMO Project was initiated in May 2007 and completed on 31 December, 2009.

The NIOSH-BOBP-IGO component of the programme on accident reporting and capacity building will continue.

Findings: The programme has so far successfully brought out risks in marine fisheries including low prevalence of safety gear, lack of navigational training, faulty designing and sub-standard boat building, under-reporting of fishing-related accidents and lack of mechanism to implement international safety norms. The Project has also highlighted the importance of integrating safety at sea with fisheries management.

Outputs: The BOBP-IGO has so far produced cost-effective technology, training in navigation and communication, guides for engine maintenance and boat-building and developing accident-reporting mechanism. Several other documents/awareness material are either completed or are under finalization.

from experience are most prone to accidents. The present guide is a revision of the earlier BOBP Publication entitled “A safety guide for small offshore fishing vessels (*BOBP/MAG/16*)” issued by the Programme in 1993. The main revision is that this publication not only focuses on small offshore fishing boats in the 10-13 m range, but also includes smaller coastal boats.

5.8 An awareness building programme was organized in Maizghona Jaladaspara, a fishing village in Chakoria Upazilla of Cox’s Bazaar on 25 April 2009. The Programme included a Bengali drama ‘*Tufanere Daraina – braving the storm*’ performed by local fishers and folk songs on importance of personal hygienic practices. The BOBP-IGO’s NGO partner (BASTOB) assisted in organization of the event. A video film on the street play is under finalization.

5.9 A video documentary on general health and safety practices for small-scale fishers of Bangladesh is now under production. The video shooting was carried out extensively in Cox’s Bazaar, Chittagong and Patharghata Fish Landing Centres in Bangladesh and covers safety aspects, health and hygiene of fishers, interview with medical practitioners, skippers and crews, boat owners and fisheries officials. It also includes folk drama and folk songs performed by fishers themselves on safety issues.

5.10 The BOBP-IGO in association with the Central Institute for Fisheries Nautical Engineering and Training, Government of India prepared curriculum for three short-term training programmes to cover different categories of fishers and boat skippers. The curriculum covers various aspects such as use of navigation and communication equipment, floatation devices, fire-fighting equipment and life saving, etc. The curriculum is under finalization for printing and would be subsequently circulated to the member-countries for their use.

5.11 To improve the mechanism for reporting fishing-related accidents at sea, the BOBP-IGO is now working with the Alaska Centre of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), USA. The objective of this component is to mount surveillance and monitoring programmes for recording accidents at sea. Based on a critical mass of information gathered from surveillance and monitoring, interventions would be planned to reduce the frequency of such accidents. Presently, data are being analyzed from national indemnity scheme for fishers in India. In Bangladesh, data on incidents and accidents are collected from marine fisheries check post in Chittagong.

In this regard, a mission comprising Director NIOSH and Director BOBP-IGO visited the member-countries during the year to discuss mechanisms for setting up of surveillance and monitoring of fishing-related accidents at sea. In Bangladesh discussions have taken place with the MoFL to set up surveillance check-posts along the coastline for reporting accidents at sea and also for fulfilling other MCS functions. In Maldives, it was earlier suggested to use the data gathered through the national health registry where all accidents and incidents treated in a health centre/ hospital in any part of the country are recorded. In Sri Lanka, the BOBP-IGO is working with the MCS Division of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to set up an accident reporting mechanism. In India it is proposed to revise the reporting format used for filing claims under the Group Accident Insurance scheme of the Government of India to include more parameters that would provide information on the causes of accidents at sea. As mentioned above, the data generated from such mechanisms would be the key to design policy interventions to prevent fishing related accidents.

5.12 The BOBP-IGO is also pursuing collaboration with other regional organizations to build a regional platform for addressing safety at sea for small-scale fishers and related issues. In this regard, initial dialogue is under progress with SEAFDEC and SPC. The BOBP-IGO is also an important collaborator in the FAO website on Safety at Sea (<http://www.safety-for-fishermen.org/en/>). In collaboration with NIOSH and FAO, BOBP-IGO is also planning a donor workshop during the end of 2010 to seek more collaborative and donor-assisted programmes to reduce accidents at sea.

5.13 The BOBP-IGO has translated the booklet entitled ‘Work in Fishing Convention, C 188’, which was adopted at the 96th International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2007 into Tamil Language. The objectives of the Convention is to ensure that fishers have decent conditions of work on board fishing vessels with regard to minimum requirements for work on board; conditions of service; accommodation and food; occupational safety and health protection; medical care and social security. It applies to all fishers and fishing vessels engaged in commercial fishing operations. Necessary steps are also being undertaken to have the document translated in languages spoken in the other member-countries.

6.0 Building regional network

6.1 In accordance with its mandate, the Organisation is building regional network for information exchange and collaborative research encompassing leading research and development institutes in the Bay of Bengal region. At present, data exchange and collaborative research is project-based, which may further expand by including other aspects such as management of fish stocks, trade and regional MCS activities.

6.2 Apart from working with the research and development institutes in the region, in accordance with the directions of GCM-5, the BOBP-IGO is also associating with the BOBLME Project. As mentioned earlier, BOBLME and BOBP-IGO have already initiated collaboration in implementation of shark and hilsa management plans and a couple of other collaborative programmes are under discussion/finalization. Apart from these, BOBP-IGO is also regularly associating with FAO and APFIC to address various regional issues. A framework of the regional networking is shown in *Annex 2*.

7.0 Publications

7.1 The following documents/publications were printed during the period under report. Apart from reports of BOBP-IGO meetings and guidelines, the important publication includes the Bay of Bengal News – a newsletter popular both within and outside the region to understand fisheries management issues. The focus of the issue published during this period is on integrating safety at sea with fisheries management.

7.2 The BOBP-IGO's annual calendar is a much-awaited publication for the fisheries fraternity. The 2010 table calendar depicts 12 beautiful sketches of fishers - the backbone of fisheries sector in the member-countries. The calendar also carries snippets of their (fisher's) wisdom.

7.3 The publications brought out during the year are listed in *Table 2* below.

Table 2: List of publications brought out during 2009-10 (not mentioned elsewhere)

Sl. No	Type of Publication
Reports	
1	Abstracts Book – Indian Ocean Cetacean Symposium, Maldives.
2	Report of Phase III of the Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fisheries in Vietnam.
3	Report of Phase I of the Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fisheries in Indonesia.
4	Report of Phase II of the Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fisheries in Indonesia.
5	Report of Phase III of the Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fisheries in Indonesia.
Posters	
6	Cetacean of the Tropical Indian Ocean.
7	Commercially Exploited Groupers of Maldives (reprinted).
8	Common Reef Fishery Species of the Maldives.
Books/ reports on fisheries management (Translated)	
9	Guidelines for the eco-labeling of fishery products from marine capture fisheries (Tamil).
10	Strategy for improving information on status and trends of capture fisheries (Tamil).
11	Putting into practice the eco-system approach to fisheries (Tamil).
12	Understanding Aquaculture (Tamil).

8.0 Information dissemination

8.1 The visual archives of the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) and the present BOBP-IGO have been digitized to create a library in the electronic format. Over 50 000 visuals have been archived with details on their location, topic and other important features. The website of the Organisation (www.bobpigo.org) has also been updated adding more features such as webcasting, e-commerce, etc.

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

8.3 The Library at the BOBP-IGO Secretariat holds a unique collection of publications on small-scale fisheries and related subjects. A large number of fisheries students/research scholars/officials regularly use the Library. The Library receives publications on gratis basis from many organizations worldwide. The multiple copies received from such organizations/agencies are in turn provided to organizations/agencies within the member-countries for their use. During the reporting period, six institutions were provided with such publications to strengthen their library services.

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

9.1 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 Asian Countries” since 2006. In 2009-10, the Project was implemented in Indonesia in association with the National Federation of Indonesian Fishermen’s Cooperative Societies (or *Induk Koperasi Perikanan Indonesia- IKPI*). The purpose of the Training Project 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. The Project was implemented in Three Phases during the year and Reports of each Phase were published by the BOBP-IGO. These Reports contain useful reference documents for the fisheries sector in general and the fisher cooperatives in particular. The other countries assisted under the Training Project are Philippines (in 2006-07), Thailand (2007-08) and Vietnam (2008-09).

International/ Regional presence

BOBP-IGO has emerged as a trusted partner of many regional and international organizations.

Expertise of the Organisation are sought in many areas such as community based projects; safety at sea and MCS issues; small-scale fisheries; overall project management and also in documentation and printing.

Since its inception in 2003, the BOBP-IGO has supported 16 international missions and thrice the number of regional/ national missions outside its core programmes.

9.2 The Secretariat collaborated with the Marine Research Centre (MRC) of the Government of Maldives in organization of the Indian Ocean Cetacean Symposium, which was held at the Paradise Island Resort & Spa, Lankanfinolhu, North Malé Atoll, Maldives from 18-20 July 2009. The BOBP-IGO assisted the MRC in printing of the Symposium banner, writing pads, abstract booklet and also a poster on ‘Cetaceans of the Tropical Indian Ocean’. Subsequently, at the request of the Hon’ble Vice-President of Maldives, Dr Mohammed Waheed Hassan, the BOBP-IGO printed an enlarged version of the poster for distribution to each and every school in Maldives. In addition, BOBP-IGO also produced a poster on ‘Common Reef fishery species of the Maldives’ for the MRC for distribution in the Maldives.

9.3 The Secretariat collaborated with the FAO, NIOSH, Icelandic Maritime Administration and the University of Iceland in organization of the Fourth International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference (IFISH-4), which was held from 11-14 May 2009 in Reykjavik, Iceland. With funding support from the FAO, the BOBP-IGO organized participation of 14 participants from countries representing Asia, Africa and Latin America. Director, BOBP-IGO represented the Organization in IFISH-4. The BOBP-IGO also prepared the website of IFISH-4 and is presently managing the site.

9.4 The Secretariat participated in the FAO/APFIC Regional Workshop on “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture” held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 18-22 May 2009. The objective of the Workshop was to demystify the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), showing how practical planning and implementation tools exist and can be applied for their successful implementation, in different areas and production scales and to explore how the EAF and EAA is being applied in the APFIC region. The Secretariat presented a paper on ‘Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture in BOBP-IGO Region (RAP Publication 2009/10)’ in the Workshop.

9.5 The Hiroshima Initiative towards a Comprehensive Security for Seas and Oceans - a multi-disciplinary training programme was organised by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Hiroshima, Japan from 27 September to 2 October 2009. The programme aimed at addressing different dimensions of human security that pertain to the seas and oceans, incorporating their economic, political, environmental and nutritional ramifications and was designed to provide in-depth and intensive training for experts and policy makers working for the protection and sustainable use of marine resources. Mr Rajdeep Mukherjee, Policy Analyst, BOBP-IGO attended the programme as a resource person.

9.6 The BOBP-IGO partnered with the Sida in sponsoring two candidates (one each from Sri Lanka and India) for participation in the International Training Programme - 2008 on ‘Marine management – Good Governance in Practice’. The objective of the Programme is to develop knowledge on holistic approach to marine resource administration at the state and regional levels. The first phase of the Programme was held in Gothenburg, Sweden from 9 March to 3 April 2009. The second phase of the Programme was held in Vietnam during October 2009.

9.7 The Secretariat also participated in the FAO/APFIC Regional Workshop on “Best Practices for Supporting and Improving Livelihoods of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Households”, held in Manila, Philippines from 13-15 October 2009. The goals of the Workshop were to understand effective policy support to promote livelihoods and risks of faulty policies in jeopardizing livelihoods in fisheries sector in the Asia-Pacific region. Based on the ongoing work by the Secretariat on this subject, a brief presentation was also made on some new initiatives on alternate livelihoods in the BOBP-IGO member-countries.

9.8 The BOBP-IGO has been nominated by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as a member of its Developing World Working Group for Small-scale Fisheries (DWWG) and participated in the Second meeting of the DWWG held in Brussels, Belgium on 30 April 2009. The DWWG has been set up by the MSC to help identify ways and means to promote participation of fisheries from the developing world in the certification programmes and enter such global markets where certified products are gaining more acceptances from the consumers and in the process contributing to sustainable development of the resources.

9.9 The BOBP-IGO has been included as a member of the Task Force set up by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India (GOI) to assist formulation of a GOI-FAO Programme on development of fisheries sector in India. The Secretariat participated in a Consultative meeting organized by GOI and FAO at Hyderabad and New Delhi from 22-26 March 2010.

