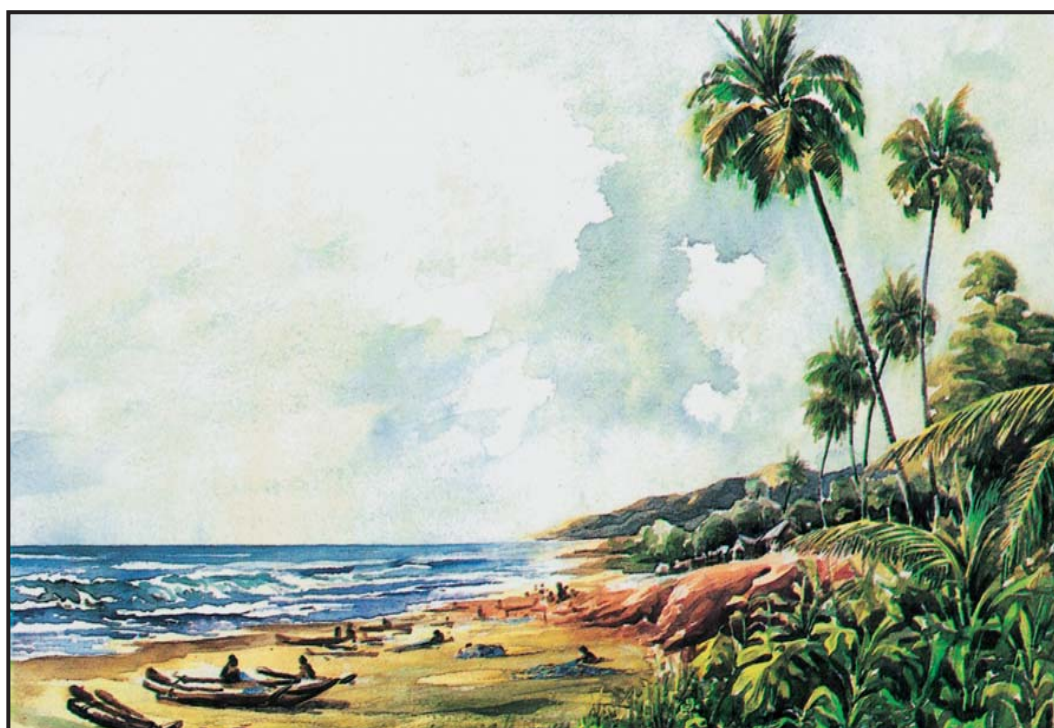


***Report of the
Fifth Meeting of the
Governing Council***



**REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

15 - 16 June 2009
Chennai, India

This document records the report of the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). The meeting was held on 15-16 June in Chennai, India.

The document contains a Progress Report of the BOBP-IGO for the period April 2008 - March 2009 and Workplan for the period April 2009 - March 2010. It also contains the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO.

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

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

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*Sitting (L-R): Ms Chandrika Sharma, Mr Mohammad Shah Alam, Mr G Piyasena,
Mr N Gokulram, Dr Abdulla Naseer, Mr Tarun Shridhar, Mr S P S Basra.*

*Standing (L-R): Mr Andreas Westerberg, Dr M Paramasivam, Dr R Paul Raj, Mr Rafiqul Islam,
Dr H M Kasim, Mr W Pathirana Sirisena, Dr Y S Yadava, Mr Hussain Sinan, Mr G H Manikfan,
Mr P Sivaraj, Mr Shambhu Kallolika, Mr Rajdeep Mukherjee.*

REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in Chennai, India on 15 - 16 June 2009. The Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM) was attended by representatives of all the four member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka), an observer from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Secretariat staff of the BOBP-IGO. A list of delegates is attached as *Appendix A*.

2.0 The Inaugural Session of the GCM began with the *Lighting of the Lamp*. Mr N Gokulram, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD&F), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, was the chief guest and chaired the Inaugural Session. Senior officials from the Coast Guard; the Fishery Survey of India; the Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu; the Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Government of India; the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and the International Collective of Fish Workers attended the Inaugural Session.

3.0 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 India for having agreed to host the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council.

Dr Yadava said that the BOBP-IGO along with its predecessor, the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) has now completed 30 years of service to the fisheries sector in the Bay of Bengal region. In 1999, during the closing period of the Third Phase of BOBP, the member-countries decided to constitute an Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO) to address the pressing needs of marine fisheries sector in the region. Four years later, in April 2003, the BOBP-IGO was established and he was happy to state that in a very short time the Organisation has emerged as a reputed Regional Fisheries Body (RFB) and has even matched the significant performance record of the former BOBP. Dr Yadava said that the credit for this success should go to the excellent cooperation, guidance and assistance received from the member-countries and other well-wishers of the Organisation within and outside the region.

Dr Yadava placed on record his gratitude to Mr Gokulram for sparing his valuable time to chair the Inaugural Session. He thanked the representatives from the member-countries for attending the GCM and the guests for participating in the Inaugural Session and for their support to the Organisation.

4.0 Mr Tarun Shridhar, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), DAHD&F, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, extended a hearty welcome to the delegates. He said that if there is one sector that needs regional cooperation, it is the fisheries sector as fish do not follow any political boundaries. Mr Shridhar appreciated the activities carried out by the BOBP-IGO Secretariat since its inception. He said that almost 95 percent of the fishers in the region are small-scale and the BOBP-IGO is working for their development and well-being. He said that India is proud to be a member of the IGO and hoped that the deliberations of the Fifth GCM would be fruitful and provide new directions to the activities of the BOBP-IGO.

5.0 Mr Mohammad Shah Alam, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Government of Bangladesh and the chair of the Fourth Governing Council, thanked the Government of India for hosting the Fifth GCM and for the warm hospitality and courtesies extended to the delegates. He complimented the BOBP-IGO for key activities carried out over the past years. Mr Alam hoped that the deliberations in the Fifth GCM would be successful in addressing issues that are important to member-countries.

6.0 In his inaugural address, the chief guest Mr Gokulram extended a warm welcome to the delegates and thanked the BOBP-IGO for the invitation to address the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO. Expressing his concerns on the challenges faced by the fisheries sector, especially in the developing countries, Mr Gokulram said that urgent action is needed on many fronts.

Mr Gokulram said that fisheries are a vital source of income in all countries of the Bay of Bengal region and are gradually becoming an important part of the economy. He said that international trade in fish products had increased to a new record of US \$ 85.9 billion in 2006 and the net export trade from developing countries had

increased from US \$ 10 billion in 1990 to US \$ 24.6 billion in 2006. “This reflects the significance of fisheries in the national economies of the developing countries, including those who are represented here today. This also puts a greater responsibility on all of us to manage our fisheries sustainably,” said Mr Gokulram.

Congratulating the BOBP-IGO on the excellent work carried out in a short span of its existence, Mr Gokulram said that the BOBP-IGO could be our first success story in practicing new modalities for managing large marine ecosystems and their fisheries in a holistic manner, for improving coordination among organisations within and outside the region and for implementing the various global initiatives, to which we are signatories. “It is a cooperative, multi-disciplinary endeavour, a mechanism that facilitates regional initiatives for sustainable coastal development. It can build bridges of co-operation between member-countries; also accelerate solutions to problems in several areas,” said Mr Gokulram. He further said that regional co-operation is perhaps more important than international; countries with similar environments, populations and problems can learn more from each other than countries that are dissimilar.

Concluding his speech, Mr Gokulram hoped that the Governing Council would ensure that the BOBP-IGO furthers the objectives for which it has been set up and provides the necessary guidance to participating countries not only to prepare their work programme, but also to make policy makers of their respective countries aware of these problems. He wished all the guests from abroad a very pleasant stay in Chennai and a safe return journey home. The full text of Mr Gokulram’s speech is placed as *Appendix B*.

7.0 Dr Yadava proposed a vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to the chief guest, Mr Gokulram, for chairing the Inaugural Session of the Fifth GCM. He thanked the guests for attending the Inaugural Session and wished the delegates a pleasant and enjoyable stay in Chennai.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

9.0 Mr Alam opened the session for the election of the new chairperson. Mr G Piyasena, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (MoFAR), Government of Sri Lanka proposed the name of India to chair the Fifth GCM. The proposal was seconded by Dr Abdulla Naseer, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MoFA), Government of Maldives. This was unanimously agreed upon.

10.0 Mr Alam in his closing remarks thanked the Governing Council and the BOBP-IGO Secretariat for providing support to him during his tenure as chairperson of the Governing Council. He appreciated the work carried out by the Secretariat in the member-countries despite many constraints. He wished Mr Tarun Shridhar, the newly elected chair, a successful term.

11.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, thanked the outgoing chairperson for his contributions to the success of the activities carried out by the Secretariat. He also thanked the officials of the MoFL for their support and cooperation. He thanked Mr Rafiqul Islam, Director General, Department of Fisheries (DoF), Government of Bangladesh, and his staff for their cooperation. He welcomed the new chairperson of the Governing Council.

12.0 In his introductory remarks, Mr Shridhar placed on record his appreciation for the leadership provided by Bangladesh during the Fourth GCM. He moved a resolution to appreciate the role of Bangladesh in shaping the activities of the BOBP-IGO. The resolution was unanimously adopted. He requested the Director, BOBP-IGO to present the Report of the Organisation for the period March 2007 to April 2008. This Report is attached as *Appendix E*.

Report of the BOBP-IGO (April 2008 - March 2009)

13.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, presented the report for period April 2008 to March 2009. Dr Yadava said that the global fishery had a roller-coaster ride during the past decades, which was marked by expanding markets, improved technology and growth-oriented policies. At the same time, rules and regulations at national and international levels also came into being to achieve sustainability in the fisheries sector. “Excess fishing effort has contributed to the depletion of fish stocks in many parts of the world. However, it is heartening to note that this rate of depletion seems to have slowed down during the last few years. The situation now calls for

thinking beyond conventional fisheries management paradigms and a move towards an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management. We do not have a roadmap on how to move ahead but based on the uniqueness of the fisheries sector in each country, such a process will be unique for each member-country. In this context the BOBP-IGO is also aiming at a holistic approach”, said Dr Yadava.

14.0 Dr Yadava then presented a detailed account of the activities undertaken by the BOBP-IGO during the period under consideration. These activities related to the South Asia Component of the Global Project on ‘Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries (*GCP/GLO/200/MUL*)’ implemented by the FAO (Fisheries Industries Division) and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH- Alasaka Center) through the BOBP-IGO and included organization of Regional and Bi-National Workshops on Safety at Sea; publication of a comprehensive Safety Guide for Small-scale Fishers and production of audio-visual guides for maintenance of long-tail engines and engines in use in fishing boats in Bangladesh; transfer of indigenously developed cost-effective technologies, which included training of small-scale fishers in Bangladesh on use of VHF/ GPS; promotion of low-cost life saving FRP floats in Bangladesh and Maldives; improvising plastic floats as emergency life saving appliances; use of PET bottles for water purification with the help of sunlight; training of boat builders on good practices in FRP boat building; surveillance and analysis of fishing-related accidents at sea; etc.

