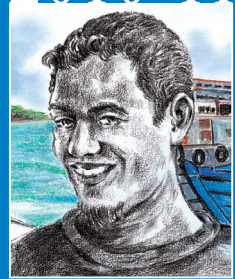


Annual Report 2010-11



Foreword

I am pleased to present the first edition of the Annual Report for the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) for the period April 2010 – March 2011. This Report summarizes the many activities carried out by the BOBP-IGO Secretariat during the year in close collaboration with a number of institutions/organizations/NGOs/individuals from the BOBP-IGO member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka). The funding and cooperation received from our partners in development, especially the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the United States is also greatly acknowledged.

This Annual Report, an important milestone in the history of the BOBP-IGO, bring out the first Strategic Plan of Action for the period 2010 – 2014 (SPA: 2010-2014). The SPA: 2010-2014 was finalized by the Governing Council at its Sixth Meeting (GCM-6) in Colombo, Sri Lanka in July 2010 and during the year most of the groundwork for implementation of the activities under the SPA was completed. Besides SPA, the GCM-6 also expanded the scope and mandate of the Organisation by extending the activities both in the Exclusive Economic Zones of the member-countries and in the inland riverine areas that have bearing on the ecology and environment of the coastal waters.

In these challenging times, when the fisheries sector is faced with threats from both within and outside the sector, I am confident that the BOBP-IGO Secretariat will be able to fulfill the aspirations of its member-countries in helping build a better life for the fishers and their families in the region.

Yugraj Yadava
Director
BOBP-IGO



Annual Report 2010-11



Preparation and Distribution of this Document

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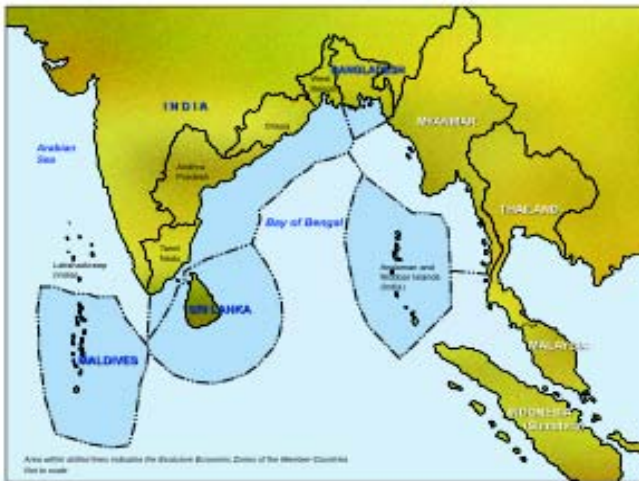
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About us

The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) is a regional fishery advisory body working in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) region. Its member-countries are Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The Organisation resurged from the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) – a field programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, implemented in the region during 1979-2003. Since then, the BOBP-IGO has directed its energies to consolidate the fruits of technological developments in fisheries and bringing in socio-ecological sustainability in the sector. The Organisation has been instrumental in addressing the safety of fishermen at sea and improving their social security net by ushering in policy decisions in the member-countries on introduction of insurance programme for fishermen and investing in life-saving technologies. The Organisation is also playing a critical role in developing monitoring, control and surveillance system in its member-countries to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to ensure balance in exploitation of the resources.



What sets BOBP-IGO apart is the trust it enjoys from its member-countries as being the “Organisation where members can raise their concerns freely and equally and contribute wholeheartedly towards programme development and implementation”. Working from its headquarters in Chennai, India with a small complement of staff and an ever-increasing network, the Organisation is accessible and approachable to all stakeholders: public and private around the year with skill and determination to address their problems.

