

Maldivians meet to discuss the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

Malè hosted a National Workshop on the Implementation of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries during 18 - 19 January 2004. The Workshop was organised by the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources (MOFAMR) of the Government of Maldives in association with the BOBP-IGO, Chennai, and FAO, Rome.

The major objectives of the National Workshop were to facilitate a greater understanding of the Code of Conduct among all those concerned with fisheries in the Maldives; foster steps towards the more effective implementation of the Code in the country; engender a sense of direct participation, thus facilitating a greater commitment to local and national implementation; and identify specific problems and priorities, including those relating to fisheries and management practices



as well as to fishery enhancement techniques and the need for diversification.

A total of 67 participants attended the two-day National Workshop. The participants came from the Ministries and concerned offices of the Government of Maldives (38),

Above: Opening of the National Workshop (seated L – R):

Dr Y S Yadava, Mr Ahmed Hafiz, Hon'ble Abdullah Kamaludeen, Mr Jadullah Jameel, Mr Rolf Willmann.

Below: Participants at the Workshop.



the atoll fishermen (6), fish exporters (10), boat builders (2), and school children (11). Mr Rolf Willmann, Senior Fishery Planning Officer, Fisheries Department, represented FAO, Rome. Dr Y S Yadava, Director, and Mr S Jayaraj, Publication Officer, represented the BOBP-IGO.

The National Workshop began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Mr Ahmed Hafiz, Assistant Director- General, MOFAMR, welcomed the participants and said that a useful starting point to commence the process of national adaptation of the Code is to have a National Workshop. Mr Jadullah Jameel, Executive Director-General, in his opening remarks stressed the need for adaptation of the Code to meet the specific requirements of Maldives. "Popular participation in adapting the Code to suit national conditions may lead to enhanced acceptance of the Code," said Mr Jameel.

Dr Y S Yadava said that implementation of the Code has been one of the core activities of the BOBP, and the Organisation is committed to take the message of the Code to fisherfolk.

Mr Rolf Willmann, Senior Fishery Planning Officer, FAO Rome, said that this Workshop would be a big step in furthering the implementation of the CCRF in Maldives where fisheries plays such a central role.

Inaugurating the National Workshop, the Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources, Mr Abdullah Kamaludeen, complimented the BOBP-IGO for taking the lead in organising the Workshop.

The Workshop agenda included technical presentations by Mr Ahmed Hafiz ("The Code and its Adaptation for Sustainable Development of Fisheries in Maldives"), Dr Mohamed Shiham Adam, Director, Fisheries Research ("Overview of Fisheries in Maldives"), Mr Mohamed Faiz, Assistant Director, Fisheries Management ("Fisheries Management in Maldives"),



A group discussion in progress.

Dr Abdulla Naseer, Director, Reef Resources ("Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. What should the Government do to Promote its Implementation?") and Mr Hassan Shakeel, Marine Resource Officer ("Implementing the Code of Conduct: Role of Stakeholders including NGOs and the Private Sector").

The country presentations were followed by presentations on the FAO's International Plan of Actions (IPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, IPOA for the Management of Fishing Capacity and IPOA to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing).

To enable detailed discussions on critical issues, the participants were divided into four groups: fisheries management and fisheries research; fishing operations, post-harvest practices and trade; aquaculture development; integration of

fisheries into coastal area management.

Each Group had three facilitators to assist in the discussions and also prepare a summary of the major recommendations made by the Group. The Group Presentations highlighted the requirements of the fisheries sector in Maldives with respect to the implementation of the Code. A set of valuable recommendations also emerged from the summary presentations made by the Groups.

In the concluding session, Minister Kamaludeen expressed his satisfaction over the outcome of the Workshop. He said that the Code and its technical guidelines should be translated into Dhivehi so that they reach fishermen and other stakeholders at the earliest.

The Report of the National Workshop is under finalisation and will be published in Dhivehi and English.

Congratulations to FAO on a top-class seafood award!

The Fisheries Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, received the Swedish Seafood Award for its work with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) at a ceremony in Gothenburg on 21 October 2004. FAO was awarded the prize in the Sustainable Fishing category for its work on the CCRF and Supporting Technical Guidelines. The Award is organised by the trade organisation Svensk Fisk (Swedish Fish), which is run by the Swedish fishing industry. The award also brings with it 300 000 kronor (US \$ 41 300), which FAO intends to devote to further strengthen its assistance towards developing countries for the promotion of responsible fisheries.