Describing the activities under the Fisheries Resource Management Programmes, Dr Yadava said that the Secretariat organized the National Workshop on ‘Monitoring, Control and Surveillance for Marine Fisheries’ in Bangladesh, India and Maldives; and made preparations for the two Regional Consultations for formulation of Management Plans for Hilsa and Shark Fisheries. Under the Capacity Building and Information Services, the First Regional Training Course in Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) was organized in Chennai and Mumbai for junior and middle level officers of the member-countries; Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries of the CCRF were translated into Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, and Sinhalese languages; and various other publications such as theme-based annual calendars, laminated placards on safety at sea, the quarterly newsletter *Bay of Bengal News*, etc were brought out during the period under report.

Dr Yadava also informed the GCM about the other supporting activities implemented by the Organisation during the year. These activities include assistance provided to the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in implementing a Training Project on ‘Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Vietnam’; assisting the Government of India in preparation of an ‘Introductory Note for Formulation of a Comprehensive Legislation to Regulate Fishing by Indian Vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India’; preparation of a case study of India for the FAO study on ‘Low Cost Fisheries Management Strategies and Cost Recovery’; assisting the FAO in organizing the Expert Consultation on ‘Best Practices for Safety at Sea in the Fisheries Sector’ and in identification and selection of suitable candidates from BOBP-IGO member-countries for participation in the Second Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop; and assistance to the Department of Fisheries Technology, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, for introducing low-cost FRP ice-boxes to fish traders/ small-scale processors in Bangladesh.

The Organisation also participated in the “Hiroshima Initiative for Peace and Comprehensive Human Security” training programme, and received a grant for organizing training programmes for fisheries officials on ‘climate change and fisheries adaptation’, said Dr Yadava. Further, the Organization extended manpower and logistical support to FAO; the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, USA; and the Institute for Sustainable Development, University of Iceland and The Icelandic Maritime Administration, Iceland in organization of the Fourth International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference (IFISH- 4) in Reykjavik, Iceland from 11 to 14 May 2009.

Dr Yadava informed the Governing Council about the progress made in new activities undertaken during 2008-09 *vides* recommendation of the Fourth GCM for capacity-building in member-countries. These activities included:

- (i) *Alternative livelihood strategies for marine fishers;*
- (ii) *Impact of rising fuel price on the marine fisheries sector;*
- (iii) *Impact of climate change in marine fisheries;*



Mr N Gokulram



Mr Tarun Shridhar



Mr Md Shah Alam



Dr Abdulla Naseer



Mr G Piyasena



GCM in progress.

- (iv) *Awareness building and training on Safer Fishery Products;*
- (v) *Scoping study on small-scale tuna fisheries management plan and fleet development plan; and*
- (vi) *Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp brood stock fishery and the impact of wild seed collection of shrimp juveniles on the fisheries.*

Dr Yadava said that the Organisation carried out baseline surveys, stakeholder consultations, audio-visual documentation and analysis of primary and secondary data to define the framework of the above-mentioned programmes. The preliminary findings from the studies carried out showed the scope of structural and technical adjustments in the member-countries to improve their fisheries sector. Further, the preliminary studies showed that scope existed for improvement, depending on appropriate linkages of a project to market conditions and the business aptitude of the fishers. Dr Yadava also said that the Organisation is discussing with partner organizations and agencies within and outside the region, such as the Network for Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), on the modalities and scope of cooperation in implementation of the programmes.

15.0 Opening the discussions on the Report, the chair complimented the Organisation for making significant contributions during the year.

16.0 Mr Rafiqul Islam (Bangladesh) stated that the BOBP-IGO along with the former BOBP has been working in the region for a long time and over the years many significant recommendations have been made, new ideas have been proposed and new technologies have been introduced into the region. It was suggested that communication of recommendations to the member-countries should also contain a possible action plan.

17.0 Appreciating the translations of the important documents carried out by the BOBP-IGO, Mr Shridhar suggested that the time lag between the production of the documents in English and their subsequent translation in vernacular could be reduced. This would enable the end users to receive the information on time.

Report of the Fourth Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

18.0 The Secretariat presented the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the TAC held at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 22-23 April, 2009. The Report is placed as ***Appendix F***.

19.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, informed the GCM that the Fourth TAC reviewed the activities carried out by the Secretariat during April 2008 to March 2009 and expressed its satisfaction over the status of implementation of the programmes. The TAC also identified the proposals and priorities for the member-countries (presented on facing page) and helped the Secretariat in preparation of the Work Plan for the period April 2009 - March 2010.

Presentation of Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action

20.0 The document on ***Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of Action 2010-14*** of BOBP-IGO was presented to the GCM. The document is attached as ***Appendix G***.

The GCM discussed the Vision document and also the future role of the BOBP-IGO as a possible fisheries management body for sustainable development of fish stocks in the Bay of Bengal region. The GCM unanimously 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. While doing so, 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.*

Proposals and priorities of the member-countries				
Area/ Country	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Resource management	Management plan for hilsa fishery.	Re-assessment of marine fish stocks.	Management plans for sharks and other commercially exploited species.	Fleet management plan for tuna fisheries.
	Stock assessment of marine fisheries resources.	Capacity assessment to match the harvestable potential.	Continuation of work on MCS.	Shark management plan. Technical assistance for development of management plans for chank fisheries and holothurians.
	Management of shared ecosystem (e.g. The Sunderbans).	Technical support towards registration of fishing vessels.	Technical assistance towards collection of fisheries statistics.	Studies on improving hygienic conditions on fishing boats.
Capacity building, Information dissemination & Safety at Sea	Studies on adaptation and mitigation of adverse impacts of climate change.	Studies on adverse impacts of climate change on fisheries.	National assessments on adverse impacts of climate change on fisheries.	Studies on impact of climate change on fisheries.
	Alternative livelihoods and food security.	Technology inputs for reduction of post-harvest losses.	Awareness programmes on improved hygienic conditions of fishing boats.	Compilation of international obligations concerning fisheries sector.
	Technical support for strong MCS & safety at sea awareness.	Technology adoption for recycling of fish wastes, for value added products.	Awareness programmes for fishers on International Conventions and Treaties on fisheries and obligation of Maldives to such International Instruments.	Continuation of programmes on safety at sea.
	Strengthening capacities of national fisheries institutions.	Further extension of activities in works related to ILO Convention on Fisheries.	Awareness on national and regional issues relating to IUU fishing.	Norms for MSC certification.
	Bridging of knowledge gaps through publication of success stories.	Improving hygienic conditions on fishing boats.	National-level training on CCRF.	Rebuilding of north-eastern fisheries sector – counseling and awareness programmes.
	Research support for conduct of oceanographic studies.	–	Capacity building in quality, standards and eco-labelling.	–

Presentation of Programme and activities for the year April 2009 - March 2010

21.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO, presented the proposed programme and activities for the year April 2009 - March 2010. After discussions, the Governing Council approved the programme and activities for the period April 2009 - March 2010 and the same is presented as ***Appendix H***.

Administrative Matters

22.0 The Secretariat presented the report of the Auditors for the financial year 2007. Commenting on the report, the delegation of Maldives suggested that the comments of the auditors, if any, should also be reflected in the report. The Governing Council while accepting the report of the auditors for the year 2007 suggested that the report, as also other meeting documents, should be circulated to the member-countries in advance. On the issue of enhancing the fee of the Auditors, the Governing Council authorized the Director to negotiate the

rate and arrive at a fee between what was approved by the Governing Council at its last meeting and the new rate proposed by the Auditors. The documents related to Administrative Matters are placed as **Appendix I**

23.0 The Governing Council discussed the proposal of the Secretariat to recruit a Senior Programme Advisor and a Policy Analyst; approve recruitment of one more staff; and consider extension of the term of the Director beyond October 2010. After discussions, the Governing Council unanimously approved the following;

- (i) *The post of the Senior Programme Advisor would be re-advertised by sending communications to focal Ministries in the member-countries, posting on the BOBP-IGO website and through other recruitment websites such as the Devnet Jobs. In addition, the Secretariat would also advertise the position in two (02) national newspapers in the member-countries to give wide circulation to the news of the vacancy.*
- (ii) *The Director, who is authorized to recruit other staff of the Secretariat, may recruit a Policy Analyst from the panel placed before the Governing Council.*
- (iii) *The Director may also advertise the new position of Fisheries Resources Officer and fill up the same.*
- (iv) *The present term of the Director, BOBP-IGO is extended beyond October 2010 for a period of three years or until he attains the age of superannuation, whichever is earlier. Meanwhile, the Director, BOBP-IGO should look for suitable candidates for the position of director who may be appointed after his superannuation/ retirement. The member-countries should also try to identify suitable professionals for this position.*

Other Matters

24.0 The Governing Council agreed that the membership of the Organisation should be increased and in the beginning at least Myanmar should be requested to join the BOBP-IGO. In this regard, the Governing Council also requested the Government of India to take a lead on behalf of the BOBP-IGO member-countries in using its diplomatic channels to request the Government of Myanmar to join the BOBP-IGO.

25.0 The Governing Council also advised the Secretariat to take up on a priority basis an assessment of the capacity of the member-countries to meet the new regulation of the European Union (No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008) for establishing a community system to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing. The regulation will be effective from 01 January 2010. In this regard, the Governing Council advised the Secretariat to adhere to the following schedule:

- (i) *Completion of background documentation before 31 August 2009;*
- (ii) *Organization of a Regional Strategic Meeting in Colombo in the first half of September 2009; and*
- (iii) *Final Recommendations to the member-countries by 30 September 2009.*

26.0 The Governing Council also discussed the cooperation of BOBP-IGO with other regional organizations such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC) and advised the Secretariat to communicate with BIMST-EC Secretariat dealing with fisheries matters and develop mechanisms for cooperation in matters of mutual concern.

Date and Place of the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council

27.0 The Governing Council accepted the kind offer of the delegation of Sri Lanka to host the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council during 2010, subject to the approval of the Government of Sri Lanka. The date and venue would be decided by the Secretariat in consultation with the Government of Sri Lanka.

Adoption of the Report

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

29.0 The chairperson in his concluding remarks appreciated the active participation of the delegates, and declared the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council closed.

30.0 The Report of the Governing Council was adopted on 16 June 2009.

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**Inaugural Address by Mr N Gokulram, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry,
Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India.**

Distinguished delegates of Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka and India; distinguished invitees; BOBP-IGO Director; Ladies and Gentlemen. It is indeed a great pleasure and privilege for me to extend a warm welcome to you all on behalf of the Government of India. I would like to thank the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) for their kind invitation to address you today on the occasion of the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO.

Ladies and Gentlemen, although the global rate of population growth peaked some 30 years ago, human population has grown by nearly two thirds since then. Despite slowing growth, world population still increases by nearly 80 million people each year. This means parceling land, freshwater, food and other finite resources among more people. For the developing countries like ours, the challenges are greater on account of relatively poor socio-economic conditions. However, despite odds, all countries of the Bay of Bengal region are making sure and steady progress on several key social and human development indicators: life expectancy is going up, infant mortality is down, and literacy levels are rising. Yet poverty remains, and so do the nutritional levels of our populations.