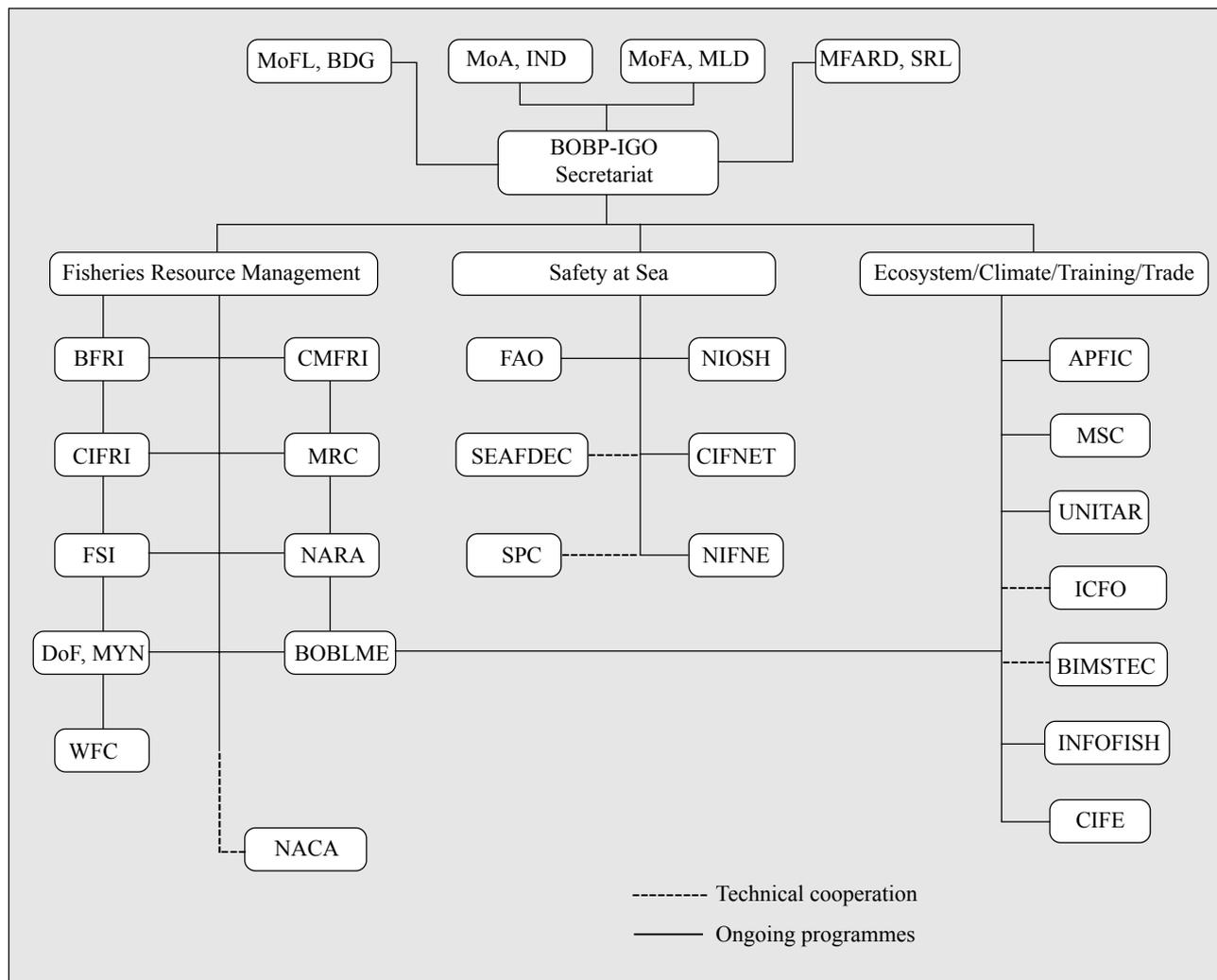
9.10 Since 2007, the Secretariat has been providing placements for Summer Interns from local Colleges/Universities. Every year two students are admitted for a period of about 45 days during summer months (May – June) and are assigned topics relating to the work programme of the Organisation. During 2009, two students worked on (i) Climate change and its impact on fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region and (ii) From global conventions to local institutions – Role of fisherwomen in alleviation of fishing-related risks. The project reports prepared by the students are based on desk reviews and structured interviews with selected stakeholders in Tamil Nadu, India.

9.11 The Staff Position of the Organisation during April 2009 to March 2010 is given in *Annex 3*.

10.0 Suggested actions by the Governing Council

10.1 The Governing Council is invited to note the activities implemented by the Secretariat during the period April 2009 - March 2010. It may wish to highlight and suggest improvements for action of the Secretariat.

Regional Network of Research/Development Institutions



MoFL = Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh; MoA = Ministry of Agriculture, India; MoFA = Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Maldives; MFARD = Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Development, Sri Lanka; DoF = Department of Fisheries, Myanmar; FAO = Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNITAR = United Nations Institute of Training and Research; ICFO = International Cooperative Fisheries Organization; BIMSTEC = Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation; APFIC = Asia Pacific Fishery Commission; SPC = South Pacific Commission; SEAFDEC = Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre; BOBLME = Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project; INFOFISH = Inter-Governmental Organization for Marketing Support; WFC = World Fish Centre; NACA = Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific; BFRI = Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute; CIFRI = Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, India; CMFRI = Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, India; CIFNET = Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training, India; FSI = Fishery Survey of India; MRC = Marine Research Center, Maldives; MSC = Marine Stewardship Council; NARA = National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency, Sri Lanka; NIFNE = National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering, Sri Lanka; NIOSH = National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, USA; SEAFDEC = South-east Asian Fisheries Development Centre, Thailand; SPC = Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Staff Position: April 2009 - March 2010 (As of 31 March 2010)

Sl. No	Staff	Designation	Date of	
			Arrival	Departure (month/year)
Professional				
1.	Yadava Y S	Director	05/03	Till date
2.	Jayaraj S	Publication Officer	08/06	Till date
3.	Rajdeep Mukherjee	Policy Analyst	09/09	Till date
General Duty/ Consultants/ Casual Assignments				
1.	Srinivasan V	Administrative Assistant	08/06	Till date
2.	Paramasivam M	Consultant	05/05	Till date
3.	Verghese Cheryl	Secretary	01/08	Till date
4.	Krishna Mohan M	Secretary	01/08	Till date
5.	Shiva Kanth Em	Videographer	WAE*	
6.	Madhu S R	Editor	WAE	
FAO Staff (Safety at Sea Project)				
1.	Ravikumar R	Regional Project Coordinator	05/07	06/09
2.	Andreas Westerberg	Fishery Officer	12/08	07/09
Seconded Staff from Member-Countries				
1.	Md Sharif Uddin	Assistant Director Marine Fisheries Office Chhtagong, Bangladesh	05/07	Till date

* When Actually Engaged



Remarks by Director-General, Department of Fisheries, Government of Myanmar

Good Morning Madam Chair and Governing Council members...

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to BOBP-IGO for kindly receiving me as an observer to this important Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO).

We have learnt that BOBP-IGO and its forerunner the Bay of Bengal Programme have the mission to promote sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources through responsible practices and sound management programmes. The approaches to achieve the goal include enhancing awareness, building capacity, transferring technology, establishing information networking and promoting the role of women in fisheries operations and marketing. These objectives aim at promoting small-scale fisheries as well as reduction of poverty through improved livelihoods in the coastal communities.

Currently, Myanmar is not a member of the BOBP-IGO. However, there are several areas of collaboration and cooperation with BOBP-IGO such as capacity building, technology transfer, and dissemination of fisheries information. I am very much aware that the activities of BOBP-IGO have been outstanding with several activities aimed at achieving sustainable use of resources and improving livelihoods of fisher communities in the coastal areas of the Bay of Bengal region. I would also like to mention here the activities implemented by BOBP-IGO in which Myanmar has participated in the past. They are as follows:

- (i) *Third International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference, February 2006, Chennai, India.*
- (ii) *Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plans for Hilsa Fisheries, March 2008, Kolkata, India.*
- (iii) *Fourth International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference, May 2009, Reykjavik, Iceland (Coordinated by BOBP-IGO).*
- (iv) *Second Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries, February 2010, Chittagong, Bangladesh.*
- (v) *Third Regional Training Workshop on the Code of Conduct for the Responsible Fisheries, June 2010, Chennai and Mumbai, India.*

I very much appreciate the support of BOBP-IGO in organizing the participation of Myanmar officials in the above-stated programmes and activities. I understand that there are several other programmes and activities of BOBP-IGO, which aim at promoting small-scale fisheries by improving livelihoods of the fishers while attempting at sustainable fish production and sound management programmes. All these programmes not only reflect at sustainable fisheries operations and improving food security but also at reduction of poverty in the region.

I personally feel that Myanmar would benefit by collaborating with BOBP-IGO as a member-country. Therefore, I will report back the opportunities and benefits that Myanmar can receive by being a member of the BOBP-IGO.

Finally, I would like to thank the Government of Sri Lanka, especially the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for us.

Thank You!

Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC-5) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in Malé, Maldives on 2-3 June, 2010. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) along with the Secretariat of the BOBP-IGO. A list of participant is given in Annex 1.

2.0 The Inaugural Session began with the Recitation from the Holy Qur'an. Dr Ibrahim Didi, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture (MoFA) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and also chaired the Inaugural Session. Dr Abdulla Naseer, Permanent Secretary, MoFA along with the Senior Officers of the Ministry and other concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of Maldives attended the Inaugural Session.

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 Maldives for hosting the Fifth Meeting of the TAC. He thanked Hon'ble Minister for gracing the occasion and also for chairing the Inaugural Session. He said that the First meeting of the TAC was also held at the same venue and the present meeting completed the first cycle that began with the institutionalization of the BOBP-IGO in 2004. Dr Yadava said that the global fishery was going through a difficult phase as it was facing problems both from inside and outside the sector. He observed that in spite of these problems, the fisheries sector in the member-countries had achieved considerable growth. However, Dr Yadava noted that the cost of this growth was unknown as there had been little fundamental changes in the production structure to make it sustainable.

Recounting the pattern of global fisheries development during last two decades, Dr Yadava said that the decade of 1990s could be termed as a 'decade of preparation'. The global community, understanding the threats to the fisheries sector, joined hands in the 1990s to formulate the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Rio Declaration on Sustainability and Convention on Biological Diversity along with other agreements/consensus to chart a sustainable path for fisheries sector. However, the 2000s, which was supposed to be the decade of implementation of these global instruments had passed away without any significant development and could be termed as a 'decade of lost opportunities', observed Dr Yadava.

Highlighting the importance of TAC in the BOBP-IGO organizational setup, Dr Yadava said that the TAC evaluates the activities performed by the BOBP-IGO from technical aspects and provides inputs for future activities subject to the concurrence of the Governing Council. Recounting the activities carried out by the Secretariat during April 2009 to March 2010, Dr Yadava said that the Secretariat was instrumental in progressing the work for formulation of management plans for shark and hilsa fisheries, developing action plan for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in Sri Lanka, implementing the global project on safety at sea for small-scale fishers along with information dissemination, training programmes and forging relations with other international/regional/ national organizations. The year was a hectic one as far as activities were concerned, commented Dr Yadava and hoped that the coming year would also be full of activities.

4.0 In his inaugural address, Hon'ble (Dr) Ibrahim Didi extended a hearty welcome to the delegates and expressed his delight for participating in the Inaugural Session of the TAC meeting. He said that the Bay of Bengal Programme or BOBP and its successor the BOBP-IGO is a well-known organization in the fisheries landscape of the region. "The Organisation is carrying out many activities for providing technical and management advisory services for sustainable coastal fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal Region and to enhance regional cooperation. The Fifth meeting of the TAC is a very important exercise for the Bay of Bengal Region – a region where millions of people heavily depend on the coastal marine resources," said the Hon'ble Minister.

He said that to achieve this objective, many activities have been carried out at the regional and national levels and more needs to be done. The BOBP-IGO member-countries have many issues in common, which can be addressed collectively such as: (i) management of fisheries; (ii) conservation of aquatic resources; (iii) quality assurance of fish and fish products; (iv) marketing of fish products; and (v) human resource development.

Referring to fisheries development in Maldives, the Hon'ble Minister said that "we are going through a challenging time as far as the fisheries sector is concerned. Tuna catches have recorded an all time low for the past three years. The commonly acknowledged tuna fishing off-season is getting prolonged for unknown reasons. Reef fishery needs more management measures to maintain sustainability. At this juncture, we need new thinking and holistic planning. For tuna fisheries, we need to establish the most economical and effective vessel sizes. Plans are needed to manage tuna live bait fishery. Alternative sources of live bait need to be explored and economically and environmentally effective methods of harvesting live bait should be promoted. Vessel size, live bait catch size, fish quality, marketing are some of the components of tuna fishery where we need holistic planning. We cannot let these components develop independently, as they are all inter-related and should be considered together."

Hoping that the Fifth meeting of the TAC would consider the immediate and long-term issues affecting the fisheries sector in the region and be able to find some fruitful solutions to address them, the Hon'ble Minister declared the meeting open.

5.0 At the conclusion of the Inaugural Session, Hon'ble Dr Didi released the Report of the National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) in Marine Fisheries, Maldives. He thanked the BOBP-IGO for taking initiative to prepare a National Action Plan on MCS for Maldives.

Adoption of the agenda and election of the chairperson

6.0 The TAC-5 adopted the agenda (Annex-2) and agreed on the arrangements for the meeting.

7.0 Dr Md Gulam Hussain, delegate from Bangladesh and the acting chairperson opened the floor for election of the new chairperson. The house unanimously elected Ms Shahaama Abdul Sattar, delegate from Maldives as the TAC chair.

8.0 Dr Hussain in his closing remarks as the outgoing chairperson appreciated the efforts of the BOBP-IGO Secretariat and the member-countries for the programmes/activities undertaken during the year 2009 - 2010.

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

10.0 Ms Sattar thanked the delegates for choosing Maldives to chair the TAC-5 and invited the BOBP-IGO Secretariat to present the report on the activities of BOBP-IGO for the period April 2009 - March 2010.

Report on BOBP-IGO activities

11.0 Dr Yadava presented the status of various activities undertaken by the Organisation as per the agreed work programme at the Fourth Meeting of the TAC held in Dhaka, Bangladesh and subsequent endorsement to the Work Programme by the Governing Council (GCM) at its Fifth Meeting held in Chennai, India. Dr Yadava informed the TAC that during the reporting year the Secretariat undertook 16 activities in three core areas: (i) capacity building and information dissemination; (ii) fisheries resource management and (iii) safety at sea for small-scale fishers. The major achievements included bringing the global project on safety at sea to a meaningful completion, which comprised linking safety at sea to fisheries management policy in the member-countries; risk profiling of small-scale fishing vessels, low cost technology transfer; community level awareness building and production of educational videos and guidelines. The Organisation assisted the member-countries in their preparations to meet the requirements arising out of the European Union's trade regulation concerning IUU fishing; formulation of National Plan of Action for MCS for all the member-countries; paving the way for a regional management plan for sharks and hilsa and taking the CCRF to the grassroots. The Organisation was also instrumental in various regional and international events by collaborating with other agencies. Evaluating the performance of the Secretariat, Dr Yadava said out of 16 core activities only two activities could not be brought to a satisfactory conclusion due to time-constraint.