Vision & Mission

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





Activities

The BOBP-IGO undertakes the following tasks to achieve the objectives of its Vision & Mission:

- **Implement** programmes and activities which are of immediate requirement for the sustainable development and management of marine fisheries;
- **Consolidate** the establishment of an expanded network to share the responsibility of fisheries management, training and information exchange essential to marine 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 marine fisheries management;
- **Assist** the Members in harmonization of policy and legal framework necessary for sustainable development and management of marine fisheries resources of the region;
- **Train and upgrade** core personnel needed for marine 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 marine 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;

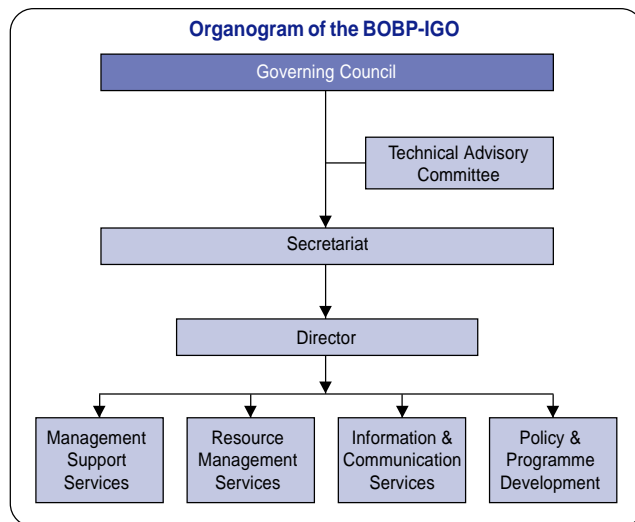
- **Develop** programmes for the promotion of women's participation in marine fisheries development at all levels;
- **Assist** the Members in feasibility studies and project formulation; and
- **Undertake** such other activities related to the objectives of the Organisation as may be approved by the Governing Council.



Organizational structure

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



Performance of the Fisheries Sector in the region

The fisheries sector plays an important role in the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO. In spite of being a semi-organized activity carried out mainly by the small-scale fishers, the sector contributes on an average 1.5-2 percent of the GDP in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka and about 5 percent of the GDP (at constant prices in 2008) in Maldives. However, the socio-economic importance of the sector lies in creating millions of jobs in the coastal regions of these countries, ensuring food security and earning considerable sum of foreign exchange.

During the last decade (2000-09) the marine fisheries sector has recorded a modest growth in the member-countries. Cumulatively, marine capture fisheries production in the region has increased by a modest rate of 3 percent per year, which is less than the previous decade (1990-99: 5% per year). The reason for slowing of the growth rate is due to slowing of production in Maldives and Sri Lanka. In Maldives, marine capture fisheries production has declined from 119 373 tonnes in 2000 to 116 895 tonnes in 2009 after reaching the peak of 186 157 tonnes in 2005. In Sri Lanka, marine landings have increased marginally by 25 512 tonnes from 284 314 tonnes to 309 826 tonnes and in India, the catch from the eastern Indian Ocean (mostly the BoB region) has increased from 909 888 tonnes to 1 090 936 tonnes during the same period. In Bangladesh, the marine fish landings have nearly doubled from 333 799 tonnes to 602 642 tonnes during the period (Figure 1).

The Bay of Bengal is a biological hotspot (Figure 2). The marine fishery sector in the region is set in an unique ecological environment, characterized by multi-species, multi-gear and a *de facto* 'open access' arrangement operating under a varied range of institutional framework. Therefore, developing and implementing an effective fisheries management system in the region is a challenge.

Moreover, the BOBP-IGO member-countries are developing economies and constrained with lack of resources – both human and financial making this task even more challenging.