The latest estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations show that the total world fisheries production from capture fisheries and aquaculture was about 140 million tonnes in 2006. Excluding China's statistics, the FAO Report states that the global per capita fish supply has decreased from 14.6 kg in 1987 to 13.6 kg in 2006. The Report also states that there are continuing global concerns about the reliability of statistics and that the pace and direction of fisheries research and supporting information systems are falling behind the need to understand the relationship between fisheries and the environment and between fisheries management and development.

Over decades, maritime nations have pumped billions of dollars into expanding fishing fleets, subsidizing everything from fuel costs to the construction of large factory vessels. The open access nature of the fishery in a large part of the world, including the countries in the Bay of Bengal, has allowed unregulated entry. All these have led to extra fishing pressure, reducing fish stocks in many parts of the world to levels much below their sustainable yield. Over-fishing isn't man's only destructive act against nature. We have been continuously adding billions of tonnes of toxic substances into the sea. Habitat damage, industrial pollution, non-degradable effluents and wastes - all these have taken a heavy toll. The adverse impacts of climate change have further added to our woes. About 97 percent of earth's living space is ocean. In other words, the sea is man's life-support system and we must ensure that this life-support system remains intact for all the times to come.

The challenges and tasks facing sustainable fisheries development are becoming neither fewer nor easier. In fisheries, while population and demand for fish are going up worldwide, supply is going down. Urgent action is needed in fisheries on many fronts. I would like to present some of my views concerning measures deemed necessary for sustainable development of this important sector.

- Reduce fishing to sustainable levels in areas and on stocks currently heavily exploited or overfished;
- Adopt policies, apply measures, and develop techniques to reduce by-catches, fish discards and post-harvest losses;
- Review the capacity of fishing fleets in relation to sustainable yields of fishery resources and where necessary reduce these fleets;
- Strengthen and support regional, sub-regional, and national fisheries organizations for implementing conservation and management measures;
- Strengthen fisheries research and increase co-operation among research institutions;
- Increase consultation on fisheries with the private sector and non-governmental organizations;
- Effectively implement the relevant rules of international law on fisheries and related matters which are reflected in the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and voluntary codes such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, etc.

Most of us gathered here are aware of the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries or simply the Code, as it is popularly known. The Code defines in the General principles that "The right to fish carries with it the obligation to do so in a responsible manner." It sets out principles and standards of behaviour for such practices and aims at effective conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources. The Code calls on all members and non-members of FAO and everyone concerned with the conservation, management and utilization of fisheries resources to collaborate in implementing the Code's objectives and principles in a time-bound manner.

Ladies and Gentlemen, fisheries are a vital source of income in all countries of the region and are gradually becoming an important part of the economy. International trade in fish products has increased to a new record of US \$ 85.9 billion in 2006 and the net export trade from developing countries has increased from US \$ 10 billion in 1990 to US \$ 24.6 billion in 2006. This reflects the significance of fisheries in the national economies of the developing countries, including those who are represented here today. This also puts a greater responsibility on all of us to manage our fisheries sustainably.

My familiarity with the Bay of Bengal Programme is of a recent origin and from the excellent documentation carried out by BOBP-IGO, I find that the Organisation has worked on a variety of topics and in close cooperation with fisher folk and national or local governments in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, to help improve the conditions of small-scale fisher folk in these countries.

I firmly believe that the BOBP-IGO could be our first success story in practicing new modalities for managing large marine ecosystems and its fisheries in a holistic manner, for improving coordination among organisations within and outside the region and for implementing the various global initiatives, to which we are signatories. During the last six years of its existence, the BOBP-IGO has initiated many activities in the region. Most notable are the activities on popularization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its penetration to the grassroots; development of management plans for commercially important fish species; monitoring, control and surveillance and safety at sea for small-scale fisheries. As participating countries, we have reason to be satisfied with what has been achieved by the BOBP-IGO in a very short span of its existence.

The BOBP-IGO has also proved as an excellent example of regional co-operation in small-scale fisheries. It is a cooperative, multi-disciplinary endeavour, a mechanism that facilitates regional initiatives for sustainable coastal fisheries development. It can build bridges of co-operation between member-countries; also accelerate solutions to problems in several areas. Regional co-operation is perhaps more important than international; countries with similar environments, populations and problems can learn more from each other than countries that are dissimilar. Member-governments should tap the IGO's potential as a catalyst of information, knowledge and action on fisheries management.

I wish to emphasize here that the BOBP-IGO will provide the ideal forum in which to address issues of multidimensional nature confronting the region. BOBP-IGO's contributions will also involve building-bridges of cooperation between the fisheries agencies and the concerned sectors of the member-countries. Our association will help us improve the sustainable development of the Bay's fisheries resources through cooperative and regional management regimes.

We in the Bay of Bengal region have more commonalities than differences. We face similar realities, confront similar challenges. I am confident that member-countries will come up with constructive suggestions to strengthen the BOBP-IGO. Your collective wisdom and knowledge are bound to help the BOBP-IGO in its mandate of strengthening small-scale fisher communities and enabling sustainable coastal fisheries development and management.

The Governing Council is a mechanism that discusses, deliberates and decides on the work of the BOBP-IGO and gives directions for the future. The Governing Council will ensure that the BOBP-IGO furthers the objectives for which it has been set up. It is my sincere hope and wishes that the Governing Council would deliberate adequately on these issues and provide the necessary guidance to participating countries not only to prepare their work programmes, but also to make policy makers of their respective countries aware of these problems.

I once again welcome you all and wish the guests from abroad a very pleasant stay at Chennai and a safe return journey home.

Thank you!

Agenda and Timetable

Monday, 15 June 2009

Morning, 0900 hrs

1. Inauguration of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting
3. Election of the Chairperson
4. Report on BOBP-IGO Activities: April 2008 - March 2009
5. Report on the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO
6. Proposed Programmes and Activities: Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan for Five years

Afternoon, 1400 hrs

7. Proposed Programmes and Activities contd: Work Programme for April 2009 - March 2010
8. Administrative Matters
9. Any Other Matter
10. Date and Place of the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council

Tuesday, 16 June 2009

Morning, 1030 hrs

11. Adoption of the Report
12. Close of Meeting

List of Documents

A. Working Documents

<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/1</i>	Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/2</i>	Report on BOBP-IGO Activities: April 2008 - March 2009.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/3</i>	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the BOBP-IGO.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/4</i>	Proposed Programmes and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan for Five Years • Work Programmes: April 2009 - March 2010.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/5</i>	Administrative Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Auditors • Advertisement for the posts of Senior Programme Advisor • Filling up of the posts of Policy Analyst • Secondment from Member-Countries • Other Administrative Matters

B. Information Documents

<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 1</i>	Provisional List of Documents.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 2</i>	Programme.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 3</i>	Provisional List of Participants.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.4</i>	Report of the National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries - Bangladesh, 7-8 June 2008, Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh, BOBP/REP/110, pp.104.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 5</i>	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council. BOBP/REP/111, 2008. pp. 60.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 6</i>	Report of the Regional Training Course on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 16-27 June 2008.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.7</i>	Report of the Regional Consultation on Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries, Chennai, India, 7-8 July 2008.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.8</i>	Report of the Bi-National Workshop on Small Fishing Vessel Safety, Chennai, India, 9 July 2008.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.9</i>	Report of the Expert Consultation on Best Practices for Safety at Sea in the Fisheries Sector, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No 888, Rome, 10-13 November 2008.
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf.10</i>	Report of the National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries - India, 1-2 December 2008, Chennai, India, (under print).
<i>BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.11</i>	Report of the National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries - Maldives, 22-23 March 2009, Malé, Maldives (under print).

- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 12*** Handbook on Yellow fin Tuna (in Dhivehi language).
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.13*** FAO/ SIDA/ BOBP-IGO Safety Guidelines for Small Fishing Boats, BOBP/REP/112, pp 52.
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.14*** FAO/ SIDA/ BOBP-IGO Training Manual on Construction of FRP Beach Landing Boats (under print).
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 15*** Poster on Commonly Exported Aquarium Fish of the Maldives.
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 16*** Poster on Export Banned Aquarium Fish of the Maldives.
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 17*** 2009 Table calendar on the theme 'Emerging Issues in Fisheries'.
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.18*** A set of 12 Posters on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in three languages (Bengali, Dhivehi & Sinhalese).
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 19*** Set of Seven Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries in Bengali Language.
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 19a*** Set of Six additional Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries in Tamil Language (under print).
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 19b*** Set of Two Technical Guidelines on Eco-labelling and data collection and one ILO Convention on Fisheries in Tamil Language (under print).
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 20*** Awareness material on Safety at Sea - Laminated placards in English, Bengali, Tamil and Telugu.
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 21*** A FAO/ BOBP-IGO Video Film on 'Maintaining Long tail Engines - A Step by Step Guide for Fishers'.
- BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 22*** Bay of Bengal News, Vol. IV Nos 13-14, Sept -Dec 2007, pp. 44.



**Report on the Activities of the Bay of Bengal Programme
Inter-Governmental Organisation
(April 2008 - March 2009)**

A. Background and Rationale

1.0 Since its establishment in 1979, the former Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) and subsequently the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) has passed through a variety of challenges and priorities for fisheries development in the Bay of Bengal region. In the formative years of the BOBP, the challenges were to catalyze the growth in marine fisheries sector through mechanization and infusion of innovative technologies, especially in the area of fishing craft and gear. The second phase addressed the challenges of extending the technologies to a critical mass of fishers in the member-countries, community mobilization and capacity building of stakeholders at various levels. By mid-nineties when the third phase was initiated, fisheries management had taken a priority and the Programme was tasked with the major challenge of addressing management issues in the member-countries.

2.0 Parallel to these developments, significant changes were also taking place in the arena of fisheries research and fisheries informatics. Since the 1970s, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) started systematic collection of fisheries extraction data leading to scientific assessment of fish stocks. The major outcomes of these assessments lead to the realization that many fish stocks were intensely harvested and were nearing the point of no return. The expanding global markets for fish, improved harvesting capacities in many fisheries of developed countries and management policies that largely focused on growth in production with undefined property rights (or open access) resulted in over exploitation of the many fish stocks in major parts of the world.

3.0 It is in this vacuum the United Nations Conventions on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was initiated in 1956. After three rounds of discussions the UNCLOS III finally came to a fruitful outcome in 1982 after defining national rights and assigning duties of the states in sea waters extending up to 200 nautical miles. These issues were further discussed during the 1992 Cancun Conference on Responsible Fishing and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The discussions facilitated the enforcement of the 1982 UNCLOS in 1994 and later in 1995 a much elaborate but voluntary Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) was agreed to by the member states of FAO. The CCRF, although voluntary, has drawn heavily from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) ratified in 1995, as a follow up to UNCED. The CBD bring backs to focus the needs of preservation, and sustainable and equitable use of biological diversity. Regarding fisheries, the CBD emphasizes on the use of the precautionary approach primarily to mitigate any risk arising out of data deficiency as was and is the situation in most countries and promote the application of the ecosystem approaches (spelled out in the Malawi Principles) to fisheries development.