Discussions on activities implemented by BOBP-IGO

12.0 Appreciating the activities carried out by the Secretariat during the period 2009-10, Dr K Vijayakumaran, delegate from India proposed that in view of the integrated nature of problems in the fisheries sector and also the importance of the activities carried out by BOBP-IGO, it is necessary that the Organisation's domain be extended

to cover other Indian maritime states located on the western coast of India. He further enquired about the supportive role that the member-countries could play to improve the performance of the Organisation in the coming period.

13.0 Replying to the suggestions, Director, BOBP-IGO said that as per its mandate, the IGO is primarily concerned with the coastal states bordering the Bay of Bengal. However, the issue may be raised in the next meeting of the GCM. Based on the directions of the GCM, the Organisation could extend its domain. Clarifying the causes of non-completion of some of the activities, Dr Yadava said that Safety at Sea Project, which formally concluded in December 2009 took more than the budgeted time. During the extended period, FAO discontinued external staffing for the project and the pending work had to be completed by the BOBP-IGO staff.

14.0 Dr Hussain enquired about the status of stock assessment in the member-countries. He also emphasized on setting up of a shark sanctuary in Bangladesh. The Director, BOBP-IGO informed the initiatives taken by the Bay of Bengal Programme Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) in this direction and said that the BOBP-IGO would be cooperating with the BOBLME in its programme on stock assessment in the region.

15.0 Dr Deishini Rupika Herath, delegate from Sri Lanka enquired if there is any engine video under preparation for Sri Lanka. Dr Yadava informed that the video prepared on maintenance of long-tail engines would be useful for the fishers of north and northeast parts of Sri Lanka. For other parts, such videos could be prepared if a need arose. The delegate from Maldives suggested that links to key institutions of each member-country should be provided on the home webpage of BOBP-IGO. Dr Yadava informed that the home page of BOBP-IGO is going through revisions and once the revisions are complete, each country would have their own portal in the home page comprising necessary information and links.

16.0 With the above observations, the TAC 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

17.0 The countries presented their proposals and priorities for formulation of work plan of the BOBP-IGO for the year 2010-2011. The major activities proposed by the member-countries related to management programmes for commercially important and endangered fish species, strategies for adapting to climate change, promoting safety at sea, capacity building both at the managerial and R&D level, improving networking and information dissemination and fostering regional cooperation. The proposals and priorities are presented in the matrix on facing page:

Discussion on Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action, 2010-14 and Expanding the Scope of Work and Mandate of BOBP-IGO

18.0 Subsequent to the discussion on Proposal and Priorities of the Member-Countries, Dr Yadava presented the 'Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action' of the BOBP-IGO. Dr Yadava said that the vision of the Organisation is *"To promote and establish responsible fisheries in a time bound manner to ensure socio-economic well-being of the marine fishers and ecological security of fisheries resources in the Bay of Bengal while catalyzing the growth of the sector to substantiate economic development of the member-countries"*. Delineating the Strategic Plan of Action, Dr Yadava said, "the Strategic Plan is for a duration of five years and is focused on improving management of fisheries resources; safety at sea; penetration of the CCRF to the grassroots; adapting to climate change; improving hygienic condition and enhancement of livelihoods of fishers". Dr Yadava further informed that during its last meeting, the Governing Council while discussing the vision and mission of the Organisation, wanted the Secretariat to examine the scope of the mandate of the Organisation to extend its coverage from coastal areas to the entire marine waters (coastal and deep sea).

The TAC-5 considered the 'Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action, 2010-14' of the BOBP-IGO and agreed that in view of the changing structure of fisheries and increasing demand placed on regional cooperation, the mandate of the Organisation may be extended to cover marine fisheries as a whole from the present confines of coastal fisheries.

19.0 As suggested by the Governing Council at its Fifth Meeting, the TAC-5 evaluated the mandate of the BOBP-IGO to consider whether the Organisation could assume the role of a Regional Fisheries Management

Proposals and priorities of the member-countries				
Area/ Country	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Resource management	Management plan for shrimp brood stock fishery.	Evaluation of tuna fishing by small-scale fishing vessels.	Management plans for grouper species.	Development of transboundary management units for shared fish stocks.
	Stock assessment of marine fisheries resources and oceanographic studies.	Collaborative programmes on stock assessment and oceanographic studies.	Management plans for live bait fisheries for tuna fishing.	Collaborative programmes on stock assessment and oceanographic studies.
	Management of shared fish stocks and ecosystems.	--	--	Management plan for grouper fishery.
Capacity building, information dissemination	Development of adaptation strategies for impact of climate change on fisheries.	Studies on interaction of new technologies and climate change on fisheries.	Capacity building in fish species identification.	Capacity building in data collection and short and long-term fishery forecasting.
	Technical support for strong MCS.	Application of findings from climate change studies on fisheries at community-level.	Increasing awareness for management plans.	Genetic characterization of stocks.
	Capacity building on improved handling of fish on board and traceability.	Technology inputs for improving hygienic conditions and food safety.	Information dissemination on climate change.	Capacity building on improved handling of fish on board.
	Genetic characterization of stocks.	--	--	Rebuilding north-eastern fisheries sector – capacity building and awareness programmes.
Safety at sea	Technical support for safety at sea and awareness programmes.	Improving living conditions (especially sanitation) on fishing boats.	Guidelines for construction of fishing boats to ensure their safety.	Continuation of programmes on safety at sea.
	Standards and certification for fishing boat construction.	Standards and certification for fishing boat construction.	--	--

Organisation (RFMO) covering the Bay of Bengal region. The TAC-5 unanimously endorsed the scope of the BOBP-IGO as a RFMO and noted:

- *There is need of a RFMO in the Bay of Bengal region on environmental and economic grounds;*
- *The BOBP-IGO is the only dedicated organization in the region with necessary framework to execute the role of a RFMO;*
- *The Organisation enjoys reasonable trust and rapport in the region;*
- *The Organisation has so far performed satisfactorily and the activities of the Organisation commensurate with the interests of the member-countries and the larger objective of responsible management of marine resources in the Bay of Bengal region. Further, the Organisation is also perfectly placed to be the prime institution in the region to carry forward the objectives and activities of the BOBLME Project, once its (BOBLME) life cycle is completed.*
- *The Organisation has also proved to be productive in terms of 'return on investment' for its member-countries, which is important in view of the resource-constraints in the region.*

Secretariat: Preparation of Work Plan April 2010 - March 2011

20.0 Based on the proposals and priorities of the member-countries, the Secretariat presented the Work Plan for the period April 2010 - March 2011.

Discussing the Work Plan, the following observations were made:

- *The TAC suggested that the proposed Work Plan should form a part of the activities suggested in the Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action document.*
- *The TAC highlighted the need for enhanced bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the member-countries.*
- *The TAC endorsed the collaborative arrangements between the BOBP-IGO and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project.*

The TAC approved the Work Plan¹ and asked the Secretariat to place it before the next meeting of the Governing Council for its endorsement.

Date and place for the Sixth Meeting of the TAC

21.0 The TAC agreed to convene its Sixth Meeting during early 2011 in India, subject to the concurrence of the Government of India. The date and venue would be decided in consultation with the Government of India.

Concluding Session: Adoption of the Report

22.0 Dr Abdulla Naseer presided over the concluding session of the TAC-5. In adopting the report, the TAC unanimously agreed to record its deep appreciation to the Government of Maldives for the generous hospitality accorded to the TAC members. This contributed to a large measure to the successful conclusion of its work.

23.0 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.

24.0 In his concluding remarks, Dr Naseer said that although the BOBP-IGO has only four member-countries, due to its wide area and large number of stakeholders, the Organizations merits special attention. He lauded the Secretariat for its good work. Commenting on the proposal of the TAC to initiate procedures for upgrading BOBP-IGO as a RFMO, Dr Naseer said feed back from the TAC will be helpful for the Governing Council to decide on the course of action. He thanked the staff of the Marine Research Center and MoFA for their assistance in organization of the meeting and wished the delegates a safe return journey.

25.0 The Report of the TAC was adopted on 03 June 2010.

¹ *The Work Plan as approved by the GCM-6 is placed as Appendix L.*

List of Participants

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Agenda and Timetable

Wednesday, 2 June, 2010

Morning, 1000 hrs

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Meeting
3. Election of the Chairperson
4. Report on BOBP-IGO Activities (April 2009 – March 2010)

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

5. Presentation of Proposals and Priorities by Member-Countries
6. Presentation on Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of BOBP-IGO (2010-14)
7. Presentation of Concept Note on Expanding the Scope of Mandate of BOBP-IGO as a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
8. Development of Work plan (April 2010 – March 2011)

Thursday, 3 June, 2010

Morning, 1000 hrs

9. Adoption of Report
10. Any Other Matter
11. Date and Place of the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee
12. Close of Meeting



Vision, Mission & Strategic Plan of Action (2010-14) of the BOBP-IGO

1.0 About the Organisation

The institutionalization of the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) as an Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO) was conceived during the concluding stages of the Third Phase of the BOBP (1994 - 2000) and finally endorsed through a resolution at the 24th Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the BOBP, held in Phuket, Thailand in October 1999. Thus the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was born out of the *realization* of the importance of fisheries and aquatic resources as an essential sector of development of nations surrounding the Bay of Bengal (BoB) and the unique and relatively high dependence of millions of fishers and coastal people on the ocean and coastal environment for their food and livelihood security.

The countries *recognizing* that while fisheries is primarily a national concern, driven by the country's needs, there are a large number of issues in the sector that can be more appropriately and efficiently addressed in a regional context through collective action. There is also a general consensus on the need for technical and management advisory services in several areas of fisheries development and management, conservation of aquatic resources, quality assurance of fish and fish products, fair and free trade of fish, fish marketing development, human resources development and building the capacity of national fishery agencies and that the promotion and success of such services can be better facilitated through regional cooperation. The countries also *considering* that the said cooperation can best be achieved through the establishment of an IGO in the BoB region *resolved to* come together to consider the establishment of an IGO for technical and management advisory services for fisheries development and management in the BoB region finally leading to up-scaling of the erstwhile BOBP to an IGO.

The BOBP-IGO Agreement was formally signed by the Governments of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka at Chennai on 26 April 2003 and by the Government of Maldives at Chennai on 21 May 2003. As per the Agreement on establishment of BOBP-IGO, the objectives of the Organisation are to enhance co-operation 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 BoB region (*Article 3 of the Agreement*).

The BOBP-IGO is a unique regional fisheries body, specifically mandated to assist the member-countries in increasing livelihood opportunities and improving the quality of life of the small-scale/ artisanal fisher folk in the BoB region. Its forerunner, the BOBP, with a relentless focus on quality and objectivity, has already set international benchmarks in execution of programmes and activities in the field of small-scale fisheries that has translated into measurable benefits for the member- countries.

2.0 Vision

The BoB is an important biological hotspot that also ensures livelihood and food security of millions of people living around it. Moreover, the countries surrounding the Bay are low to middle income countries where the vast majority of the coastal population, especially the fishers is resource-constrained. Working in this milieu, the BOBP-IGO as the only coast-based Regional IGO in the Bay, has the following vision:

“To promote and establish responsible fisheries in a time-bound manner to ensure socio-economic well-being of the marine fishers and ecological security of fisheries resources in the Bay of Bengal while catalyzing the growth of the sector to substantiate economic development of the member-countries.”

3.0 Mission

BOBP-IGO's mission is to promote, facilitate and secure the long-term development and utilization of coastal fisheries resources of the BoB based on responsible fishing practices and environmentally sound management programmes. Towards this mission the Organisation will be guided by the needs of the member-countries and emerging issues that may affect the marine fisheries sector of the member-countries and will work in close association with the institutions of the member-countries and other regional and international organisations.