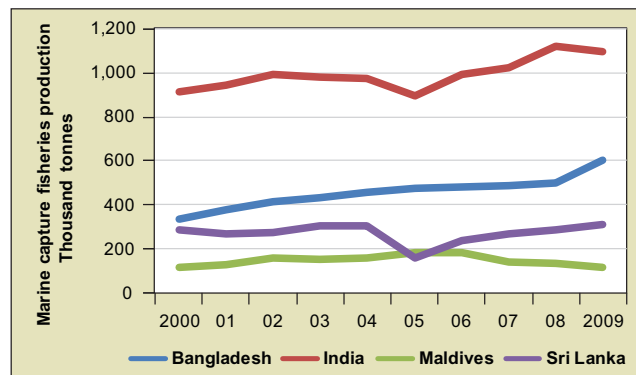


Figure 1. Marine capture fisheries production in the member-countries, 2000-2009

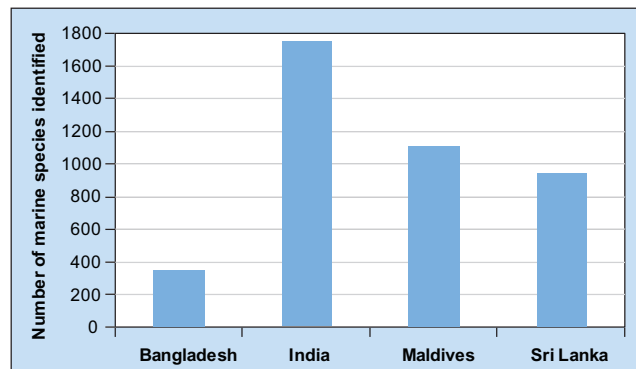


Figure 2. Distribution of marine species identified in the region

A large and increasing fisher population...

Every 10th person in the world engaged in fisheries is from the BOBP-IGO member-countries (Figure 3 and Table 1). A recent FAO report shows, globally, strong production trends in fisheries while stagnation in agriculture has led to relative higher rate of growth of workforce in fisheries. Given the seasonal nature of fishing, complex revenue sharing mechanisms between the boat owner and the crew and the ever increasing cost of fishing operations, an average fisher usually earns a poor income, mostly spent on meeting the day-to-day needs. Therefore, investment of the fishers in knowledge, skills and health of their family is relatively low and consequently the family seems to be trapped in fisheries from generation to generation. This situation also leads to a conclusion that in the coming decade or so, there will be further increase in the population depending on fisheries. Moreover, if there is a situation of undersupply of fishers, unskilled workers from other primary sector can also be expected to migrate to fisheries.



Therefore, fisheries managers in the region will be confronted with two major challenges in the coming years: first to improve the earnings of fishers and strengthening it through additional/alternate avenues of livelihoods and second to create entry filters (e.g. training requirements, safety criterions, fishing rights) to control influx of unskilled workers from other primary sectors to the marine fisheries sector.

Table 1: Fisher population in the BOBP-IGO member-countries

Countries	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Fisher population (2005-10)	9 02 961	35 19 116	14 241	8 25 200

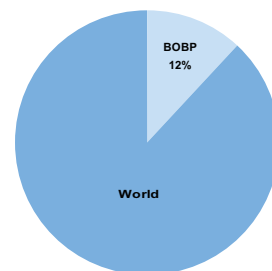


Figure 3. Share of BOBP-IGO member-countries in global fisher population

...and a growing fishing fleet

Another major concern for the region is the growing fishing fleet either in size or in power or both (Table 2). Various studies have shown that catch per unit of effort in the region is declining and many commercial marine species are fully or over-exploited, yet the fishing fleet is growing bigger and bigger. The policies of the member-countries to increase the fishing fleet for tapping unexploited (offshore) resources is well justified, but due to lack of proper monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) mechanism, this is also resulting in increasing effort in the already congested coastal waters. In Bangladesh and India this is often leading to conflict between small-scale and large fishing vessels.

Given the importance of small-scale fisheries in the region and in view of the emerging interests of the global community in small-scale fisheries, the countries will be required to redefine their small-scale fisheries in a contemporary manner, so as to protect their interests as also to develop fisheries along a sustainable path.

Table 2: Number of marine fishing fleet in the BOBP-IGO member-countries, 2005-2010

Country	Powered	Non-powered	Total
Bangladesh	21 106	22 000	43 106
India	66 676	75 626	142 302
Maldives	901	78	978
Sri Lanka	25 973	19 190	45 163

Towards sustainability...

The first hindrance to chase sustainability is lack of information on availability of the resources and fishing capacity in the countries. One of the important conditions for sustainability is a dynamic balance between fish stocks and fishing capacity to ensure biological equilibrium (Maximum Sustainable Yield) or bio-economic equilibrium (Maximum Economic Yield). However, the stock estimates are either outdated or not available for all the species. Moreover, there is limited investment in collection of catch statistics, resulting in clubbing of low value fishes (Figure 4). Consequently, rigorous scientific conclusions cannot be derived on a particular stock and its interactions with the ecosystem. The member-countries need to build a critical mass of trained manpower and ensure sufficient investments in fisheries informatics over the years to chase sustainability.