4.0 So far, the journey of the global fisheries community in search of the golden path has culminated in both hope and despair. For example, the FAO report on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (2008)¹ states that the proportion of underexploited or moderately exploited fish stocks has declined steadily from 40 percent in mid 1970s to 20 percent in 2007. Most of the stocks of the top ten species, which account in total for about 30 percent of the world's marine capture fisheries production in terms of quantity, are fully exploited or overexploited and, therefore, cannot be expected to produce major increases in catches. However, the hope is that the rate of depletion now seems to be stable. Further, according to a recent World Bank report, over US \$ 2 trillion have been lost due to poor management since the 1970s.

5.0 However, poor management and other intra-sectoral issues are only a part of the picture. Many problems faced by the fisheries sector lie elsewhere and are outside the control of the fishers and fisheries' managers. Further, in view of the global indecisiveness and lack of adequate efforts to mitigate the changing climate, the fisheries sector in particular may face unforeseen and unpredictable challenges in the coming years. In relative

¹ *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2008'', Part 1 World review of fisheries and aquaculture, FAO, 2009.*

analysis, the fisheries sector is a net recipient of the adverse impacts of climate and the sector can also be labeled as a 'climate victim'. The best the fisheries sector can do in this regard is to play safe by developing adaptation strategies that can be useful when the impacts are more visible and quantifiable. In the same vein, fisheries sector is often the last recipient in national expenditure. While the sector plays a significant role in providing food security, livelihoods and income, in monetary terms (being a primary product), its contribution to GDP is much lower relative to other sectors. Further, the sector also commands little space in media and public debates and the same is reflected in the poor fisheries governance, especially in the developing countries.

6.0 Summing up, the need to think beyond conventional fisheries management is a more pressing issue now. A situation has arrived where we need to integrate fisheries sector with its environment. However, there is no road map or consensus on how this integration might take place. In view of the uniqueness of each fisheries and the political, social, economic and ecological environment in which it operates, the integration process in each country will be unique in itself. In this regard, the BOBP-IGO is also gradually aiming at a holistic approach of integrating the fisheries sector with the environment in the Bay of Bengal region.

B. Activities

7.0 The activities carried out by the BOBP-IGO have focused on resource management, capacity building, technology transfer, providing advisory services and advocacy. Resources management programmes have been conceived with a focus on formulating management plans for commercially important fisheries that have transboundary distribution. Capacity building is carried out through information dissemination, workshops and special studies/survey and the advisory services are provided by bringing the members together to tackle issues of common nature. In technology transfer, reliance is on home-grown technologies that are cost-effective and easy to adapt by the local fishers. The BOBP-IGO has also been advocating issues of concern to the member-countries both in the region and in international fora.

8.0 The major activities that marked the year 2008-09 are programmes on implementation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), promotion of the CCRF and developing a regime of safety at sea for small-scale fishers in the member-countries. The safety at sea activities are also looking at the integration of safety into fisheries management.

9.0 The BOBP-IGO implemented the following activities based on the agreed work programme at the Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held at Beruwala, Sri Lanka during 28-29 March 2008 and the subsequent endorsement to the Work Programme by the Governing Council (GCM) at its fourth meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh during 6-7 May 2008.

10.0 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 (Fisheries Industries Division) through the BOBP-IGO was initiated in May 2007. The Project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

11.0 The Regional Consultation on 'Safety at Sea for Small-Scale Fisheries (RC-S@S)' was held in Chennai, India from 7-8 July 2008 to review the progress of activities under the South Asian component of the Global Project. The RC-S@S was organised jointly by the FAO, International Maritime Organization (IMO), Alaska Center of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the BOBP-IGO. Forty-three participants representing the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, FAO, IMO, NIOSH, Fisheries Institutions, NGOs and subject experts attended the RC-S@S. The full report of the RC-S@S is presented as Information Document, **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.7.**

12.0 In conjunction with the RC-S@S, a Bi-National Workshop on 'Small Fishing Vessel Safety' was also organized in Chennai on 09 July 2008. The Workshop was organised jointly by the FAO, Sida, IMO, NIOSH and BOBP-IGO. 18 participants representing FAO, Sida, IMO, NIOSH and two concerned countries, India and Sri Lanka along with boat builders and BOBP-IGO Secretariat participated in the Workshop. The full report of the Workshop is presented as Information Document, **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.8.**

13.0 As a part of Safety at Sea activities, the BOBP-IGO in association with the FAO has produced a video film on 'Maintaining Long Tail Engine- A step by step guide'. The film will be useful for small-scale fishers

using long tail engines on their country craft in the east coast of India and also for other stakeholders concerned with their operations. A copy of the video film is presented as Information Document, **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.21**.

The BOBP-IGO has completed shooting of an engine maintenance video in Cox's Bazaar Bangladesh covering the marine engines used in fishing boats in Bangladesh. Shooting is also completed on various safety issues concerning the small-scale fishers of Bangladesh. For this purpose, the BOBP-IGO team visited Fish Landing Centres and Fishing Villages in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh during October 2008 and held discussion with the boat owners, fishers, fisherwomen, health professionals and NGOs.

As a part of its technology transfer initiatives, the BOBP-IGO organized a training programme for selected group of fishers (boat skippers or locally known as *Majhis*) on the use of VHF and GPS. The training was conducted off the coast of Cox's Bazaar in real-life situation with the help of Bangladesh Coast Guard/ Navy and the private sector. It was for the first time that the small-scale fishers in the country were exposed to the use of VHF/ GPS and its utility.

To promote safety at sea using low cost life saving appliances, a Fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) float has been provided to the Marine Fisheries Office in Chittagong for demonstration to the fishers in Chittagong/ Cox's Bazaar. Similarly, another float is being sent to the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Malé for a similar demonstration to fishermen in Maldives.

In pursuit of identifying home-grown technologies, the BOBP-IGO has identified the use of plastic floats used in fishing nets as an ideal source of life saving appliance. The use of floats was also tested in real-life situation off the coast of Cox's Bazaar and is now being further developed as an alternative for life jackets in small-scale fisheries. Similarly, a simple and practical way of purifying water in fishing boats, which are out at sea for longer duration, was demonstrated to fishers in Bangladesh.

14.0 In the international arena, the BOBP-IGO participated in an Expert Consultation on 'Best Practices for Safety at Sea in the Fisheries Sector' convened by FAO in Rome from 10-13 November 2008. The objective of the Consultation was to prepare a report containing a draft outline of guidelines for best practices to improve safety at sea in the fisheries sector, together with recommendations regarding their scope, the special needs of developing countries and other specific considerations and goals and also to identify appropriate next step that might be taken following completion of the Consultation. The outcome of the Consultation is placed as Information Document, **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.9**. The BOBP-IGO played a major role in the organization of the Expert Consultation.

15.0 Mr Oyvind Gulbrandsen, Consultant engaged under the Global Project on 'Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries (GCP/GLO/200/MUL)' has prepared Guidelines for Safety of Small Fishing Vessels after a detailed survey of fishing crafts and boatyards in India and Sri Lanka. A copy of the printed Guideline (Safety Guide for Small Fishing Boats, BOBP/REP/112) is placed for information of the Governing Council as **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.13**. The Safety Guide will be a valuable contribution to the promotion of safety at sea not only in the member-countries but in many parts of the world where small-scale fisheries are in developing state. In the member-countries the Safety Guide could form a valuable document for developing suitable standards for boat construction and safety.

As a part of the IMO component of the Safety at Sea Project, a 'Training Manual on Construction of FRP Beach Landing Boats' has been developed and a draft copy of the Manual is placed as **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.14**. Further, under the IMO component, a batch of 8 FRP boat builders have been provided hands-on training at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh on good boat building practices. In the process, two prototypes of improved version of FRP beach-landing boats have been constructed. These boats also promote the use of BOB-drive (a mechanism developed by the BOBP in the mid-eighties and commonly used in the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh), which is a safer version than the engines with long-tail propulsion in vogue in the state of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

16.0 Pursuant to the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on 'Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (RW-MCS) for Marine Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal' held at Chittagong, Bangladesh on 16-18 January 2008,

the BOBP-IGO has organized National Workshops in Bangladesh, India and Maldives to formulate national action plans for implementation of MCS in the respective countries.

17.0 The National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries - Bangladesh was organized jointly by the Government of Bangladesh, DANIDA and the BOBP-IGO on 7-8 June 2008 in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh. The full report of the Workshop is presented as Information Document, **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.4**.

18.0 The National Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries- India was organized on 1- 2 December, 2008 in Chennai, jointly by the Government of India and the BOBP-IGO. Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Planning Commission, Coast Guard, Mercantile Marine Department, Department of Fisheries of the Coastal States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Pondicherry, fisher groups/ associations and FAO attended the National Workshop. The full report of the Workshop is presented as Information Document, **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.10**.

19.0 The National Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries – Maldives was organized on 22-23 March 2009 in Malé, Maldives jointly by the Government of Maldives and the BOBP-IGO. Representatives from the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Economic Development, Marine Research Centre, industry and fishers participated in the Workshop. A brief report of the Workshop is presented as Information Document, **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.11**.

20.0 The following eight Technical Guidelines (TGs) prepared by FAO, Rome, to provide support for implementation of the CCRF and one ILO Convention for fisheries sector were translated into Tamil by the BOBP-IGO and are now ready for printing.

FAO

- *Understanding Aquaculture.*
- *TG 4: Fisheries Management 4 (Supplement 1) Conservation and Management of Sharks.*
- *TG 4: Fisheries Management 4 (Supplement 2) The ecosystem approach to fisheries.*
- *TG 5: Aquaculture Development.*
- *TG 9: Implementation of International Plan of Action to Prevent Deter and Eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.*
- *TG 10: Increasing the contribution of small-scale fisheries in poverty alleviation and food security.*
- *Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries.*
- *Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries.*

ILO

- *Decent Working Conditions, Safety and Social Protection by ILO (Work in Fishing Convention No 188, Recommendation No 199).*

21.0 The BOBP-IGO in association with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and the Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh has also completed translation and printing of the following seven TGs in Bengali. The TGs were released during the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee held at Dhaka, Bangladesh during April 2009. The Bengali version will also be useful for the West Bengal state of India.

- *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.*

A set of TGs is placed as **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.19**.

22.0 The BOBP-IGO in association with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Sri Lanka, completed translation of three TGs on marine fisheries in Sinhalese. The remaining four TGs are expected to be completed shortly. The process for translation of the TGs in Dhivehi has also been initiated by the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives.