4.0 Activities

In order to achieve its Vision & Mission, the BOBP-IGO shall:

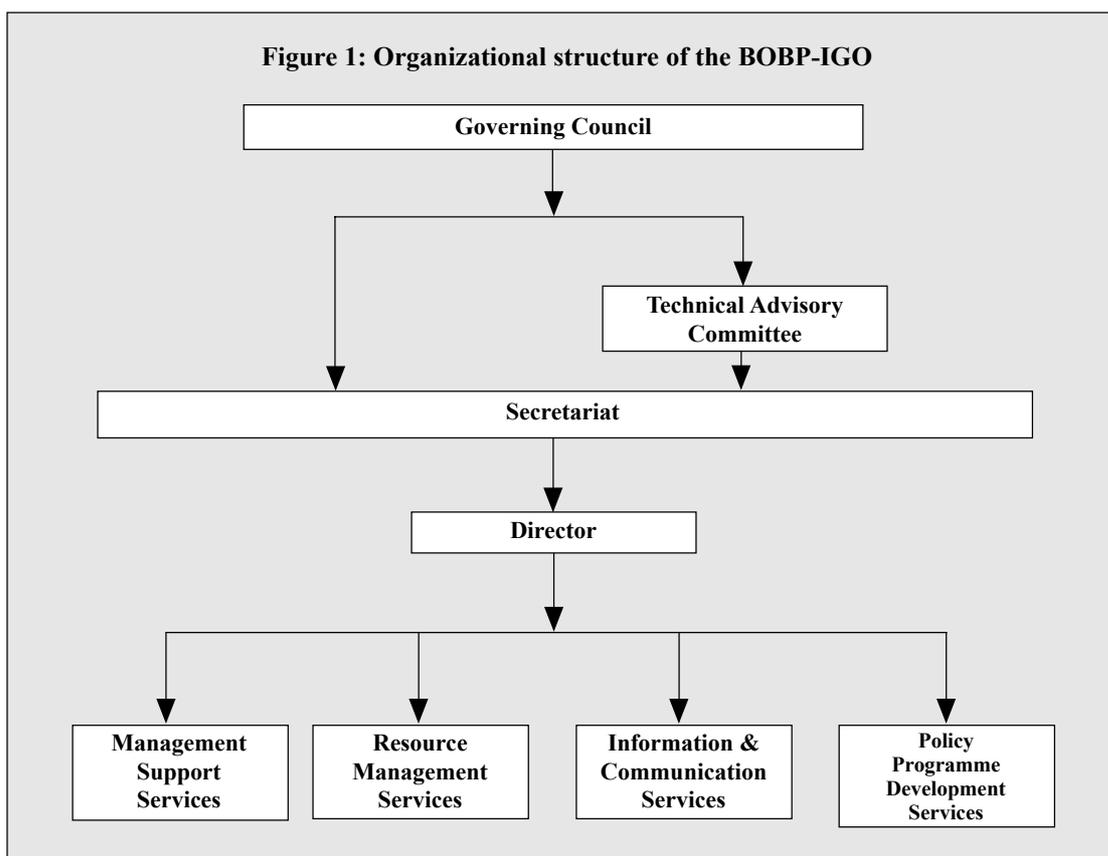
- **Implement** programmes and activities which are of immediate requirement for the sustainable development and management of coastal fisheries¹ ;
- **Consolidate** the establishment of an expanded network to share the responsibility of fisheries management, training and information exchange essential to coastal fisheries development in the region;
- **Assist** the Members in increasing the livelihood opportunities and improving the quality of life of the small-scale fishers in the region;
- **Increase** awareness and knowledge of the needs, benefits and practices of coastal fisheries management;
- **Assist** the Members in harmonization of policy and legal framework necessary for sustainable development and management of coastal fisheries resources of the region;
- **Train and upgrade** core personnel needed for coastal fisheries planning, research, training, extension and development;
- **Establish** a regional information system to provide appropriate information for development, planning, research and training;
- **Assist** the Members in strengthening their national capabilities in development and management of coastal fisheries;
- **Transfer** to the Members appropriate technologies and techniques for development of small-scale fisheries;
- **Promote** regional self-reliance in small-scale fisheries development through Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and facilitate the exchange of national experts, technical know-how and information within the framework of TCDC;
- **Develop** programmes for the promotion of women's participation in coastal fisheries development at all levels;
- **Assist** the Members in feasibility studies and project formulation; and
- **Undertake** such other activities related to the objectives of the Organisation as may be approved by the Governing Council.

5.0 Organisational structure

The BOBP-IGO is a tri-layered organization headed by the Governing Council drawn from the constituent Ministry/Department of Fisheries of the four member-countries (The Governing Council). The Governing Council functions through the BOBP-IGO Secretariat located in Chennai, India. The Secretariat is headed by the Director, appointed by the Governing Council and professional and administrative staff. To help the Governing Council and the Secretariat in designing the work plan and evaluation of performances, the Governing Council appointed the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the BOBP-IGO comprising leading marine/coastal fisheries research institutes/organisations of the respective member-countries.

The TAC meets once in a year to draw up and evaluate the work plan and submits its recommendations to the Governing Council for review. **Figure 1** shows the organogram of the BOBP-IGO. The Programme Framework and staff structure is given in **Annex 1**.

¹ This would change in the event of the Governing Council agreeing to expand the scope of mandate and work of the Organisation.

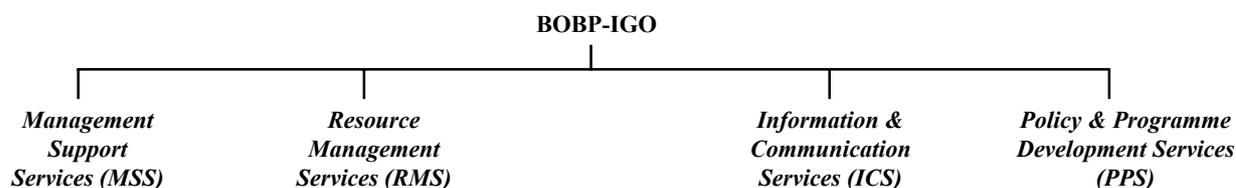


6.0 Strategic Action Plan, 2010-2014

The world is becoming increasingly uncertain. While we are yet to understand fully how to arrive at the golden path of fisheries management that can balance growth with socio-environmental justice, new complications arising due to changing climate—both natural and man-made—are making our understanding and finding solutions more complex. To make matters difficult, the growing population and expanding markets are placing increasing demand on fisheries resources, which are finite and cannot be exploited indiscriminately.

The *Strategic Action Plan, 2010-2014 (SAP)* of the BOBP-IGO has been conceived with this background in mind. Placing the precautionary principle as one of the fundamental pillars of ecological security, the SAP is built around the socio-economic needs of the marine fishers in the member-countries. The SAP also takes into account the existing fisheries management framework and fisheries resources of the member-countries. The time span for the SAP has been kept at five years with the provision of annual action plans and mid-term corrections, if required. The SAP is designed to address six basic questions regarding programme implementation: (i) what is to be done? (What); (ii) why it is necessary to carry out the proposed action? (Why); (iii) the time-frame for execution (When); implementation procedure (How) and responsibility and strategic partners (Who). The SAP is presented in *Annex 2*. The time-frame suggested for implementing the SAP is provided in more details in *Annex 3*.

Programme Framework & Secretariat Staff Structure



Staff structure:

- 1. MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES (MSS)**
 - a. Finance/Administration officer*
 - b. Administrative Assistant
 - c. Driver
- 2. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES (RMS)**
 - d. Fisheries Resources Officer*
 - e. Socio-economic Analyst*
- 3. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES (ICS)**
 - f. Information and Communication Officer*
 - g. Publication Development Officer
 - h. Library and Documentation Officer*
 - i. Information Assistant*
- 4. POLICY AND PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (PPS)**
 - a. Senior Programme Advisor*
 - b. Programme Officer (Gender and Development)*
 - c. Policy Analyst

* *Positions vacant*

The Strategic Action Plan of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, 2010-14

What	Why	When	How	Where	Who
<p><i>Improving Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fishery resources in the member-countries. This also includes formulation of management plans for commercially/biologically important fish stocks in the region.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because stocks are depleting and the exploitation rate is stagnating along with the income of fishers. Because a watchful manager will notice the first signs of changes arising due to over-exploitation, pollution or changing climate and can take precautions. Because it will give the countries required business intelligence to tackle issues like Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, etc. Because it will safeguard the rights of traditional fishers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first stage of the programme—National Plan of Action for MCS (NPOA-MCS) has been initiated and will be completed in 2010. In the next stage, countries will meet to design ways for moving ahead with the implementation of the NPOA-MCS and also agree on a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) in 2011. Simultaneously, the member-countries and Myanmar (observer country) will also formulate management plans for the commercially important fish stocks. 	<p>Step I: The countries will develop their NPOA-MCS.</p> <p>Step II: The concerned Ministries will work together to discuss and agree on the modalities (Maldives has initiated the process).</p> <p>Step II-A: The BOBP-IGO will also facilitate the preparation of a RPOA for management of trans-boundary species and management plans for major commercial species. The work has already begun with hilsa and shark fisheries. Studies for tuna and shrimp brood stock are in the pipeline.</p> <p>Step II-B: Capacity building of the Ministries/ Departments through technical training, TCDCs, etc (ongoing).</p> <p>Step III: A Regional Meeting will be convened by late 2010-early 2011 to evaluate the progress and for identifying constraints, if any.</p> <p>Step IV: Based on the review of the progress,</p>	<p>A country-level programme for all member-countries.</p>	<p>For BOBP-IGO, the Secretariat is monitoring the progress and is also the focal point. The member-countries are setting their own focal points within the Ministry/Department of Fisheries. For success, it is essential that the focal points complete the cycle of the programme.</p> <p>The BOBP-IGO may recruit external experts/resource person as and when required.</p> <p>The project will be funded under the core activities of BOBP-IGO. External funding will also be sought for specific activities (e.g. technical expertise, formulation of Regional Plan of Action). Discussions have been initiated with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) for collaboration.</p>

What	Why	When	How	Where	Who
<p>Safety at Sea for Artisanal and Small-Scale Fishermen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because fishing is dangerous and risky. Because most of the fishers are the major bread winners for the family and lack of social security leaves an ill-fated fisher family nowhere. Because there are many avoidable risks in existing practices and fishing can be made safer. Because like all labour, fishers have the right to enjoy optimal safety in their occupation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pilot stage of the programme was implemented during 2007-09. The next stage will begin after reviewing the feedback from the pilot stage. However, in the meanwhile BOBP-IGO will continue with the awareness programmes and setting up of a mechanism for surveillance and monitoring of fishing-related accidents at sea. 	<p>BOBP-IGO will foster advocacy as well as find international partners, if required for technical assistance to the member-countries (2011-12).</p> <p>Step I: Further review of the development and designing strategies as required (2013-14).</p> <p>Step VI: A functional model of MCS by the end of 2014 and also management plans for shark and hilsa fishery.</p> <p>Step I: Regional and National Workshops, base line surveys and field inspections were carried out during 2007-09 to pin point the problems.</p> <p>Step II: Based on the above work, a roadmap for the countries and the BOBP-IGO was prepared during the final Regional Consultation in 2009. The roadmap stressed on awareness building, training and advocacy, both at the national and regional levels.</p> <p>Step III: The Secretariat will now implement this roadmap with a mix of pilot-scale and country -</p>	<p>Awareness programmes will be conducted in selected sites of the member-countries. The surveillance and monitoring of fishing-related accidents at sea will aim at full coverage of the marine fisheries sector.</p>	<p>The BOBP-IGO Secretariat in conjunction with the country focal points in selected sites, Alaska Centre of NIOSH, USA.</p> <p>Further donor/ technical assistance is expected from donor/specialized UN agencies like Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Labour Organization (ILO).</p>

What	Why	When	How	Where	Who
<i>Taking the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to the grassroots level.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because CCRF till date is the most comprehensive guideline for all levels of stakeholders to move towards responsible fishery. Because CCRF is general in nature and need to adapt depending on the actual situation of the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On going programme 	<p>level activities (2010-14). The Alaska Center of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), USA will collaborate with BOBP-IGO in implementing some of the components of the road map (2010-13).</p> <p>Step I-A: Translation of CCRF and its Technical Guidelines in local languages (ongoing, expected to be completed by 2012).</p> <p>Step I-B: Training of junior and middle-level officers of the member-countries in better understanding of the CCRF (since 2008 and will continue).</p> <p>Step II: Developing awareness material in local languages and their distribution (ongoing).</p> <p>Step III: Adaptation of the CCRF to meet local-level requirements (2012-13).</p>	A country-level programme for all member-countries.	BOBP-IGO Secretariat and the member-countries. Collaboration with BOBLME has been discussed.
<i>Improving health and hygiene in fisheries.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because quality of fish is decided at the point of its extraction. Because considerable losses take place in quality after fish is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Started in 2009 	<p>Step I: Documentation of existing health & hygiene practices. Different levels of documentation completed in the member-countries.</p>	A country-level programme for all member-countries with priorities to the members with less-developed facilities.	Secretariat and member-country focal points. Possible collaboration with specialized UN agencies like FAO and IMO.

What	Why	When	How	Where	Who
<p><i>Adapting to climate change</i></p>	<p>harvested and sold to the consumers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because member-countries need to improve their competitiveness in the international market. Because traditional practices are not always the best practices. Because coastal zones are under threat from rising water level. Because fish stocks are behaving in unknown ways in response to the changing climate, especially the rising temperature. Because traditional knowledge and familiarity are not expected to guide in the changing scenario. Because the best fishers can do at this moment is to adapt to changing climate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since late 2008. 	<p>Step II: Identifying gaps and weak linkages (2012-2013).</p> <p>Step III: National and regional workshops to design interventions (2012-13).</p> <p>Step IV: Pilot-scale implementation (2013-14).</p> <p>Step I: Preparation of country- level status reports on possible impacts of climate change. The studies were commissioned in second half of 2008.</p> <p>Step II: Workshops/ Training programme for marine fisheries officials to develop their knowledge (2010-14).</p> <p>Step III: National and regional workshops to design adaptation strategy (2012-14).</p> <p>Step IV: Up-scaling the issues in national and international arena (ongoing).</p> <p>Step V: Advocacy for integration of adaptation strategies for fisheries in National and Regional Action Plans (2012-14).</p>	<p>A country-level programme for all member-countries.</p>	<p>Secretariat; in country focal points; National and International Research Institutes; FAO; BOBLME</p>

What	Why	When	How	Where	Who
<p>Livelihoods enhancement for small-scale and artisanal fishers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide fishers with a back up for risk spreading and avenues for improving their economic status. To create an exit point from over-crowded coastal fisheries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010-14 	<p>Step I: Review of existing livelihood strategies and additional avenues in the member-countries (2010-12).</p> <p>Step II: Identification of conditions of success and failure (2011-13).</p> <p>Step III: Designing suitable interventions with the help of livelihoods experts and NGOs (2011-14).</p> <p>Step IV: Liaison with responsible ministries and donor organisations for implementation of the programmes (2014-).</p>	<p>A country-level programme for all member-countries with a possibility of pilot-scale implementation.</p>	<p>Secretariat, BOBP-IGO; in country focal points; National and International NGOs; FAO; BOBLME.</p>