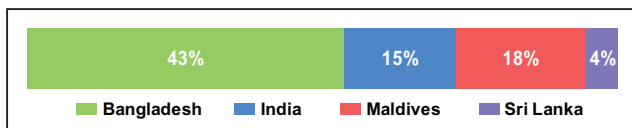


Figure 4. Percentages of marine fishes reported unidentified during 2009



...and adapting to the changing climate

A strong information base is also critical for measuring the impact of changing climate on fisheries. Global warming is leading to notable changes in the fisheries in the region. The Bay of Bengal being relatively more sensitive to global warming cannot wait for lessons from other regions and BOBP-IGO countries will have to prepare their own course of action. However, climate studies in the region are still country-specific, which do not cover for the ecological integrity of the region.

Coming together to manage fisheries

Working with limited resources and addressing the above challenges will be a colossal task for the member-countries. In the short run, the countries can bank on possible donor funding and technological services to address their problems. However, the history of fisheries development in the region shows that development is remarkable only where countries could develop and implement their home-grown technologies. In addition, ecological integrity of the BoB makes it conditional that countries need to cooperate with each other both in framing policies and implementing them if the fisheries in Bay are to reach the ultimate goals of sustainability. The BOBP-IGO is such a platform where countries are working together to address their common issues. So far considerable progress has been made in terms of understanding each other's point of view and identifying common grounds for cooperation (e.g. regional activities to develop management plans for hilsa and shark fisheries and MCS). However, given the magnitude of challenges ahead, more cooperation is needed, especially in scientific research and developing solid information base for the region.

Data sources:

FAO Fisheries Department. Fisheries Information, Data and Statistics Unit. FISHSTAT Plus. Universal Software for fishery statistical time series. Version 2.3.2000.

FAO. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010. Rome, FAO. 2010. Pp 197.



Strategic Plan of Action, 2010-2014

The *Strategic Plan of Action, 2010-2014 (SPA: 2010-14)* of the BOBP-IGO was developed and adopted during the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2010. Six areas were identified based on discussions with various stakeholders in the member-countries. These areas are:

- (i) *Improving Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fishery resources in the member-countries. This also includes formulation of Management Plans for commercially/biologically important fish stocks in the region;***
- (ii) *Safety at Sea for Artisanal and Small-Scale Fishermen;***
- (iii) *Taking the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to the grassroots level;***
- (iv) *Improving health and hygiene in fisheries;***
- (v) *Adapting to climate change and***
- (vi) *Livelihood enhancement for small-scale and artisanal fishers.***



Suggested time-map for activities proposed in the Strategic Plan of Action, 2010-14

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

Activities and Performance: 2010-11

Based on the inputs from the member-countries and the SPA: 2010-14, the Governing Council approved the following core activities for 2010-11:

- **Meeting of the Technical Committee for Establishment of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the BoB Region**
- **Capacity building and information dissemination**
- **Fisheries resource management**
- **Improving safety at sea for small-scale fishers in the region**

Apart from these core activities, the other activities approved by the Governing Council include:

- **Collaboration and support to organizations/ individuals from member- countries/region/ international fisheries organizations.**
- **Participation in international activities to promote the needs of the BOBP-IGO member-countries.**
- **Regional networking.**





1. Meeting of the Technical Committee for Establishment of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the BoB Region

The Governing Council at its Sixth Meet in 2010 constituted a Technical Committee (TC) under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives to consider the need for establishment of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the BoB region. The First Meeting of the TC was held on 25-26 November 2010 in Chennai, India. Senior country representatives from Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka attended. Delegates from Myanmar and FAO attended as observers. The TC observed that the BoB region is ecologically integrated and fish stocks are shared. Consequently, one country cannot sustain its fisheries resources unless the others also sustain their resources. The TC also observed that a regional arrangement by restructuring the BOBP-IGO is a logical choice in view of the performance and trustability of the Organisation and compatibility of the fisheries policies of the member-countries. In addition, the member-countries are also adhering to international treaties and arrangements, which calls for regional cooperation in managing resources, if required. However, such restructuring of the BOBP-IGO needs complete overhauling of its mandate, activities, budget and staffing. Considering this, the TC will further review the tangible and intangible costs and benefits of such restructuring to chart out a developmental path for the Organisation.