23.0 Like every year, the BOBP-IGO came up with the 2009 desk calendar. The theme of the 2009 calendar is emerging issues in fishery. Each month of the year is marked by an emerging issue, which includes good governance, health and working condition of the fishers, diversifying livelihood for fishers, eco-labeling and certification, IUU fishing, climate change, MCS, safety at sea, fuel price hike, hygiene and food safety, recognizing the role of women in fisheries and improving the knowledge and awareness of the fishers. The calendars have been shared and distributed far and wide to a worldwide audience. Copy of the calendar is placed for information of TAC as **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.17**.

24.0 Under the Safety at Sea Project, a set of ten laminated placards have been prepared for awareness amongst skippers and crew of different categories of fishing boats. The leaflets cover the following aspects:

- (i) *Diesel engine checklist*
- (ii) *Outboard motor checklist*
- (iii) *Safety first!*
- (iv) *Outboard motor and periodic inspection and service*
- (v) *Cyclone warning signals*
- (vi) *Standard marine distress signals*
- (vii) *Man overboard*
- (viii) *Lights and Signals*
- (ix) *Radio distress calling*
- (x) *Knowing your position at sea*

A set of these placards is placed as **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf.20**.

25.0 Under the safety at Sea Project, three baseline surveys have been carried out in Chakoria, Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh and Bhimulipatnam, Andhra Pradesh and Devaneri, Tamil Nadu in India. The baseline survey in Beurwala, Sri Lanka was carried out during April 2007 - March 2008. The baseline surveys shed light on the socio-economic conditions of the fishers and the status of their fishing vessels. More importantly, the baseline surveys highlight their knowledge or lack of it regarding safety at sea issues and the means to address them.

26.0 During 2008, the BOBP-IGO initiated two crucial fisheries management plans – one for Hilsa fisheries and the other Shark fisheries. The Hilsa fisheries management plan involves Bangladesh, India and Myanmar and the shark plan involves India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Later *vide* recommendations of the Governing Council at its fourth meeting; Bangladesh will also be included in Shark Plan during its second consultation. The BOBP-IGO in association with the Government of Maldives is organising the second Shark Consultation in Maldives during 9–11 August 2009. The second Hilsa Consultation will be organised in association with the Government of Bangladesh in latter half of 2009.

Capacity building – New Programmes

27.0 Pursuant to the decisions of the GCM in its Fourth Meeting, the BOBP-IGO has undertaken six new activities during 2008 - 2009. These activities are:

- i) *Alternative Livelihood Strategies for Marine Fishers;*
- ii) *Impact of Rising Fuel Price on Marine Fisheries Sector;*

- iii) *Impact of climate change in Marine Fisheries;*
- iv) *Awareness Building and Training on Safer Fishery Products;*
- v) *Scoping study on small-scale tuna fisheries management plan and fleet development plan, and*
- vi) *Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp brood stock fishery and the impact of wild seed collection of shrimp juveniles on the fisheries.*

28.0 The BOBP-IGO has carried out baseline survey in selected sites, stakeholder consultations and case studies to identify a set of alternative livelihoods for the fishers in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. The same strategy would be used for Maldives. Based on the inputs from these preliminary studies a detailed project proposal will be prepared for further action.

The oil shock during 2004-08 has highly affected the viability of the fisheries sector. Although since then the oil price has declined, it is still important to design a coping strategy for efficient use of oil in the fisheries sector. The BOBP-IGO has carried out detailed literature survey and is in the process of consultation with the stakeholders and experts in the field to develop a set of guidelines for the efficient use of fuel in the sector.

The BOBP-IGO has contracted 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. The base papers will act as the pillar to design strategies for preparing the member-countries for adapting to changing climate.

The Fourth GCM recognized that safer fishery products are the right of the consumers and a necessity to have the competitiveness of the member-countries in the global arena. During the reporting year, the BOBP-IGO carried out audio-visual documentation of the existing fish handling practices in the selected sites of all the four member-countries. Further, baseline surveys and stakeholder consultations were carried out to identify the knowledge gaps and points of interventions. Also, discussions are going on with the international certification agencies for designing suitable strategies to improve the situation.

Increasing importance of tuna fishery in the region and lack of knowledge about tuna stocks was one of the major concerns during the fourth GCM. The GCM recommended a scoping study on status of tuna fishery involving India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The issue was further discussed during the Fourth Meeting of the TAC. To develop a framework for the scoping study, the Secretariat has carried out a detailed data analysis of tuna catch statistics in the region and is documenting the process. Discussion is also going on with concerned stakeholder to develop the modalities of the study.

The BOBP-IGO has also undertaken a scoping study on the management of shrimp brood stock fishery involving Bangladesh and India. Recognizing the properties of the problem, the study will be carried out in collaboration with the Network for Aquaculture Centres (NACA), an inter-Governmental Organization based in Bangkok, Thailand. The secretariat is now in the process of finalizing the modalities of the study with NACA.

C. Information Services

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

A. Newsletters, Bay of Bengal News

- i) *Vol. IV Nos.13 - 14 September - December 2007.*

(Please refer to BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf.22).

B. Reports

- ii) *Taking Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to the Grassroots (BOBP/REP/106).*
- iii) *Handbook on Yellow Fin Tuna (in Dhivehi language) (please refer to BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 12).*
- iv) *Training Project for Promotion of Community Based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small Scale Fishers in Thailand (Phase II).*
- v) *Training Project for Promotion of Community Based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small Scale Fishers in Vietnam (Phase I).*

vi) *Training Project for Promotion of Community Based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small Scale Fishers in Vietnam (Phase II).*

C. Posters

vii) *A set of 12 posters on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries were printed during the year 2008 in Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Sinhalese and Dhivehi languages for distribution in the member-countries. Please see **BOBP-IGO/GCM2008/Inf. 18.***

viii) *Commonly exported aquarium fishes of the Maldives, please see **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 15.***

ix) *Export banned aquarium fishes of the Maldives; please see **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2008/Inf. 16.***

30.0 The visual archives of the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) and the present BOBP-IGO are being digitised to create a library in the electronic format. Over 50 000 visuals have been archived so far with details on their location, topic and other important features. The website of the Organisation (www.bobpigo.org) is also being updated to add more features such as webcasting, etc.

31.0 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 elsewhere in the world.

D. Training Programmes

32.0 The BOBP-IGO organised the first Regional Training Course on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RTC-CCRF) in Chennai from 16-27 June 2008. The training course was organised in association with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai, India. The RTC-CCRF is first of its kind programme that targeted middle and junior level fisheries officials from the member- countries and exposed them to the CCRF through in-depth theoretical sessions, field visits and interactions. In the first RTC-CCRF, 4 participants from each member- country – a total of 16 participants - attended the 10 days extensive course. After completion of the course, the participants were awarded certificates. The second RTC-CCRF is scheduled to be held from 21 June– 04 July 2009 in Chennai, India. Feedback from the participants of the first RTC-CCRF were collected and taken into considerations to improvise the second RTC-CCRF. The detailed report of the RTC-CCRF is placed as **BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/Inf. 6.**

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

33.0 The BOBP-IGO is assisting the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in implementing a Training Project on ‘Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Asian Countries’. In 2008-09, the Project was implemented in Vietnam in association with the Vietnam Cooperative Association. 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.

34.0 The BOBP-IGO has assisted the Department of Fisheries Technology, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh in introducing low-cost FRP ice-boxes to fish traders/ small-scale processors in Bangladesh. One sample FRP ice box fabricated by the Organisation in Chennai was also provided to Professor A K M Nowsad Alam, Project Leader of the Coastal Aquaculture Technology Scaling up Project entitled ‘Promotion of Sustainable Coastal Aquaculture in Bangladesh - ProSCAB’. The Project is funded by the DFID, UK. This activity once again stands out as a technology transfer initiative of the Organisation.

35.0 The BOBP-IGO was assigned by the Government of India to prepare an Introductory Note for ‘Formulation of a Comprehensive Legislation to Regulate Fishing by Indian Vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India’. The Introductory Note was submitted to the Government of India in January 2009.

36.0 Pursuant to the Expert Consultation on ‘Low Cost Fisheries Management Strategies and Cost Recovery’ held at Georgetown, Guyana from 4-7 September 2007, a report has been published by FAO on low cost fisheries management. The BOBP-IGO had prepared the case study of India for the report.

37.0 The BOBP-IGO assisted FAO in organizing the Expert Consultation on ‘Best Practices for Safety at Sea in the Fisheries Sector’ in Rome from 10-13 November 2008. Director, BOBP-IGO was also invited by FAO to serve as an expert from Asia in the Expert consultation (please also refer to paragraph 14 of this document).

38.0 The BOBP-IGO also assisted the FAO in identification and selection of suitable candidates from the BOBP-IGO member-countries for participation in the Second Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop to be held at Trondheim, Norway from 7-11 August 2008. One trainee from Maldives was selected for the Training Workshop.

39.0 Based on a request received from the United Nations Headquarters, the BOBP-IGO assisted the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, in identifying suitable candidates for participation in the Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme for the biennium 2008-2009. The major objective of this Fellowship Programme is to provide funded opportunities for advanced training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea or related disciplines, to Government officials and other mid-level professionals from developing countries. While all the four member-countries were requested to nominate suitable candidates, only one nomination was received from India. The candidate has successfully completed the one-year training in April 2009.

F. Participation in Activities Related to the BOBP-IGO’s Objectives

40.0 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 28 September to 3 October 2008. 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. The Organizers invited Mr Rajdeep Mukherjee, Research Associate BOBP-IGO to attend the programme.

41.0 The BOBP-IGO has also received seed money under the ‘UNITAR - Bannai Small Grants Fund for Capacity Development in Sea and Human Security’ to organize a training programme for fisheries officials on adapting to climate change in India. The programme will be organized during July 2009 in Chennai, India. The programme is aimed at providing theoretical and practical knowledge on climate change to junior and middle-level fisheries officials. The officials once trained are expected to act as an agent of change through the extension services. The feed back from the programme in India will be helpful to organize tailor-made programme on adapting to climate change for other member-countries.

42.0 The BOBP-IGO partnered with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (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 developing 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 and candidates from India and Sri Lanka attended the training programme. The second phase of the Programme will be held in Southeast Asia during October 2009.

43.0 The BOBP-IGO is cooperating with the FAO, NIOSH, the Institute for Sustainable Development, University of Iceland and The Icelandic Maritime Administration, Iceland in organization of the Fourth International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference (IFISH- 4) in Reykjavik, Iceland from 11 - 14 May 2009. With funds made available by the FAO, the BOBP-IGO is sponsoring four participants – one each from the member-countries.

44.0 The BOBP-IGO has been nominated by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as a member of its Developing World Group (DWG) and participated in the Second meeting of the DWG held in Brussels, Belgium on 26 April 2008. The DWG has been set up 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 the sustainable development of the resources.

G. Suggested Actions by the Governing Council

45.0 The Governing Council is invited to note the activities implemented by the Secretariat during the period April 2008 - March 2009 and consider them further under Agenda *BOBP-IGO/GCM/2009/4*. It may wish to highlight and suggest improvements for action of the Secretariat.