Suggested time-map for activities proposed in the vision document of BOBP-IGO

Area	Activities	2010	2011			2012		2013		2014	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Improving Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fishery resources in the member-countries. Formulation of Management Plans for commercially/ biologically important fish stocks in the region.	National MCS Plans of Action (Reports).	■									
	Formulation of Regional MCS Programme.		■	■	■						
	Implementation of National MCS Action Plan		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Implementation of Regional MCS Action Plan					■	■	■	■	■	■
	Review of implementation.									■	■
	National Programme for commercially- important fisheries.	■	■	■	■	■					
	Regional Programme for commercially-important fisheries.				■	■	■	■	■		
	Review of implementation.									■	■
Safety at Sea for Artisanal and Small-Scale Fishermen.	Awareness campaign.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Implementing accident reporting mechanism.		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
	Finalizing interventions and their implementation.					■	■	■	■	■	■
Taking the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to the grassroots level.	Publication of CCRF+TGs in vernacular.	■	■	■	■	■					
	Training for Fisheries Officials on CCRF.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Awareness campaigns.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Adaptation of the CCRF to meet local needs.				■	■	■	■	■		
Improving health and hygiene in fisheries.	Documentation of existing fish handling practices.	■	■	■							
	Analysis of information.				■	■	■	■			
	Development of training/ policy modules.					■	■	■	■		
	Implementation.							■	■	■	■
Adapting to climate change.	Networking with research institutions.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	National meetings.				■	■	■	■	■		
	Regional meeting.									■	■
	Training and advocacy (part of CCRF).	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Livelihoods enhancement for small-scale and artisanal fishers.	Documentation of existing livelihood programmes.	■	■	■	■	■					
	Analysis of information.			■	■	■	■	■			
	Pilot-scale implementation.			■	■	■		■	■	■	■
	Policy suggestions.										■

Concept Note on the Modalities and Requirements for Assigning the Role of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation to the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation

1.0 Introduction

During its Fifth Meeting (15-16 June, 2009, Chennai, India), the Governing Council (GCM-5) of the BOBP-IGO (Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation) evaluated the performance of the Organisation in the context of its Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action (2010-14). While doing so, the GCM-5 also reviewed the present mandate of the Organisation and discussed the possibility of assigning a management role to the Organisation. Based on the evaluation and keeping in view the need for greater regional cooperation in various matters related to marine fisheries in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) region, the GCM-5 agreed on the following:

- (i) The Secretariat should prepare a detailed Concept Note critically appraising the extent and scope of the coverage of BOBP-IGO with reference to its activities and mandate. The Concept Note should also address the possibility of extending the role and expanding the mandate of the BOBP-IGO from the present coastal waters to the fisheries sector as a whole.
- (ii) The Concept Note should also include the modalities and requirements for assigning the role of a fisheries management body to the Organisation.
- (iii) The Concept Note should be placed before the Governing Council at its Sixth Meeting to be held in 2010.

The objective of the present Concept Note is to evaluate the issues within the Governing Council (GCM-6) and to seek policy guidance to enable the Secretariat to initiate dialogue with concerned parties (concerned stakeholders in the member-countries) to carry forward the given task.

2.0 What does the Bay of Bengal means to the countries surrounding it?

The area

In view of the geographic distribution of the countries surrounding the BoB (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand) and the countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka) proposing the setting up of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO), the concerned area is defined by the equatorial line in the south, Maldives and the east coast of India on the western side, Bangladesh in the north and the west coast of Thailand, the west coast of Malaysia and the east coast of Sumatra (Indonesia) down to the Equator on the east. Thus this would include the Bay of Bengal proper, the Andaman sea, Malacca Straits and the seas around Maldives and Sri Lanka, the entire EEZs around Maldives,

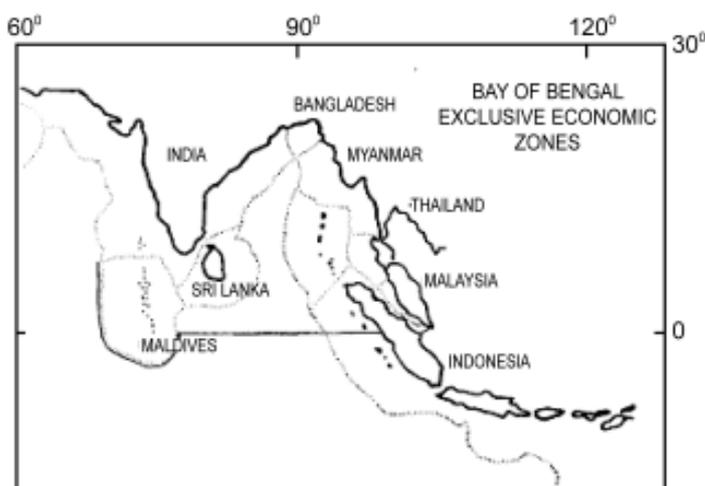


Figure 1: EEZ boundaries of the littoral and island nations in the Bay of Bengal region

Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Andaman-Nicobar Islands and parts of the EEZs on the east coast of India, west coast of Thailand, west coast of Malaysia and on both sides of the Island of Sumatra (Indonesia), north of the Equator (**Figure 1**). This area also maps the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) area, which is now functioning as a Project where these countries are members and where the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme operated. The total area of the EEZ of the countries surrounding the Bay and also of the land-locked nations (Nepal and Bhutan) who have territorial access to the Bay is given in **Table 1**.

Table 1: EEZ areas of the countries surrounding the Bay of Bengal, including some of the land-locked nations

Country	EEZ km ²	Shelf km ²	EEZ+TA km ²
Indonesia	6 159 032	2 039 381	8 019 392
India	2 305 143	402 996	5 592 406
Maldives	923 322	34 538	923 622
Myanmar	532 775	220 332	1 209 353
Sri Lanka	532 619	32,453	598 229
Malaysia	334 671	323 412	665 474
Thailand	299 397	230 063	812 517
Bangladesh	86 392	66,438	230 390
Bhutan			38 394
Nepal			147 181
Total (for BoB countries)	11 173 351	3 349 613	18 089 777
World (Total)	136 906 145	25 647 832	272 411 870
BoB to World (%)	8.16	13.06	6.64

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclusive_Economic_Zone

Stakeholders

As per the data available from Seas Around Us Project, the BoB is exploited by over 11 countries: India, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Korea (South) and others. However; apart from the bordering countries, the other nations had less than one percent of share in the catch during 2006 (*Figure 2*).

Importance

It is now well-established that the BoB region is an ecologically integrated large marine ecosystem, though politically and culturally it is a heterogeneous entity. Resultantly, the environmental services of the Bay are more or less proportionally shared by the countries bordering it, but their (the countries) management of the Bay varies considerably. Furthermore, there are also no agreed regional or international measures to protect the shared fish stocks and marine environment in the region.

Riding on this vacuum, fisheries productivity and the ecosystem health of the marine environment in the BoB has degraded considerably over the years and the consequences are seen in the form of depleting fish stocks, increasing environmental degradation, loss of habitats and resultantly adverse impacts on the millions of fishers who derive their livelihoods from the Bay's fisheries resources.

Socio-economically, the BoB region is marked by limited resources but high demand for its services. The Bay, which is about one percent of the declared Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the world, supports livelihoods of about 15 percent of the fisheries workforce directly and millions more indirectly. Furthermore, fisheries in the Bay are predominantly small-scale and concentrated in the waters of continental shelf or close to shelf boundaries. Hence, the problems

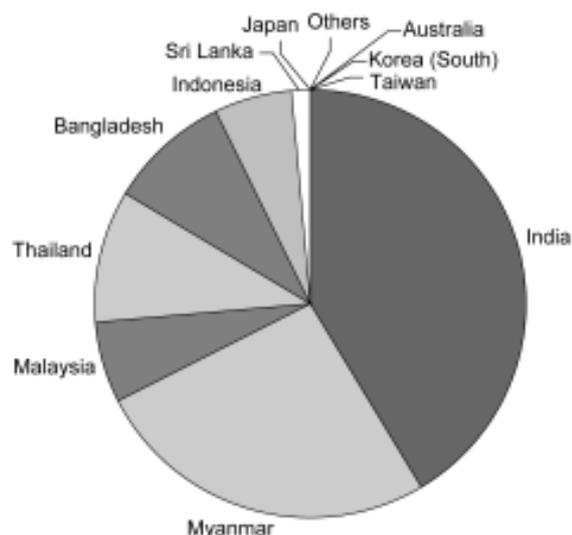


Figure 2: Exploitation of Bay of Bengal, 2006
(Source: Seas Around Us)

of the Bay *prima facie* are localized in characteristics; however, the implications are region-wide. That is addressing the problems in the Bay need micro-level integration, which is again absent in the existing international instruments (e.g. 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or UNCLOS) – where micro or local problems are subjected to be addressed by the state without any clear reference to their larger ecosystem impacts. To address this gap, the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) suggests promotion of regional cooperation.

Various studies show that over 1/4th of the commercially important fisheries resources in the BoB region are fully or over-exploited (**Figure 3**). Many of these resources are straddling and transboundary in nature and harvested by the fishers of more than one country in the region. However, at present there is no mechanism to share information regarding stocks and their levels of exploitation by the countries using the Bay’s resources. Furthermore, there are serious information gaps in terms of capacity to estimate resources; measuring harvestable potential, fleet size and composition; pollution and changes in environmental variables; trade and commerce; etc. Since, the countries surrounding the Bay are developing states they do not have enough resources to build up an adequate fisheries management structure by themselves. Therefore, it is felt that through regional cooperation, countries can achieve economy of scale and a responsible fisheries management framework.

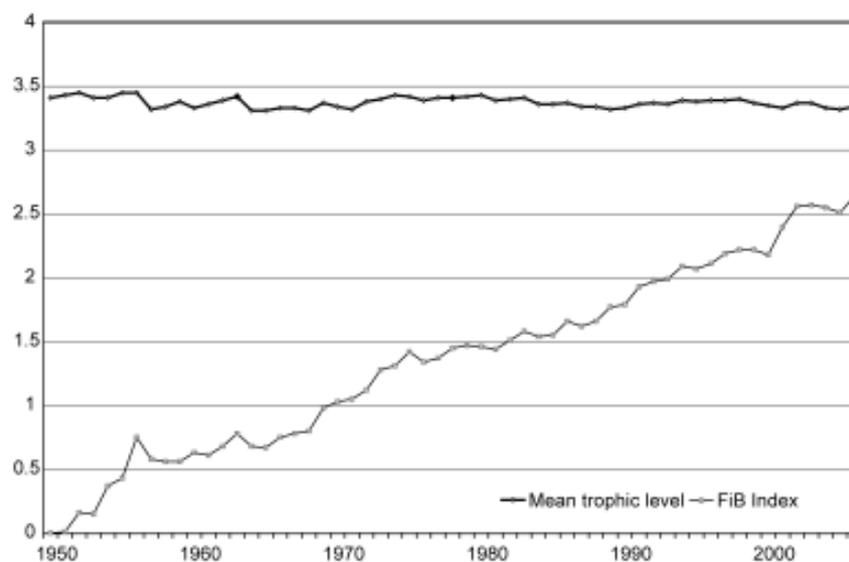


Figure 3: Declining species diversity and increasing fishing area in the Bay of Bengal¹, 2006
(Source: Seas Around Us)

3.0 Managing the common heritage – Need for an RFMO

The BoB as stated above is an integral part of the ecological and economic security for the countries surrounding it. In other words, the BoB can be termed as the ‘common heritage’ of the countries associated with it. To further elaborate the concept of ‘Common Heritage of Mankind’, it is a principle of international law which holds that defined territorial areas and elements of humanity’s common heritage (cultural and natural) should be held as ‘trust’ for future generations and be protected from exploitation by individual nation states or corporations. In a similar context, landmark judgments have been given by the highest court of law in many countries around the globe using ‘Public Trust Doctrine’ as a basis for sustainable utilization of the resources held in common.

¹ *A decrease in Marine Trophic Index (MTI) represents a decline in the abundance and diversity of fish species high in the food chain, such as cod. This process also termed ‘fishing down marine food webs’ means that fish stocks are being over-exploited and fisheries are not being sustainably managed. As a result the biodiversity of these resources will be threatened. The loss of top predators and the reduction of the trophic structure in oceans will have consequences for ecosystem stability and function, threatening biodiversity more broadly. An increase in MTI does not necessarily mean that abundances of higher trophic level species have increased. Instead an increase may be the result of geographical expansion of fisheries outside of the defined LME. Data from the complementary Fishing-in-Balance (FiB) index (see www.seaaroundus.org), a measure of the ‘balance’ between catches and trophic level indicates that this increase is the result of offshore expansion of the fisheries into pelagic waters outside of the currently defined LME.’*

The basic framework for managing seas and oceans as a common heritage is provided in the UNCLOS that entered into force on November 16, 1994 and where the countries concerned with the BoB region are signatories. The provisions of the UNCLOS dealing with the living resources (*i.e.*, fish, shellfish, sea turtles and marine mammals) recognize international interdependence on these resources and provide a framework for their cooperative and sustainable management. These provisions contained in Articles 61 through 73, deal specifically with: conservation (Article 61); exploitation (Article 62); transboundary and straddling stocks (Article 63); highly migratory stocks (Article 64); marine mammals (Article 65); anadromous stocks (Article 66); catadromous stocks (Article 67); sedentary species (Article 68); and enforcement by coastal nations (Article 73). In addition, sedentary continental shelf species are more specifically addressed in Article 77(4), living resources on the high seas are considered in Articles 116-120, and marine habitat protection is provided in Articles 192-196. In summary, the UNCLOS calls on states to engage in global, regional and sub-regional cooperation in the management and conservation of fisheries on the high seas.

The 1995 UN Agreement on Management of Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (FSA) strengthened this mandate by providing that fisheries for straddling and highly migratory fish stocks should be managed through regional and sub-regional organizations. RFMOs are, in fact, central to implementation of the FSA, which establishes them as the primary mechanisms through which states should cooperate and proactively manage and conserve straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.