2. Capacity building and information dissemination

Taking the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to the Grassroots

Since its birth, the BOBP-IGO is working to build capacity within the member-countries to adopt the principles of the CCRF in their fisheries management. Towards this, the Organisation has adopted a three-fold policy: publishing the CCRF documents in vernacular; organizing stakeholder workshops on CCRF and training junior and middle-level fisheries officials on CCRF.

The Regional Training Programme on CCRF (RTC-CCRF) was instituted in 2008. The 3rd RTC-CCRF was conducted during 20 June - 03 July 2010 in association with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai, India and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME). Under this two-week long programme, 20 participants; 4 from each member-country and Myanmar were trained. So far a total of 52 participants from the member-countries and Myanmar have been trained under the programme. The RTC-CCRF will continue till a critical mass of fisheries cadre is available in the member-countries and other countries in the region to popularize responsible fisheries at the grassroots.

Continuing its activity of translating and publishing the CCRF documents in vernacular, Technical Guidelines (TG) on Responsible Fish Trade and Fisheries Management- Managing Fishing Capacity in Tamil language and the concise version of the CCRF in Malayalam language were published during 2010-11. These TGs will be useful for the Indian State/Union Territory of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and Kerala and Tamil speaking areas in the northern and north-eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. The translation of the TGs in Dhivehi, Sinhalese and in Telugu (for the Indian East Coast State of Andhra Pradesh) are in progress. Last year, the Organisation had printed a set of TGs in Bangla language and provided to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh for distribution.



Improving health and hygiene in fisheries

Video documentation

Since 2009, the BOBP-IGO has initiated a major programme on improving health and hygiene in fisheries in the member-countries. The strategy for this programme is to first document the existing fish handling practices in the member-countries audio-visually, analyze the information to identify critical areas of improvement and then structure training programmes and policy interventions to address them. During 13-20 July 2010, documentation was carried out in Sri Lanka in Negombo and Chilaw located north of Colombo and Beruwela, Ambalangoda, Dodanduwa and Hikkaduwa located south of Colombo. Besides, a couple of fishing villages located in Negombo and Beruwala were also covered to assess the facilities for landing of fish and its handling by the traditional fisher groups. The video-documentation is now under finalization. Earlier documentation was completed in Bangladesh and India. Documentation in Maldives will be carried out during 2011.



Study visits and training programme

Last year, the BOBP-IGO organized study visit for a delegation from Maldives to visit training institutions/facilities in India where Maldivian trainees could be deputed for training in value addition of tuna, quality control, training in long-line fishing and fishing technology. Accordingly, this year a training programme for four officials of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives was organized in 'Product Development and Quality Assurance' at the National Institute of Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology and Training, Kochi, India from 19 June - 01 July 2010. The training included a range of topics covering both theory and practical and was very useful for the trainees. The Government of Maldives has requested for organization of more such training programmes for building the capacity of staff handling post-harvest and quality control matters.

Consultancy services

The BOBP-IGO is providing technical know-how to the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Government of India in modernizing a fish market in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. A visit to the market was undertaken on 18 November 2010 to review the development plan of the market and interacting with the technical staff, traders and consumers. Based on the visit, detailed suggestions were provided to NFDB for incorporation at the construction stage to make the market building cost-effective and user-friendly. At the request of the NFDB, the BOBP-IGO also carried out an appraisal study at two locations in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu to determine their suitability for implementing a quality supply chain from 'boat to plate'. Based on the appraisal, one location (Mudasolodai Fish Landing Centre) was identified for the proposed work. The NFDB has now assigned the BOBP-IGO to prepare a Detailed Project Report for implementation of the programme.



Mapping fish market in Chennai

One of the main critical inputs for assuring quality of fish supply is to know the fish market – its supply chain, value addition and the hygiene and sanitation conditions determining its product quality. In November 2010, a project on mapping of the major fish markets in Chennai city was initiated. Altogether, 70 fish markets in three categories: wholesale, retail and street markets (market without any permanent structure) have been surveyed in terms of the state of their infrastructure, supply channels, volume of trade and attributes of the traders. Based on the documentation, an interactive map of fish markets in Chennai is under preparation. It comprises information on location of the market; products available and their sources; operational hours and infrastructural requirements. The map will be helpful for planners to traders and the consumers as well.