H. Staff Position January April 2007 - March 2008

<i>Sl No</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Date of Arrival</i>	<i>Date of Departure (month/ year)</i>
<i>Professionals</i>				
1.0	Yadava Y S	Director	05/2003	Till date
2.0	Jayaraj S	Publication Officer	08/2006	Till date
<i>Consultants/ Casual Assignments/ General Duty</i>				
1.0	Srinivasan V	Administrative Assistant	11/2003	Till date
2.0	Mukherjee Rajdeep	Research Associate	09/2004	Till date
3.0	Paramasivam M	Consultant	05/2005	Till date
4.0	Vergheese Cheryl	Secretary	01/2008	Till date
5.0	Krishna Mohan M	Secretary	01/2008	Till date
<i>FAO Staff</i>				
1.0	R Ravikumar	Regional Project Coordinator	05/2007	Till date
2.0	Roger Kullberg	Fishery Officer	12/2007	07/2008
3.0	Andreas Westerberg	Fishery Officer	11/2008	Till date
<i>Country Coordinators (for Safety at Sea Project)</i>				
1.0	Md Sharif Uddin	Coordinator (Bangladesh)	06/2008	Till date
2.0	T L de Alwis	Coordinator (Sri Lanka)	04/2008	Till date

Internal Evaluation of Performance

1.0 Introduction

The present report gives a summary of the activities carried out by the BOBP Secretariat in the member-countries. For each country, the j'th component of i'th activity is rated in a scale of 100 to show the degree of completion of that particular component. The total score of an activity is the average of score of its entire component over the member-countries.

2.0 Analysis

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

Sl. No.	Component	% of work complete					Remarks
		BDG	IND	MLD	SRL	All	
1.	Translation of the FAO CCRF Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries ¹	54	48 ²	0	42 ³	36	<i>Maldives is in the process of finalizing modalities for translation. In Sri Lanka translation in Sinhalese is in progress.</i>
2.	Printing of the Technical Guidelines	54	35	N/A	42	33	<i>The Bengali version was released during TAC meeting in Dhaka in April 2009.</i>
3.	Setting of a Regional Information Network-communication with premier research institutes of the member-countries	80	75	90	90	84	<i>BFRI, Bangladesh; CIFE, CIFRI, CMFRI, & FSI, India; MRC, Maldives & NARA, Sri Lanka are already working with the IGO. Universities and other resource organisations yet to be added.</i>
4.	Capacity building for improving food safety in marine fisheries in the member-countries	67	67	8	8	38	<i>Pilot sites are Cox's Bazaar and Chittagong in Bangladesh, Chennai and Vizag in India, Malé in Maldives and Beruwala in Sri Lanka.</i>
4.A	<i>Documentation of fish handling on board vessels in pilot sites</i>	100	100	25	25	63	
4.B	<i>Documentation of fish handling at the landing centre in pilot sites</i>	100	100	0	0	50	
4.C	<i>Organisation of national workshop to design intervention policies</i>	0	0	0	0	0	
5.	Studies on impact of fuel price hike	50	50	50	50	50	
6.	Alternative/ additional livelihood for marine fishers	50	50	0	25	31	<i>Could not be undertaken in 2008-09.</i>
7.	Impact of climate change in Marine Fisheries	34	63	38	50	46	
7.A	<i>Preparation of country status report</i>	100	100	50	100	88	<i>Status report of Maldives is under preparation</i>

¹ Total number of TGs published till date by FAO = 17. Out of which 13 are relevant to marine fisheries and will be translated at the first stage.

² Translation in Tamil is nearly complete and majority of TGs are also translated in Bengali and Telugu. Translation of TGs in Oriya language is yet to be done.

³ Sinhalese and Tamil

7.B	Networking with research institutes	25	75	100	75	69	Research on climate change in the region is still at the infancy stage, hence the research institutions are not much in a position of information exchanging.
7.C	Training/Awareness workshop for fisheries officials	0	50	0	0	13	A new component. A training programme for India with partial funding from UNITAR will be in July 2009.
7.D	Preparation of country strategy	10	25	0	25	15	A new component.
8.	Organisation of Fishermen's Week	0	0	0	0	0	No response from member-countries
9.	Publication of BBN quarterly Publication of Posters Printing of Calendars	80	80	100 ⁴	80	80	Target achieved for posters and calendar. Newsletters are behind the current date to maintain the continuity with BOBP newsletters.
10.	Publication of Reports and other documents ⁵	67	67	67	67	67	Most of the workshop/ meeting reports are under process and will be printed in the coming 12 months.

Domain: Fisheries Resource Management

Sl. No.	Component	% of work complete					Remarks
		BDG	IND	MLD	SRL	All	
1.	Preparation of Management Plan on Hilsa Fisheries	10	10	N/A	N/A	10	The second meeting was postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.
2.	Preparation of Management Plan on Shark Fisheries	N/A ⁶	15	20	15	17	The second meeting was postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.
3.	Improving MCS in the member-countries	100	75	100	67	85	
3.A	Review of MCS situation in the country	100	100	100	100	100	During Regional Consultation on MCS.
3.B	Developing regional guidelines	100	100	100	100	100	The Chittagong Resolution
3.C	Developing National Plan of Action for MCS	100	100	100	0	75	National workshop in Sri Lanka is slated for later in 2009.
3.D	Publication of national reports	100	0	100	N/A	67	
4.	Scoping study on small-scale tuna fisheries management plan and fleet development plan	N/A	25	20	20	22	Could not be undertaken in 2008-09. A modified version as suggested by TAC is presented before the GCM.
5.	Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp brood stock fishery and the impact of wild seed collection of shrimp juveniles on the fisheries.	10	10	N/A	N/A	10	Could not be undertaken in 2008-09. A modified version as suggested by TAC is presented before the GCM.

⁴ As per the requirement of Government of Maldives two posters were printed: Commonly exported aquarium fishes of the Maldives & Export banned aquarium fishes of the Maldives.

⁵ As of today, BOBP-IGO has organised 9 Events (Workshops/ Meeting/ Training programme) since the last meet of the Governing Council on 6-7 May, 2008.

⁶ The decision to include Bangladesh in Shark Management Plan was taken later.

Domain: Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries (Pilot-Scale)

Sl. No.	Component	% of work complete					Remarks
		BDG	IND	MLD	SRL	All	
1.	Provision and analysis of data to identify the cause of accidents	100	100	50	100	88	<i>Maldives has an extensive data from hospitals and other sources. However, since no pilot site was selected for Maldives, the analysis will be carried out in national level. For other countries it has been done through base line surveys and in India also through study of insurance claims.</i>
2.	Education and training of trainers, extension workers, fishermen and inspectors in safety requirements	50	50	0	0	25	<i>Awareness/ Training programme for fishers were carried out in pilot sites of Bangladesh and India.</i>
3.	Awareness programmes to build a culture of sea-safety within artisanal and small-scale fishing communities;	100	100	0	0	50	<i>Fishers in pilot sites of Bangladesh and India performed street plays and attended awareness camps and stakeholder meetings.</i>
4.	Production of Safety Guide, posters and leaflets on safety issues	100	100	0	50	100	<i>Translation is now being carried out.</i>
5.	Preparation of a road map for further implementation of the project	100	100	100	100	100	<i>Carried out during Regional Consultation.</i>

3.0 Conclusion

During 2008-09, the BOBP-IGO Secretariat planned to undertake 28 major activities⁷ spread in three domains. Barring four activities which could not be implemented due to time conflicts and technical problems (e.g. for shrimp brood stock study modalities are under process with NACA and to be finalized, 2nd shark and hilsa consultation were postponed 2 times due to last minute changes in the other programmes or for political reasons), the Secretariat is successful in initiating other activities and bringing most of them to logical conclusions. Activities in Sri Lanka have been hampered during 2008-09 due to the civil strife and are expected to be stepped up during the coming years as the country is now on the process of rebuilding.

Further, the Secretariat seeks more active cooperation from the Ministries/ Department in processing request and disbursing information. This will further improve the implementation status of the activities.

⁷ *Outside these activities, the Secretariat has carried out many other activities like cooperation with other international/ regional agencies working for the development of fisheries and assistance to Ministries in matters of policy, etc.*

Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (22-23 April 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Opening of the Meeting

1.0 The Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 22 - 23 April, 2009. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the four member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and observer from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

2.0 The Inaugural Session began with the Recitation from the Holy Quran.

Mr Mosharraf Hossain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Government of Bangladesh, Mr Md Rafiqul Islam, Director General, Department of Fisheries (DoF), Government of Bangladesh attended the Inaugural Session along with the senior officers of the MoFL and other concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of Bangladesh.

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 Bangladesh for hosting the Fourth Meeting of the TAC. He said that the TAC is constituted under Article 11 of the Constitution of the BOBP-IGO and plays an important role in identifying key issues/areas for intervention by the Organisation.

Dr Yadava said that the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its 28th Session held in March 2009 had expressed serious concerns over the status of global fish stock and identified poor governance, IUU fishing and external factors such as climate change as the major causes of problems faced by global fisheries. In this regard, there was also a detailed discussion on the role of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) such as the BOBP-IGO in improving fisheries governance and the need to build up a holistic approach for fisheries governance. He urged the member-countries to thoroughly discuss and review the work done by the BOBP-IGO during the period April 2008 - March 2009 and set future directions for the activities to be pursued by the Organisation during the current year *i.e.* April 2009 - March 2010.

4.0 Mr Md Rafiqul Islam extended a hearty welcome to the delegates from member-countries and the observer from FAO. He said that fisheries sector plays a major role in the economy of Bangladesh. The total fish production in the country has reached 2.6 million tonnes of which 0.5 million tonnes came from the marine sector. Mr Islam said that fishers are poor and landless. They depend on the middlemen for carrying out their activities and suffer from lack of knowledge and information. Mr Islam said that the BOBP-IGO is working for the poor fishers since its inception in 1979. However, still little achievement could be made and there is a need to step up regional cooperation to solve the issues. Mr Islam hoped that the meeting will provided important inputs towards this direction.

5.0 In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest, Mr Mosharraf Hossain extended a hearty welcome to the delegates and expressed his delight for participating in the Inaugural Session of the TAC meeting.

6.0 At the conclusion of the Inaugural Session Mr Hossain released the Bengali version of the Technical Guidelines (TGs) of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) – a collaborative effort of the MoFL, Government of Bangladesh and BOBP-IGO. He thanked the BOBP-IGO for taking initiatives to translate the TGs in vernacular, which he hoped would pave the way for the adaptation of the CCRF at the grassroots level. He complimented the MoFL and DoF staffs who were involved in translation of the documents. Mr Hossain also released the Report of the National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Marine Fisheries - Bangladesh. The National Workshop was held in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh from 7 - 8 June 2008.

Adoption of the agenda and election of the chairperson

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

8.0 Dr (Ms) Champa Amarasiri, delegate from Sri Lanka and the acting chairperson opened the floor for election of the new chairperson. The house unanimously elected Dr Saleh Uddin Ahammed, delegate from Bangladesh as the TAC chair.