The UNCLOS also deal with anadromous species, which spend most of their lives in the ocean, but enter freshwater to spawn. Hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*) is one of the important anadromous species of interest to some of the BoB countries. The UNCLOS assigns primary interest in and responsibility for anadromous fish stocks to the nations in whose rivers the stocks originate. However, UNCLOS holds that the coastal nations through whose waters anadromous fish migrate are required to cooperate with the nations wherein the anadromous stocks originated and enforcement of regulations concerning anadromous fish stocks beyond the EEZ is to be accomplished through negotiated agreement. As is the case, there is a vacuum in the region to manage anadromous species leading to their unplanned exploitation and consequent impacts on their population.

The CCRF, which is non-binding but a comprehensive digest of international treaties and conventions also provides support for promoting RFMOs in the case of common heritage. The CCRF states that to be effective, fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit over its entire area of distribution and take into account previously agreed management measures established and applied in the same region. Further, all removals and the biological unity and other biological characteristics of the stock should also be considered for management of the stocks. The best scientific evidence available should be used to determine, *inter alia*, the area of distribution of the resource and the area through which it migrates during its life cycle. In order to conserve and manage transboundary fish stocks, straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and high seas fish stocks throughout their range, conservation and management measures established for such stocks in accordance with the respective competences of relevant States or, where appropriate, through sub-regional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, should be compatible. Compatibility should be achieved in a manner consistent with the rights, competences and interests of the States concerned.

The Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) are now being increasingly recognized as the critical vehicles for promoting long-term sustainable fisheries where international cooperation is required for conservation and management of the resources. These organizations present the only realistic means of governing fish stocks that occur either as straddling or shared stocks between zones of national jurisdiction or between these zones and the high seas, or exclusively on the high seas.

Apart from the international instrument, the policies of the concerned countries also have created the scope of promoting RFMOs to protect their interests. In this regard, the Bay of Bengal Initiative on Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) during its 2007 workshop on fisheries sub-sector noted the following reasons for cooperation among the countries concerned with the BoB: (i) Development of infrastructure and its accessibility; (ii) Organized database and information system; (iii) Inland and river fisheries conservation and management; (iv) Regulation of fisheries and uncontrolled fishing practices; (v) Quarantine and fish health; (vi) Market development and facilitation; (vii) Knowledge exchange programmes through training and seminar; (viii) Development of fish processing and improvement of product quality; (ix) Development of fisheries in the

deep seas and improvement of fisheries management; and (x) Fisheries joint venture and technical cooperation. As it is clear that, managing the BoB is a collective responsibility, both because it is a common heritage and also because given its ecological and economic integrity, it is not possible for a single country to manage it properly without harming its own interests.

4.0 Existing framework of Regional Fisheries Bodies

The RFBs are a mechanism through which States or organizations that are parties to an international fishery agreement or arrangement ('agreement' is fundamental, and different from arrangement) work together for conservation, management and/or development of fisheries. (Some RFBs, especially those with an ecosystem mandate, also work with seabirds, etc that are connected with fisheries but are not fish stocks *per se*.)

The mandates of RFBs vary. Some RFBs have an advisory mandate and provide advice, decisions or coordinating mechanisms that are not binding on their members. Some RFBs have a management mandate – these are called RFMOs. They adopt fisheries conservation and management measures that are binding on their members.

The functions of RFBs also vary. They can include collection, analysis and dissemination of information and data, coordinating fisheries management through joint schemes and mechanisms, serving as a technical and policy forum, and taking decisions relating to the conservation, management, development and responsible use of the resources. The difference between a 'regional fishery body' and a 'regional fishery arrangement organization' is that the former has established a Secretariat that operates under a governing body of member States and the latter does not have.

History of RFBs

In 1948 the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council (in 1976 it changed to Commission), now Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), was the first regional arrangement set up under the FAO Constitution. Since then, other regional bodies or arrangements were established within and outside the framework of FAO. Currently, there are 44 regional fishery bodies worldwide, 20 of which are RFMO. *Annex I* provides brief profile of some of the important 15 RFMOs.

Background of RFBs

The primary reason for establishing RFBs is to manage fish stocks throughout their range of distribution, taking into account the need for compatible conservation and management measures in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction. RFBs, including RFMOs, initially dealt with transboundary, straddling, highly- or high seas migratory stocks in their nature. However, the mandate and scope could also be extended according to specific decisions made by the member states of each body. Flexibility in RFBs structure means that functions also vary. As mentioned earlier, they can range from collection, analysis and dissemination of information and data, to the coordination of fisheries management through joint schemes and mechanisms, to decision-making related to conservation, management, development and responsible use of resources.

Role of RFBs

While the role and priorities of RFBs vary according to their mandates and other factors – including the political will of the members; presented below is a trends in major issues as noted by the RFB secretariats:

Management: including issues surrounding responsible fisheries management, the ecosystem approach to fisheries, by-catch concerns and IUU fishing. These were cited as important by the largest number of RFBs, consistent with the prominent issues found in recent international instruments which themselves respond to broader international concerns;

Science and research: mostly centered around practical issues, including producing scientific advice that meets decision-makers' needs (such as integrating fisheries and environmental information), the need for continuing, accurate and comprehensive stock assessments and assessments of associated species and ecosystems at national and regional levels;

Institutional: resulted in the largest number of issues identified by RFBs, including those relating to finance and strengthened external cooperation as most prominent, followed by capacity building, information exchange and human resource development;

Development: the least cited category, but with wide-ranging issues, including aquaculture and artisanal fisheries development impacts, tuna industry development and assisting member states with the change in balance between subsistence and commercial fisheries.

Evolving role of RFB

RFBs are playing a greater part in decision-making for international instruments for conservation and management. Key areas include:

- *precautionary approach;*
- *agreement on decision-making procedures that facilitate the adoption of conservation and management measures in a timely and effective manner;*
- *transparency in the decision-making process;*
- *decision-making procedures for dispute prevention; and*
- *strengthening decision-making to implement relevant policies.*

5.0 Existing framework of RFBs in the BoB region

In the BoB region many RFBs are active and cover either specific area (e.g. South-East Asian Fisheries Development Centre focuses on countries in the South-east Asian region) or work in one sub-sector of fisheries (e.g. Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific is engaged in development of aquaculture). In addition to these bodies, a couple of other bodies also exist in the region, which have larger socio-political-economic roles (e.g. BIMSTEC). On a closer examination of their mandates, it is seen that they neither conflict with BOBP-IGO² nor cover the needs of the marine fisheries sector. A detailed review of such organizations in the BoB region is presented in *Annex 2*.

6.0 Guiding factors for setting up a RFMO

The guiding factors/basis underpinning the development of a RFMO are that the regime should, *inter alia*:

- Be according to UNCLOS;
- Be according, *mutatis mutandis*, to the principles of UNFSA;
- Apply to marine areas beyond national jurisdiction;
- Be based on best and improving regional and international practice;
- Include species not already covered by other RFMOs in the region under consideration;
- Include appropriate and effective decision making processes that incorporate appropriate mechanisms recognising the respective interests of coastal states and other participants;
- Recognise the special requirements of developing states;
- Include specific conservation and management regimes for straddling stocks and discrete high seas stocks, bearing in mind their nature and characteristics;
- Develop allocation principles that, *inter alia*, recognise, as appropriate, the fishing history of the stocks;
- Ensure a genuine link between the flag state and its vessels;
- Ensure the establishment of an effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) regime, including relevant roles for port states, flag states and coastal states;
- Allow for the establishment of interim measures, based on the best scientific information available, and mechanisms for the provisional application of the agreement; and
- Establish a mechanism to review the effectiveness and implementation of the RFMO.

² A brief description of the Organisation is given under Annex 2 (please see pp 74-75).

7.0 Possible scope of an RFMO for the BoB region

Except a small patch of international waters, the area under discussion (BoB region) is within the EEZs of the countries bordering the Bay. The scope of a RFMO for the BoB would be multi-species covering both fisheries and environment. It may be relevant to mention here that the need for an organization to cover these aspects has been under discussion since 1990s. In May 2009, a project-based approach to address bilateral and multi-lateral fisheries and environmental matters was initiated through the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded Project on the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME). The BOBLME Project, which has an initial life span of five years, brings Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka to a common platform to deal with region or sub-region wide issues. At the end of its life cycle, the BOBLME is expected to be owned by the Project member-countries and run by an existing regional organization or mechanism.

During the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the BOBP-IGO, member-countries opined that BOBP-IGO is perfectly suited to take over the activities of BOBLME at the end of its project-life. Presently, the two organizations are working in close association and this can facilitate the process of carrying forward the work of BOBLME once its project life is over. The TAC (of BOBP-IGO) comprises members from leading scientific institutions of Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, who are also the National Coordinators and or members of the Project Steering Committee of the BOBLME and are thus having close knowledge of working and objectives of both the organisations.

The TAC also noted that institutionalizing an existing RFB like the BOBP-IGO is cost-effective and efficient because the Organisation already has the basic framework that can be upgraded to meet the new requirements. Secondly, the Organisation has a proven track record and expertise in addressing issues concerning fisheries and environment in the region.

Recent discussions on working of existing RFMOs shows that the RFMOs have often under-performed because they have not been able to create a level-playing field for their member-countries (e.g. due to conspicuous disparities in scientific and technical capacities) and or trade-offs between regional and national interests. Learning from the lessons, the TAC observed that the BOBP-IGO (and the former BOBP) has been active in the region for the last three decades and has over the period built a strong foundation of trust, neutrality and understanding amongst a range of stakeholders within and outside the region. These, *inter alia*, were the prime attributes of the BOBP that led to its institutionalization as an Inter-Governmental Organisation in early 2003. Moving forward to assume the status of a RFMO may perhaps be the natural process of evolution for the BOBP-IGO.

8.0 Modalities

The possible modalities or steps that may be required for establishing the RFMO are as follows:

- *A legally binding instrument establishing a Commission with a headquarter, secretariat, regular meetings of parties, rules of procedure, annual budget (with assessed contributions) and subsidiary bodies; or*
- *A legally binding agreement with minimal infrastructure (level of engagement according to level of fishing activity).*
- *International Consultation Process of all interested parties to discuss the establishment of the RFMO. In conjunction with the Consultation Process, work will also take place on processes needed to implement the agreement once it is reached. The development of implementation processes could be integrated into the agreement negotiation process, or occur in parallel.*
- *An interim secretariat may be established to facilitate, carry forward and monitor the establishment of the RFMO.*
- *An open and transparent approach should be taken towards participation in the negotiations to establish an RFMO.*

8.1 Proposed jurisdiction of the RFMO

The proposed new RFMO may cover parts of the FAO Statistical Areas 51 and 57 (see *Annex 3&4*). However, more precise details of the area to be brought under the proposed RFMO can be worked out later by a technical group set up for the purpose.

8.2 Proposed name of the RFMO

The proposed RFMO may be tentatively named as:

- Bay of Bengal Fisheries Commission (BOBFC) or
- Commission for Responsible Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal (CRFM-BOB)

A website will be established to facilitate the process and to share information amongst participants and others interested in the negotiations. The website will include background information on the RFMO, details of the negotiation, meeting arrangements and a link to an email address for enquiries.

8.3 Chair

It is proposed that chair of the Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO will also act as the independent chair of the negotiations.

8.4 Interim Secretariat

The Interim Secretariat will be located in Chennai, India. The Secretariat will act as the central coordination point for enquires and distribution of information.

8.5 Working Groups on state of fisheries resources and for fixing the boundaries of the proposed RFMO

Informal working groups will be established to help the Secretariat and the negotiating parties to provide information on socio-economic variables, status of fish stocks, health of eco-system, areas to be covered under the RFMO, etc. The working groups will also work towards stock assessment and preparation of management plans for important commercial fisheries in the region.

9.0 References

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Brief profile of some Regional Fisheries Management Bodies

Sl. No.	RFMO	Treaty establishing the RFMO	Year of adoption of the Treaty	Year of entry into force of the Treaty	Area of operation	Members (Contracting parties)	Concerned with species/stocks
1.0	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources (CCAMLR).	Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.	1980	1982	Southern Ocean.	Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, European Community, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay.	Antarctic krill, Patagonia toothfish, Antarctic toothfish, sub-Antarctic lantern fish, mackerel, icefish, sevenstar flying squid, Antarctic rock cod, crabs.
2.0	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention.	1993	1994	Entire geographical range of Southern bluefin tuna: Atlantic, Southwest; Atlantic, Southeast; Indian Ocean, Western; Indian Ocean, Eastern; Pacific, Southwest.	Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Taiwan.	Southern bluefin tuna.
3.0	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).	Established within the framework of Article XIV of the FAO Constitution.	1949	1952	Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters.	Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, European Community, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey.	Hake, red mullet, striped mullet, blue and red shrimp, Norway lobster, anchovy, sardine, dolphinfish, Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna, swordfish.
4.0	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).	Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.	1949	1950	Eastern Pacific Ocean.	Columbia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Spain, United States, Vanuatu, Venezuela	Yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, skipjack, bonito, Pacific bluefin tuna, sailfish, billfishes including marlin and swordfish.
5.0	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).	International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.	1966	1969	Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.	Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Egypt, European Community, Equatorial Guinea, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Conakry, Honduras, Iceland,	About 30 species are of direct concern to ICCAT: Atlantic bluefin, skipjack, yellowfin, albacore and bigeye tuna; swordfish; billfishes such as white

Sl. No.	RFMO	Treaty establishing the RFMO	Year of adoption of the Treaty	Year of entry into force of the Treaty	Area of operation	Members (Contracting parties)	Concerned with species/stocks
6.0	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).	The Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission was concluded under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution.	1993	1996	The Indian Ocean (defined for the purpose of the Agreement as being FAO Statistical Areas 51 and 57), and adjacent seas, north of the Antarctic Convergence, insofar as it is necessary to cover such seas for the purpose of conserving and managing stocks that migrate into or out of the Indian Ocean. In 1999, the Commission extended the western boundary of the IOTC statistical area from 30°E to 20°E, thus eliminating the gap in between the areas covered by IOTC and ICCAT.	Japan, Republic of Korea, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Syria, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela. Australia, Belize, China, Comoros, European Community, Eritrea, France, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Oman, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom and Vanuatu.	marlin, blue marlin, sailfish and spearfish; mackerels such as spotted Spanish mackerel and king mackerel; and, small tunas like black skipjack, frigate tuna, and Atlantic bonito. Yellowfin tuna, skipjack, bigeye tuna, albacore tuna, longtail tuna, Kawakawa, frigate tuna, bullet tuna, narrow barred Spanish mackerel, Indo-Pacific king mackerel, Indo-Pacific blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, Indo-Pacific sailfish, swordfish.
7.0	International Pacific Halibut Commission.	Convention for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery.	Since 1923. Last amended in 1979.	1980	North Pacific Ocean, including the Bering Sea.	Canada, the United States of America.	Halibut fishery.

Sl. No.	RFMO	Treaty establishing the RFMO	Year of adoption of the Treaty	Year of entry into force of the Treaty	Area of operation	Members (Contracting parties)	Concerned with species/stocks
8.0	International Whaling Commission	International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.	--	1946	Global	Total 88 countries. Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d' Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay.	Whale stocks/ species.
9.0	Northwest Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NAFO).	Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.	1978	1979	Northwest Atlantic. The international fisheries managed by NAFO take place outside the 200-mile EEZ. This is called the NAFO Regulatory Area. The NAFO Convention Area, however, is not restricted to international waters; it also covers the 200-mile zones under national jurisdiction.	Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Community, France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United States.	Cod, Greenland halibut, redfish, skates, American plaice, yellowtail flounder, white hake, witch flounder, capelin, squid, shrimp.

Sl. No.	RFMO	Treaty establishing the RFMO	Year of adoption of the Treaty	Year of entry into force of the Treaty	Area of operation	Members (Contracting parties)	Concerned with species/stocks
10.0	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO).	Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean..	1982	1983	Atlantic Ocean north of 36°N throughout the species' migratory range.	Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Community, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, United States.	Salmon in the North Atlantic north of 36° N latitude.
11.0	North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).	Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in Northeast Atlantic Fisheries.	1980	1982	Northeast Atlantic European Community, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), Iceland, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation.	Redfish, blue whiting, mackerel, Atlantic-Scandinavian herring, Rockall haddock, blue ling, black scabbardfish, orange roughly.	
12.0	North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC).	Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean.	1992	1993	The waters of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, north of 33° N beyond 200-mile zones from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. For scientific purposes, the activities under this Convention may extend farther southward in the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas in areas described above.	Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United States.	Chum, coho, pink, sockeye, chinook and cherry salmon; steelhead trout.
13.0	Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC).	Established by the Treaty Between the Governments of the United States of America and Canada concerning Pacific Salmon.	1985	1985	EEZs of Canada Pacific and USA Pacific Northwest, and adjacent river systems.	Canada, United States.	Salmon.

Sl. No.	RFMO	Treaty establishing the RFMO	Year of adoption of the Treaty	Year of entry into force of the Treaty	Area of operation	Members (Contracting parties)	Concerned with species/stocks
14.0	Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO).	Convention on the Conservation and management of Fishery Resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean.	2001	2003	Atlantic Southeast.	Angola, European Community, Namibia, Norway.	Alfonsino, orange roughy, armourhead, wreckfish, deep water hake, mackerel, sharks, octopus, squids, cardinal fish, horse mackerel, oreodorries, red crab.
15.0	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC).	Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC Convention).	2000	2004	Western and Central Pacific Ocean.	Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Cook Islands, European Community, Micronesia, Fiji, France, Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Korea, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu.	Skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, albacore tuna, bigeye tuna.

Profile of the Organizations working in the Bay of Bengal and their scope as a RFMO for the Bay of Bengal

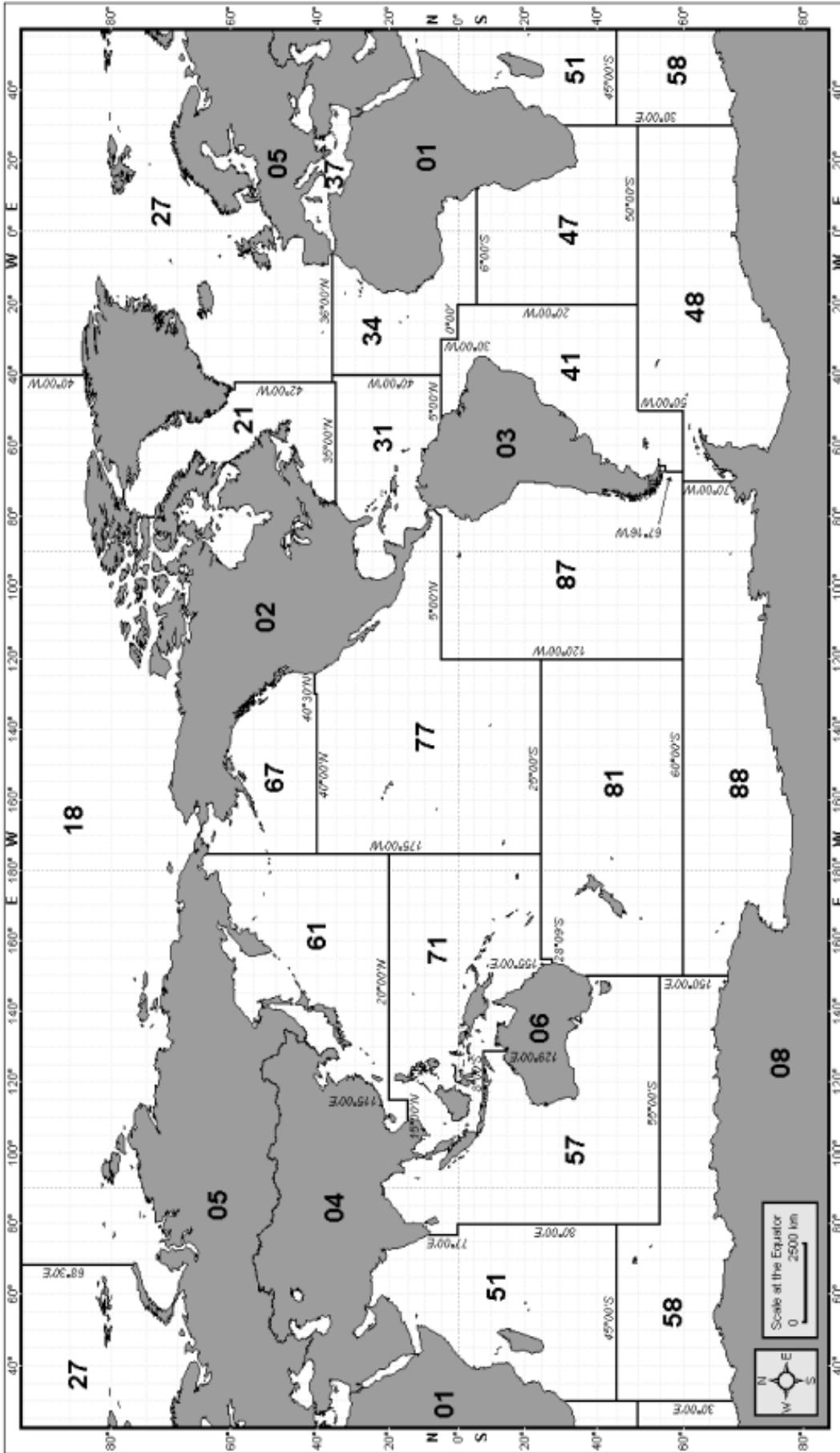
Organisation & Type FAB = Fisheries Advisory Body; FMB = Fisheries Management Body; OB= Other Bodies or Forum	Mandate	Geographical coverage/ Member- countries	Area/ Competencies	Programmes related to Bay of Bengal Region	Assuming the Role of RFMO
Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) - FAB	APFIC is an Article XIV FAO Regional Fishery Body established by FAO at the request of its members. The Secretariat is provided and supported by FAO. APFIC act as a Regional Consultative Forum that provides advice, coordinates activities and acts as an information broker to increase knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region to underpin decision making.	Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, PR China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, RO Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America.	Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries and Marine Fisheries. Involved in information dissemination and capacity building by training.	No specific programme for Bay of Bengal. However, there is a suggestion to increase its activity in the Bay of Bengal. The APFIC is also a major promoter of BOBLME Project.	As an Article XIV body, APFIC has a clear role to support and encourage the emergence of bilateral, trilateral and other arrangements for the effective management of fisheries amongst its member- countries, and particularly within its geographical area of competence. APFIC's strategy is to promote regional arrangements and work with regional processes aimed at improving responsible fisheries in the region. Conclusion: APFIC is expected to play its larger role as a facilitator and information broker in the region. By virtue of its constitution and area of coverage, it cannot assume the role of a RFMO itself; however it is expected to facilitate the procedure.
Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) OB	To create an enabling environment for rapid economic development in the sub-region.	Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.	Economic- political forum	A fisheries component exists in the Forum and this component is coordinated by Thailand.	Larger economic-political body with all encompassing mandate. Conclusion: Fisheries is a part of overall policy and it is not possible to engage its whole attention to fisheries. It does not fall either in the FAB or FMB category.
Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) - FAB	To help its member-countries in optimizing use of fisheries resources in a responsible manner.	Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka	Marine fisheries Involved in fisheries management,	All the programmes are related to Bay of Bengal region.	As an Inter-Governmental Organisation, BOBP-IGO has the necessary mandate to involve itself in bilateral and multi-lateral issues. However, at present, the decisions are not binding on the member-countries as the Organisation is

				capacity building, safety at sea, representing member-countries in international fora.		conceived as an advisory body. Furthermore, due to its long presence in the region, there is cumulative institutional memory about the fisheries and their issues in the region.
INFOFISH – FAB	Inter-governmental Organization providing marketing information and technical advisory services to the fishery industry of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.	Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, DPR Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Thailand.	Marketing	No specific programme	Especially meant for marketing support to fish producers in the member-countries. INFOFISH does not deal with fisheries management issues.	
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) - FMB	An Inter-governmental organization mandated to manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. Its objective is to promote cooperation among its members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, conservation and optimum utilization of stocks and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks. Established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution.	Current members: Australia, Madagascar, Belize, Malaysia, China, Mauritius, Comoros, Oman, Sultanate, Eritrea, Pakistan, European Community, Philippines, France, Seychelles, Guinea, Sierra Leone, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Sudan, Iran, Tanzania, Japan, Thailand, Kenya, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea, Vanuatu.	Management of tuna fisheries.	Tuna tagging/ quota.	Presently IOTC is the only FMB in the region, covering tuna fisheries. Conclusion: Since IOTC covers a single species and has a much wider membership and area of coverage, it may not be possible for IOTC to assume the role of a RFMO for the BoB region. The IOTC can at best play a cooperative role with the RFMO in the Bay.	
Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) – FAB	Capacity building through education and training; Collaborative research and development through networking among centers and people; Development of information and communication networks; Policy guidelines and support to policies and institutional capacities; Aquatic animal health and disease management; and Genetics and biodiversity.	Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, I.R. Iran, Korea (DPR), Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.	Aquaculture	Country-specific programmes	Deals with aquaculture. Marine fisheries is not its area of competence. The Organisation can be a suitable partner for BOBP-IGO to deal with cross-cutting issues involving aquaculture. The two Organisations are already discussing collaborative actions related to management plan of shrimp brood stock fisheries.	

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) – OB	To promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.	Environment programmes for coral reefs and marine environment	Regional programmes	Dealing with environmental issues of the Bay. Since the Organisation has no technical capabilities or experience in dealing with fisheries, it is not suitable to assume the role of a RFMO. However, the Organization can play important supportive role in environmental matters.
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) - FAB	To develop and manage fisheries potential of the Southeast Asian region by rational utilization of the resources for providing food security and safety for people and alleviating poverty through transfer of new technologies, research and information dissemination activities	Marine and inland waters of member- countries in Southeast Asia and contiguous high sea areas. Members: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam	Marine fisheries/aquaculture. Involved in capacity building, R&D.	Country-specific programme	Mainly concerned with countries in Southeast and Far-east Asia.