9.0 Dr Amarasiri in her closing remarks as the outgoing chairperson appreciated the effort of the BOBP-IGO Secretariat and the member-countries for the programmes/ activities undertaken during the year 2008-2009.

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

11.0 Dr Ahammed thanked the delegates for choosing Bangladesh to chair the Fourth Meeting of the TAC and invited the BOBP-IGO Secretariat to present the report on activities of BOBP-IGO for the period April 2008 - March 2009. He commented that delegates should try to prioritize their needs while keeping in mind the limitations under which the Organisation works.

Report on BOBP-IGO activities

12.0 The Director, BOBP-IGO presented the report for the period April 2008 to March 2009. At the outset he explained the evolution of the Organisation as a major RFB and its vision to address the upcoming challenges such as promoting holistic fisheries governance incorporating principles of ecosystem approach and adapting to changing climate. In an optimistic note he said that significant developments have been made in addressing the issues of topical importance in the region, yet a long distance has to be covered before fisheries can be made sustainable. "The glass is not half empty but half full", said Dr Yadava.

13.0 Dr Yadava then presented a detailed account of the status of various activities undertaken by the Organisation as per the agreed work programme at the Third Meeting of the TAC held at Beruwala, Sri Lanka during 28-29 March, 2008 and the subsequent endorsement to the Work Programme by the Governing Council (GCM) at its Fourth Meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh during 6-7 May 2008.

Discussion on BOBP-IGO activities

14.0 Taking note of the activities carried out by the Secretariat during 2008-2009, Dr Amarasiri (Sri Lanka) enquired about the status of the shark management plan. She stressed on the importance of a time-bound plan for management of sharks. She also enquired about the possibility of introducing long-tail engines in Sri Lanka after conducting a viability study. Mr Shankar Laxman, delegate from India thanked the BOBP-IGO for its efforts to popularize the CCRF at the grassroots level. He also suggested translation of CCRF and TGs in other languages of the coastal states of India.

15.0 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 of translating CCRF and its TGs in languages spoken in the coastal states located on the West Coast of India may be raised in the GCM. Based on the directions of the GCM, the Secretariat could undertake further translation of the CCRF and its TGs. The delegate from Bangladesh said that the national institutes can also play a major role in information dissemination. Replying to the enquiry of the Sri Lankan delegate, Dr Yadava said that while long-tail engines were effective in beating the surf; they also posed considerable risks due to the exposed propeller. He further said that under the Safety at Sea Programme, efforts were being made to provide a suitable guard for the propeller.

16.0 Mr Simon Funge-Smith, observer from FAO thanked the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the meeting and hospitality. Joining the discussion on shark management plan, he said the Secretariat might consult the International Plan of Action (IPOA) - Sharks of FAO to have greater coherence between NPOAs and IPOA-Sharks. He also suggested collaboration with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) in this regard.

Mr Funge-Smith added that the BOBLME is expected to start its activity in May - June 2009 and the management plans for hilsa and shark fisheries can also be incorporated in LME programme. He felt that considerable scope existed in building synergies between the LME and the IGO. However, since the IGO is a more close-knitted Organisation, it is easy to take decisions and implement the programmes. He also enquired about the modalities of NPOA on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and how the issue of IUU fishing would be addressed.

17.0 Dr Yadava informed that the NPOA-sharks would be in agreement with the IPOA-Sharks but would be suitably adapted to reflect the local and regional conditions. Dr Abdulla Naseer, delegate from Maldives,

said that it would be an important achievement if the member-countries could come out with NPOA-Sharks. He said that all countries should harmonize the NPOAs according to their laws and regulations.

18.0 With the above observations of the members, 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

19.0 The countries presented their proposal and priorities for formulation of the work plan of BOBP-IGO for 2009-2010. The major areas reflected in the country priorities are management for commercially important and endangered species, adapting to climate change, safety at sea, and capacity building both at the managerial and R&D level and information dissemination. The proposal and priorities of the member-countries are presented in following matrix:

Proposals and priorities of the member-countries

Area/ Country	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Resource management	Management plan for hilsa fishery.	Re-assessment of marine fish stocks.	Management plans for sharks and other commercially exploited species.	Fleet management plan for tuna fisheries.
	Stock assessment of marine fisheries resources.	Capacity assessment to match the harvestable potential.	Continuation of work on MCS.	Shark management plan. Technical assistance for development of management plans for chank fisheries and holothurians.
	Management of shared ecosystem (e.g. The Sunderbans).	Technical support towards registration of fishing vessels.	Technical assistance towards collection of fisheries statistics.	Studies on improving hygienic conditions on fishing boats.
Capacity building, Information dissemination & Safety at Sea	Studies on adaptation and mitigation of adverse impacts of climate change.	Studies on adverse impacts of climate change on fisheries.	National assessments on adverse impacts of climate change on fisheries.	Studies on impact of climate change on fisheries.
	Alternative livelihoods and food security.	Technology inputs for reduction of post-harvest losses.	Awareness programmes on improved hygienic conditions of fishing boats.	Compilation of international obligations concerning fisheries sector.
	Technical support for strong MCS & safety at sea awareness.	Technology adoption for recycling of fish wastes, for value added products.	Awareness programmes for fishers on International Conventions and Treaties on fisheries and obligation of Maldives to such International Instruments.	Continuation of programmes on safety at sea.
	Strengthening capacities of national fisheries institutions.	Further extension of activities in works related to ILO Convention on Fisheries.	Awareness on national and regional issues relating to IUU fishing.	Norms for MSC certification.
	Bridging of knowledge gaps through publication of success stories.	Improving hygienic conditions on fishing boats.	National-level training on CCRF.	Rebuilding of north-eastern fisheries sector – counseling and awareness programmes.
	Research support for conduct of oceanographic studies.	--	Capacity building in quality, standards and eco-labelling.	--

Secretariat: Preparation of Work plan April 2009 - March 2010

20.0 Based on the proposal and priorities of the member-countries, the Secretariat presented the Work plan for the period April 2009 - March 2010. Subject to the concurrence of the GCM, the TAC approved the Work plan with the following suggestions:

- *The Secretariat should attempt to complete the activities agreed by the Governing Council at its Fourth Meeting;*
- *The Organisation should work in areas where it has comparative advantage and institutional strength; and*
- *The BOBP-IGO and the BOBLME should work in close collaboration and their programmes should be complimentary to each other.*

Date and place for the second TAC meeting

21.0 The TAC agreed to convene the Fifth Meeting of the Committee during early 2010 in Maldives, subject to the concurrence of the Government of Maldives.

Concluding session: Adoption of the report

22.0 In adopting the report, the TAC unanimously agreed to record its deep appreciation to the Government of Bangladesh 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 Ahammed, chairperson said that that the delegates participated very actively in the two-day meeting and were able to finalize the Work plan for the Organisation for the period April 2009 - March 2010. He hoped that the BOBP-IGO will grow further and provide more support to the member-countries in development of their small-scale fisheries, especially on issues concerning resource management, livelihoods, etc. He thanked the BOBP-IGO Secretariat for its efforts in preparation of the meeting. He also thanked the staff of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock 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 23 April 2009.

Vision, Mission & Strategic Plan of Action

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 erstwhile BOBP, held at 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 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 issues in fisheries that can be more appropriately and efficiently addressed in a regional context through collective action and that there is a 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 facilitated through regional cooperation. The countries also *considering* that the said cooperation can best be achieved through the establishment of an IGO in the Bay of Bengal 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 Bay of Bengal Region finally leading to up scaling of the erstwhile BOBP to an Inter-Governmental Organization.

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 shall be 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 Bay of Bengal region (*Article 3*).

The BOBP-IGO is a unique regional fisheries body, specifically mandated to assist the member-countries in increasing the livelihood opportunities and improving the quality of life of the small-scale/ artisanal fisher folk in the Bay of Bengal 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 Bay of Bengal 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 populations, especially the fishers are 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 security of the coastal small-scale 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 Bay of Bengal 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

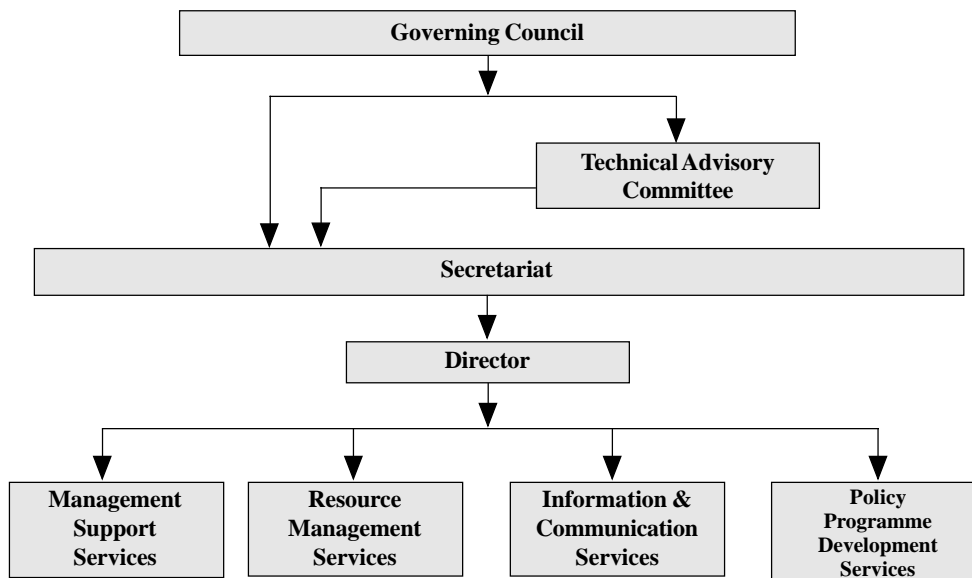
In order to achieve its Vision & Mission, the BOBP-IGO shall:

- **Implement** programmes and activities which are of immediate requirement for the sustainable development and management of coastal fisheries;
- **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 Organizational structure

The BOBP-IGO is a tri-layered organisation headed by the Council drawn from the constituent Ministry/ Department of Fisheries of the member-countries (The Governing Council). The Governing Council functions through the BOBP Secretariat located in Chennai, India. The Secretariat is headed by the Director, appointed by the Governing Council and professional and administrative staffs. To help the Governing Council and the Secretariat in designing of 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. The following diagram shows the organizational hierarchy of BOBP-IGO. For details on staff position please refer to **Annexure**.



6.0 Strategic Action Plan 2010-2014

*“I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.”¹*

The world is become 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 more complex. To make matters more difficult, the growing population and expanding markets are placing more demand on the fisheries resources, which are finite and cannot be exploited indiscriminately. The Strategic Action Plan 2010-2014 (SAP) 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 coastal 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 matrix on following pages provides more details on what and why and when, how, where and who would be involved in carrying out the activities envisaged under the SAP.

¹ Quoted from Rudyard Kipling - “The Elephant’s Child”.