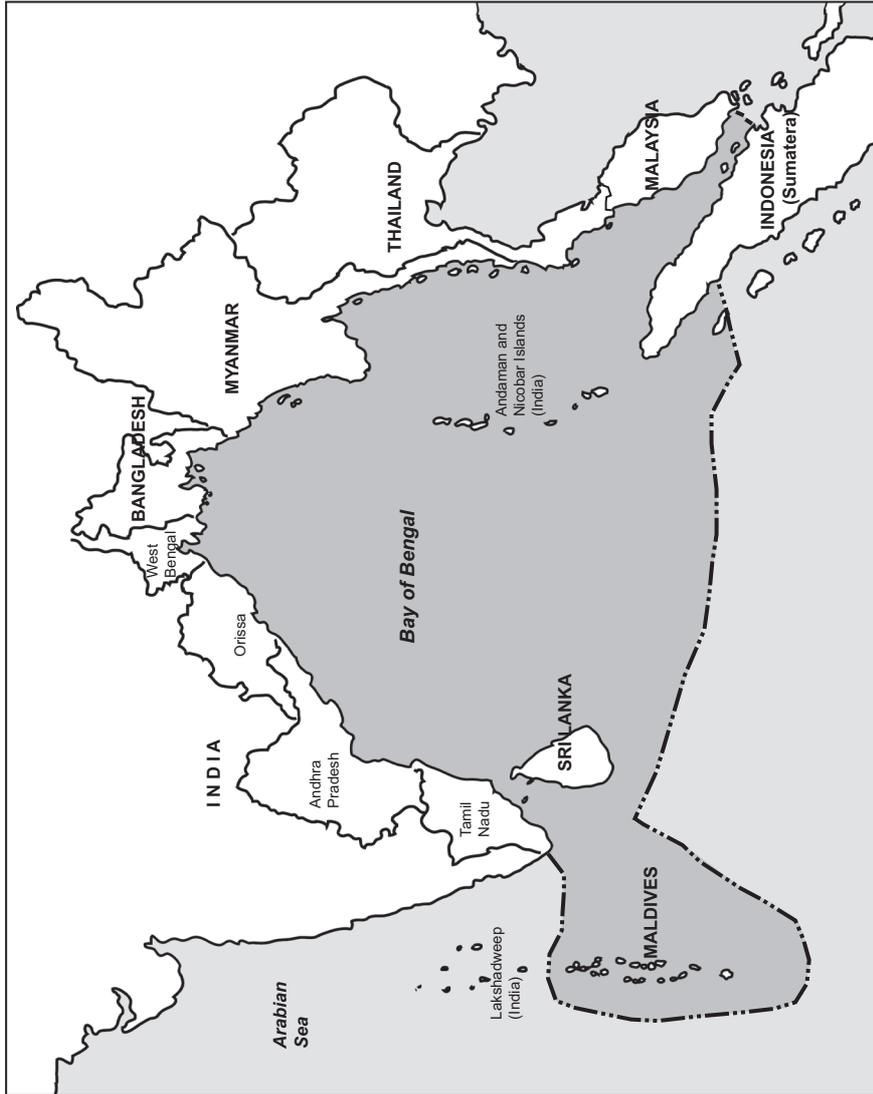
Note: Based on the mandate and competencies, the BOBP-IGO seems to be the most suitable Organisation. Furthermore, the Organisation has already cooperative programmes with other organizations working in the region which will help it to spearhead sustainable development in the region and negate any chance of inter-organizational conflict like undertaking programmes within the mandate and competencies of other RFBs in the region.

Map of FAO Statistical Areas



Source: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/maps/world_2003.gif](http://ftp.fao.org/fi/maps/world_2003.gif)

Proposed coverage of the RFMO



Note: The area that the proposed RFMO may cover is denoted by the shaded region. The map is not to scale and is only for indicative purpose. Further, it does not have any bearings on national boundaries and political positions of the countries shown in the map.

Work Plan of the BOBP-IGO for the Period April 2010 - March 2011

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

Objective:

A Technical Committee will be constituted under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives to prepare a comprehensive report on the need and scope of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) for the Bay of Bengal region. The Committee will finalize its report within a time-frame of four months and the report will be circulated to all the member-countries. Based on the examination of the Report by the member-countries a larger meeting would be convened to further progress the matter.

Work plan:

October 2010: First Meeting of the Technical Committee on RFMO to finalize the requirements of preparing the Technical Report on RFMO. A draft document would be made available to the Committee to take decision on the contents and extent of the Report.

December 2010: Final Meeting of the Technical Committee on RFMO to review and finalize the Technical Report on RFMO.

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 2010 - March 2011

Objectives:

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

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

Given the importance of fish in ensuring national food security and earning foreign exchange, it is deemed necessary to promote better post-harvest practices from point of catch to the point of sale. Further, considering the fact that post-harvest activities such as small-scale retail marketing and fish drying is the main source of livelihood of fisher women, it is necessary to provide them with up-to-date knowledge on improved practices to increase their income. The capacity-building programme, while addressing these issues will also take into account the issues of product diversification and introduction of new products under the component on additional/alternative livelihoods.

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 2010 - March 2011:

- Translation of the Technical Guidelines of the 1995 FAO CCRF on Marine Fisheries in the national languages of the member-countries and printing of copies of the translated versions for circulation to concerned institutions/agencies/fishermen associations, etc.

- Training Programme for Junior and Middle-Level Fisheries Staff of member-countries on implementation of the CCRF. The training will be conducted in collaboration with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, India.
- Developing a Regional Information Network to provide information for development, planning, research and training to assist member-countries in strengthening their national capabilities in development and management of marine fisheries. This includes setting up of dedicated portals on fish stocks/species considered for development of management plans.
- Capacity building of stakeholders at various levels in fisheries data collection methodologies and stock assessment and capacity building for improving traceability of fisheries product from point-to-point.
- Capacity building for improving food safety in marine fisheries in the member-countries which includes improved hygiene and sanitation conditions in fishing boats (including fish handling) and fishing harbours/ fish landing centres.
- Information dissemination through the Bay of Bengal News, reports and other publications to inform, enthuse and bind governments and other fisheries stakeholders of the region.
- Studies on alternative/additional livelihoods that can enhance the socio-economic status of the fishers and improve their well-being.
- Studies and orientation of stakeholders on impact of climate change on marine fisheries and dissemination of scientific findings.
- Preparation of identification kits for reef and coastal fish species.
- Special programme: Support to Government of Sri Lanka for sustainable development of fisheries in the northern and north-eastern zones.

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

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Dissemination of the CCRF 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 hygiene and sanitation in fishing vessels, improved handling of fish and fish products, better understanding of the food quality and safety, traceability, eco-labeling and certification requirements.
- Better understanding of international requirements in food safety and certification.
- Improved understanding on alternative/additional livelihoods in marine fisheries.
- Identification of coping strategies and understanding the impact of climate change on marine fisheries.
- Woman empowerment and gender mainstreaming through increasing the knowledge level and expanding their portfolio.
- Improved fish catch statistics.
- Accelerating development of fisheries in the northern and north-eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

Capacity-building and Information Services
(Work Plan for April 2010 – March 2011)

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 2010 - March 2011											
		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
A	Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries												
	1. <i>Translation of the Technical Guidelines of the CCRF in National Languages</i>												
	2. <i>Training of Junior and Middle-level Fisheries Staff in implementation of CCRF</i>												
	3. <i>Printing of the Guidelines</i>												
B	Information Networking												
C	Capacity building in fisheries data collection and stock assessment												
D	Capacity building in food safety in marine fisheries.												
E	Information Dissemination.												
F	Studies on issues of topical importance.												
	1. <i>Alternative livelihoods</i>												
	2. <i>Climate change and marine fisheries</i>												

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

Title: Fisheries Resource Management
Member Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka
Duration: April 2010 - March 2011

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. The programme also aims at community mobilization, involving both fishermen and women in resource monitoring.

Work Plan:

As a part of BOBP-IGO's mandate on developing programmes for promotion of sustainable fishing practices in the member-countries, the following activities will be implemented during April 2010 - March 2011:

- Preparation of a Strategic Paper on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region.
- Organisation of Second Regional Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and further assistance to member-countries on implementation of the National Action Plans.
- Organisation of the Third Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries in the member-countries.
- Organisation of the Third Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries in the member-countries.
- Scoping study on small-scale tuna fisheries and fleet development plan (including suggestions for management of bait fisheries).
- Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp brood stock fishery.
- Regional consultation for development of transboundary management units for shared fish stocks.
- Stakeholder consultation on preparation of management plan for important national fisheries (beginning with Maldives).

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

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Understanding suitable fisheries management techniques in a multi-species multi-gear scenario and their documentation.
- Formulation of a Regional Plan for implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance programmes for management of marine fisheries in the member-countries.
- Community mobilization in resource monitoring.
- Finalization of National Plans of Action for Hilsa fisheries in the member-countries (Bangladesh, India) and observer country (Myanmar) and to further progress towards formulation of a Regional Plan of Action for sustainable exploitation/conservation of hilsa fisheries.
- Finalization of National Plans of Action for Shark fisheries in the member-countries (India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh) and to further progress towards formulation of a Regional Plan of Action for sustainable exploitation/conservation of shark fisheries.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report based on the scoping study on tuna fisheries by small-scale fishing fleet (including suggestions for management of bait fisheries) management.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report based on the scoping study on status of shrimp brood stock.
- Enabling member-countries to manage their important national fisheries.

Fisheries Resource Management
(Work Plan for April 2010 – March 2011)

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

Programme: Fisheries Resource Management

	Activity	April 2010 - March 2011											
		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
A	Preparation of a Strategic Paper on scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region												
B	Organisation of Regional Consultation on Monitoring, Control, Surveillance.												
	Implementation of MCS Action Plan.												
	Preparation of Reports.												
C	Preparation of Management Plans (Hilsa Fisheries).												
D	Preparation of Management Plans (Shark Fisheries).												
E	Scoping study on tuna fisheries.												
F	Scoping study on tiger shrimp brood stock management.												
G	Regional consultation for development of transboundary management units for shared fish stocks.												
H	Stakeholder consultation on preparation of management plan for important national fisheries.												

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

Title: Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries

Member Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka

Duration: April 2010 – March 2011

Objectives:

The objectives of this Programme are aimed at improving the livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities by decreasing the number of accidents at sea and the effects of such accidents. Within the overall objective, the programme will specifically focus on the role of fisher family to inculcate safety habits and also to improve hygiene and sanitation in fishing communities.

Work Plan:

- Provision and analysis of data to identify the cause of accidents;
- Education and training of trainers, extension workers, fishers and inspectors in safety requirements and good working conditions in fisheries sector;
- Awareness building and outreach programmes to build a culture of sea-safety within artisanal small-scale fishing communities; and
- Technical support to member-countries to implement their sea safety programmes.

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

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; and
- Integration of 'Safety at Sea' as an important element of fishery management.

Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries
(Work Plan for April 2010 – March 2011)

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

Programme: Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries

	Activity	April 2010 - March 2011											
		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 and good working conditions in fisheries sector.												
C	Awareness building and outreach programmes to build a culture of sea-safety within artisanal small-scale fishing communities.												
D	Technical support to member-countries to improve safety at sea.												

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

Administrative Matters

1.0 External Audit of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation – Report of the External Auditor for the Years 2008 & 2009

Regulation 12 (External Audit) of the Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulation, Staff Regulation, Employment Conditions, Schedule of Government Contributions (BOBP/INF/18) requires the Governing Council to appoint an External Auditor for auditing the accounts of the Organisation. The Auditor shall perform such an audit 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 depositaries or by actual count.*

The auditing of the accounts of the BOBP-IGO for the years 2008 and 2009 was conducted by M/s Vardarajan & Co, Chartered Accountants appointed by the Governing Council at its Fourth Meeting held in Dhaka from 6-7 May 2008. The Audit Reports for the Year 2008 and 2009 are attached. The Auditors have also requested for enhancement of the Audit Fee from the approved amount of INR 33 000 per annum + applicable taxes to INR 45 000 per annum + applicable taxes.

Suggested Action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council is invited to approve the Audit Report for the years 2008 and 2009 and also consider the request of the Auditor to increase the audit fee.

2.0 Review of the Employment Conditions of the Secretariat Staff

Raising the retirement age of the BOBP-IGO Secretariat Staff

Rule 5.3 of the Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations, Staff Regulations, Employment Conditions, Schedule of Government Contributions (*BOBP/INF/18*) states that the normal retirement age of the staff shall be sixty (60) years. In this regard the Secretariat would like to draw the attention of the Governing Council to the fact that the retirement age of staff in the UN Organizations and many Inter-Governmental Bodies (such as the Network of Aquaculture Centre in Asia- Pacific, INFOFISH) is 62 years. This disparity in the retirement age (BOBP-IGO *vis-à-vis* the other organizations) is also being raised by prospective applicants for the positions that are being considered for filling up by the Organisation. It is suggested that such employment conditions of the BOBP-IGO staff should be at par with other UN organizations and Inter-Governmental Bodies so that we may not lose capable staff on such employment conditions.

Suggested Action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council is invited to consider the proposal to increase the retirement age of the Secretariat Staff to sixty-two (62) years.

3.0 Filling up of the Posts of Senior Programme Advisor and Fisheries Resources Officer

The Governing Council at its Fifth Meeting held in Chennai, India from 15-16 June 2009 discussed the proposal of the Secretariat to recruit a Senior Programme Advisor and a Fisheries Resource Officer and approved the same. The Secretariat advertised the two positions and a number of applications have been received from applicants from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. The deadline for receiving the applications was 30 June 2010. The Secretariat is examining the applications and proposes to constitute a selection committee to assist the Director, BOBP-IGO for selection of suitable candidates for the two positions.

Placed for information of the Governing Council.

4.0 Secondment from Member-countries

The BOBP-IGO has so far been running with a small compliment of staff. Presently, the Organisation has many programmes that require a number of technical people at various levels. However, given the scope of the Organisation's budget, it is difficult to hire full time additional professional staff. This issue was first raised in the Third Meeting of the Governing Council held in Malé, Maldives from 5-6 May 2007 and the Governing Council had agreed to the proposal of the BOBP-IGO to depute staff from the member-countries to the Secretariat on 'secondment' basis for short-term project-based work. It was felt that such secondment would not only add to the much needed staffing requirements of the Organisation, but would also ensure diversity of the programmes as it would be represented by technical staff from each of the member-countries and would in turn also help in building capacities in their parent organizations. In this regard, the Secretariat had suggested that a pay package comprising the salary and benefits of the staff from his/her home country would be further topped up with a modest package depending on the qualification, experience and the position to take care of the living expenses, etc in a city like Chennai.

In the meanwhile the Secretariat has taken steps to fill up three positions – the Policy Analyst is already in position and the other two vacancies would also be filled up in a couple of month's time. Therefore, it is now proposed to invite proposals for secondment from junior-level staff from the Ministry/Department of Fisheries of the member-countries, primarily to assist the Secretariat in field-level activities. As proposed earlier, if the member-countries would protect the pay of the seconded staff, the BOBP-IGO would be able to top up their salaries with a modest package of US\$ 3 000 to US 6 000 per annum (package depending on the qualification, experience and the position). The Secretariat would once again like to reiterate its request to the Governing Council to consider this proposal so that the strengthening of the Secretariat is materialized in the most cost-effective manner.

Suggested Action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council is invited to consider this proposal and take a decision in the matter.



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

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