What	Why	When	How	Where	Who
<p>Improving Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fishery resources in the member-countries</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 sign of worries like those due to changing climate and can take precautions. Because it will give the countries required business intelligence to tackle issues like eco-labeling. Because it will ensure and protect the rights of the traditional fishers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first stage of the programme-development of the National Plan of Action for MCS (NPOA-MCS) has been initiated and will be completed in 2009. In the next stage of the programme, countries will meet to design ways for going ahead with the implementation of the national action plan, which will begin in 2010. 	<p>Step I: The countries will develop their NPOA-MCS (completed except for Sri Lanka).</p> <p>Step II: The concerned ministries will sit together to discuss the modalities (Maldives has initiated the process).</p> <p>Step II-A: The BOBP-IGO will also facilitate the preparation of a Regional Plan of Action for management of trans-boundary species and Management Plan 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 (2010).</p> <p>Step II-B: Capacity building of Ministry through technical training, TCDCs, etc (ongoing).</p> <p>Step III: A review meeting will be convened by late 2010-early 2011 to evaluate the progress and for identifying the constraints if any.</p> <p>Step IV: Based on the review of the progress, BOBP-IGO will foster advocacy as well as find international partners if required for technical, assistance to the member-countries (2011-12).</p>	<p>A country-level programme for all member-countries.</p>	<p>For BOBP-IGO, the Director, BOBP-IGO 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 the success it is essential that the focal points complete the cycle of the programme.</p> <p>The BOBP 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).</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 risky. • Because most of the fishers are the major bread winner 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. 	<p>Step V: Further review of the development and designing strategies as required (2013). Step VI: a functional model of MCS by the end of 2014. Step I: Regional and National workshops, Base line surveys and field inspections were carried out during 2007-09 to pinpoint the problems. 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. Step III: The BOBP-IGO will now implement this roadmap with a mix of pilot-scale and country-level activities (2010-14). The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of USA will collaborate with BOBP-IGO in implementing some of the components of the road map (2010-12).</p>	<p>Presently, in selected sites of the member- countries.</p>	<p>Secretariat, BOBP-IGO; In country focal points in the selected sites; Director, Alaska Centre of NIOSH, USA.</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>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 on CCRF (since 2008).</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 (2010-14).</p>	A country-level programme for all member-countries.	BOBP-IGO Secretariat and the member-countries.
<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 the member-countries need to improve their competitiveness in the international market. Because traditional practices are not always the best practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Started in 2009. 	<p>Step I: Documentation of existing health & hygiene practices (began in Bangladesh).</p> <p>Step II: Identifying weak linkages (2010-2011)</p> <p>Step III: National and regional workshops to design interventions (2012).</p> <p>Step IV: Pilot-scale implementation (2012-13).</p> <p>Step V: Review of the progress and finalization of the strategy (2014).</p>	A country-level programme for all member-countries with priorities to weakest countries following documentation.	Secretariat, BOBP-IGO & In-country focal points.
<i>Adapting to climate change</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because coastal zones are under threat from rising water level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since late 2008. 	<p>Step I: Preparation of country-level status reports on possible impacts of climate change. The studies were</p>	A country-level programme for all member-countries.	Secretariat, BOBP-IGO; In-country focal points;

What	Why	When	How	Where	Who
<p><i>Livelihoods enhancement for small-scale and artisanal fishers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide the fishers with a back up for risk spreading and avenue for improving economic status. To create an exit point from over-crowded coastal fisheries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010-14 	<p>commissioned in second half of 2008.</p> <p>Step II: Workshops/ Training programme for marine fisheries officials to develop their knowledge (2009-11).</p> <p>Step III: Regional workshops to design adaptation strategy (2011-12).</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>Step I: Review of existing livelihood strategies and additional avenues in the member-countries. (2010-12).</p> <p>Step II: Identification for conditions of success and failure (2012-13).</p> <p>Step III: Designing suitable intervention with the help of livelihood experts and NGOs (2013-14).</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* Food and Agriculture Organisation*; Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Projects* * = possible strategic partners.</p>



Work Plan (April 2009 - March 2010)

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 2009 - March 2010

Immediate Objectives:

The immediate objectives are to prepare the countries for response to the proposed European Union guidelines on fish trade and IUU fishing, developing skills and transferring technology to the member-countries for stock assessment, data collection and database strengthening, increase awareness and knowledge of the need, benefits and practices of fisheries management among institutions and people concerned at all levels and in all sectors of major relevance to marine fisheries and coastal fishing communities.

Within the overall objectives, the aims are to ensure responsible fisheries in the member-countries by raising awareness level on IUU fishing and improved information processing mechanism, to take the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) to institutions and stakeholders at all levels, and create better awareness amongst fisherfolk and the government about adoption of the provisions of the CCRF.

Work Plan:

As a part of BOBP-IGO's mandate on assisting the member-countries to strengthen their national capabilities in development and management of coastal fisheries, the following activities will be implemented during April 2009 - March 2010:

- Preparation of a Status Report on State of IUU Fishing in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka – International Regulations, National Policies and Road Ahead and organize a meeting for developing strategy.
- Translation of the FAO CCRF Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries in the national languages of the member-countries and printing of copies of the translated versions for circulation to concerned institutions/ agencies/ fishermen associations, etc.
- Training Programme for Junior and Middle-Level Fisheries Staff of member-countries on implementation of the CCRF. The training will be conducted in collaboration with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, India.
- Capacity building on fisheries information for assessment of fish stocks, improving methodology for cost-effective and scientific data collection and strengthening of database and developing a Regional Information Network.
- Capacity building for improving food safety in marine fisheries in the member-countries which includes improved hygiene and sanitation conditions in fishing boats and fishing harbours/ fish landing centres.
- Information Dissemination through the Bay of Bengal News and other publications to inform, enthuse and bind governments and other fisheries stakeholders of the region. Reports of activities completed during the period will also be published and disseminated.
- Studies on alternative livelihoods in fisheries sector.
- Studies and orientation of stakeholders on climate change and marine fisheries.

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

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Better understanding of the status of IUU fishing in the member-countries, its trade implications and mitigation strategies.
- Developing and streamlining fisheries information system in the member-countries in a cost-effective and scientific manner.
- Dissemination of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its Technical Guidelines in the member-countries for better awareness. Training of middle and junior-level fisheries staff in implementation of the CCRF will enable development of a cadre of trained people to implement the provisions of the Code and its Technical Guidelines in the member -countries.
- Information dissemination through publications (Bay of Bengal News, etc.) and electronic networking (website and Information Networking).
- Cleaner fishing harbours and fish landing centres, improved hygiene and sanitation in fishing vessels, improved handling of fish and fish products, better understanding of the food quality and safety, traceability, eco-labelling and certification requirements.
- Better understanding of international requirements in food safety and certification.
- Education, sensitization and promotion of participatory and community-based system of management of fisheries and aquatic resources through organization of Fishermen's Week.
- Improved understanding on alternative livelihoods in marine fisheries and identification of coping strategies and understanding of the impact of climate change on marine fisheries.

**Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
Work Plan for April 2009 - March 2010**

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

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

Sl. No	Activity	April 2008 - March 2009											
		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
A	Preparation of a Status Report on State of IUU Fishing in Member-Countries												
B	Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries												
	1. Translation of the Technical Guidelines of the CCRF in National Languages												
	2. Training of Junior and Middle-level Fisheries Staff in implantation of CCRF												
	3. Printing of the Guidelines												
C	Organization of Fisherfolk Week												
D	Capacity building in fisheries information (stock assessment, database, networking)												
E	Capacity building in food safety in marine fisheries												
F	Information Dissemination												
G	Studies on issues of topical importance												
	1. Alternative livelihoods												
	2. Climate change and marine fisheries												

* 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 2009 - March 2010

Immediate Objectives:

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

Work Plan:

As a part of BOBP-IGO's mandate on developing programmes for the promotion of sustainable fishing practices in the member-countries, the following activities will be implemented during April 2009 - March 2010:

- Organisation of National Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in Sri Lanka and further assistance to member-countries on implementation of the National Action Plans.
- Organisation of the Second Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Hilsa Fisheries in the member-countries.
- Organisation of the Second Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plan for Shark Fisheries in the member-countries.
- Scoping study on small-scale tuna fisheries management plan and fleet development plan (including management of the bait fisheries).
- Scoping study on the status of tiger shrimp brood stock fishery and the impact of wild seed collection of shrimp juveniles on the fisheries.

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

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- Formulation of a national plan for implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance programmes for management of marine fisheries in Sri Lanka.
- Elaboration of methodologies and practices in implementation of work programme related to measurement of fishing capacity, vessel registration norms and IUU fishing.
- Improved understanding of international obligations in marine fisheries sector at all levels of stakeholders.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report on the status of Hilsa fisheries in the member-countries (Bangladesh, India) and observer country (Myanmar) and to further progress towards the formulation of national action plans for sustainable exploitation/ conservation of hilsa fisheries.'
- Preparation of a comprehensive report on the status of Shark fisheries in the member-countries (India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh) and to further progress towards the formulation of national action plans for sustainable exploitation/ conservation of shark fisheries.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report based on the scoping study on small-scale tuna fisheries management and to present the outcome of the study in a regional meeting involving public and private sector representatives.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report based on the scoping study on status of shrimp brood stock and presentation of the outcome of the study to a group of stakeholders for formulation of an action plan for sustainable development of tiger shrimp brood stock fishery.
- Interaction with other agencies.

**Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
Work Plan for April 2009 - March 2010**

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

Programme: Fisheries Resource Management

Sl. No	Activity	April 2009 - March 2010											
		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
A	Organisation of National Consultatins on Monitoring, Control, Surveillance in Sri Lanka												
	Implementation of MCS Action Plan												
	Preparation of Reports												
B	Preparation of Management Plans (Hilsa Fisheries)												
C	Preparation of Management Plans (Shark Fisheries)												
D	Scoping study on tuna fisheries												
E	Scoping study on tiger shrimp brood stock management												

* 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 2009 – March 2010

Immediate Objectives:

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

Work Plan:

As a part of the South Asia component of the FAO/ SIDA Global Project on ‘Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries (GCP/GLO/200/MUL)’, BOBP-IGO will implement the following activities during April 2009– March 2010:

- 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 in artisanal small-scale fishing communities.

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

Expected Outputs:

The following are the expected outputs:

- An enhanced awareness of sea-safety in 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.
- Integration of ‘Safety at Sea’ as an important element of fishery management.

**Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
Work Plan for April 2009 - March 2010**

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

Programme: Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries

Sl. No	Activity	April 2008 - March 2009											
		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
1.0	Provision and analysis of data to identify the cause of accidents												
2.0	Education and training of trainers, extension workers, fishers and inspectors in safety requirement and good working conditions in fisheries sector												
3.0	Awareness building and outreach programmes to build a culture of sea-safety within artisanal small-scale fishing communities												

* 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 Year 2007

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 year 2007 were 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 Report for the Year 2007 is attached. The Auditors have also requested for enhancement of the Audit Fee from the approved amount of INR 20 000 to INR 35 000.

Suggested Action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council is invited to approve the Audit Report for the year 2007 and also consider the request of the Auditor to increase the audit fee.

* * *



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

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