List of Fish Markets in Chennai

1 Adham Market (Triplicane)	36 Neelankarai
2 Alandur	37 New Washermanpet
3 Alcot Kuppam	38 Nochikuppam (Mylapore)
4 Ambattur	39 Odai kuppam
5 Aminjikarai	40 Olaikadai (Mannadi)
6 Attapalayam (Royapuram)	41 Otteri (Nammalwarpet)
7 Avadi	42 Padi
8 Ayanavaram	43 Palavakkam
9 Ayothi Kuppam (Triplicane)	44 Pattabharam
10 Basin Bridge Dry Fish Market	45 Pattalam
11 Besant Nagar	46 Periya Market (Old Washermanpet)
12 C G Colony	47 Periyar Pathai (Choolaimedu)
13 Chinna Market (Old Washermanpet)	48 Pudhur
14 Chintadripet	49 Pudupettai
15 Choolaimedu High Road (Choolaimedu)	50 Purasivalkkam
16 Chrompet	51 Royapuram
17 Hamilton Bridge (Mylapore)	52 Saidapet
18 Jeevarathinam Nagar (Kasima Nagar)	53 Seenivasapuram (Foreshore Est)
19 Kalmadapam	54 Seven Wells
20 Kasimedu Fishing Harbour	55 Shastri Nagar (Sharma Nagar)
21 Kodambakkam	56 Sholinganallur
22 Korattur	57 Tambaram
23 Kottivakkam	58 Tambaram Sanitorium
24 Madipakkam	59 Thiruvaniyur
25 Mandaveli	60 Thiru-vi-ka Nagar
26 MGR Nagar	61 Thiruvottiyur
27 Mir Sahibpettai (Royapettah)	62 Thousand Lights
28 MMDA Colony	63 Tondiarpet
29 MRC Nagar (off Foreshore Est)	64 Vanagaram
30 Mugappair West	65 Vanuvam Pettai
31 Muthamil Nagar (Kodungaiyur)	66 Vellachery
32 Mylapore	67 Villivakkam
33 Nadukuppam (Triplicane)	68 VOC Nagar
34 Nagoorar Thottam	69 West Saidapet
35 Nandambakkam	70 Zam Bazaar (Triplicane)



Technical assistance to the Member-Countries

Bangladesh

At the request of the Government of Bangladesh, a detailed action plan for registration and licensing of fishing vessels and introduction of indemnity programme for fishermen in Bangladesh was prepared and submitted to the Government of Bangladesh. The action plan was prepared based on the lessons learnt from past drives and inputs from the stakeholders including the boat owners. The plan outlines a set of positive and negative incentives to effectively implement the registration drive.

India

At the request of the Government of India, a status report on fisheries management in India, especially on the role of small-scale fisheries has been prepared. The report was useful in various global fora to present India's views. The Organisation was also invited by the Government of India to provide expert inputs in the formulation of the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012-17) for the fisheries sector, which is now under preparation.

Maldives

The Organisation assisted the Marine Research Centre, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Government of Maldives in bringing out a booklet on 'Pearl Culture in Maldives' in Dhivehi language.



Improving communication skills in fisheries

An important activity for the fisheries staff is to organize meetings/workshops involving stakeholders to derive crucial policy inputs and facilitating implementation of programmes. However, their educational training and background seldom provides for any opportunity to develop these soft skills. At the request of the Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Government of India, the BOBP-IGO arranged a two-day workshop on “Improving Communication Skills in Fisheries” in Chennai from 25-26 October 2010.

16 participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, FSI and the NFDB took part. The objective of the workshop was to let the participants tap the experience of the BOBP-IGO, known for its communication skills. The participants found the workshop helpful in dispelling many myths and honing their skills in communication and event management. The Organisation has also received request from other member-countries to arrange such workshops in the coming period.



Celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity with school children of Bangladesh

To mark the ‘International Year of Biodiversity’ (2010), a one-day painting competition was organised for school children in Chittagong, Bangladesh on 18 December 2010. The theme of the contest was “Biodiversity is life. Save Biodiversity”. 95 students from different areas of Chittagong took part. Apart from exposing the hidden artistic talent from the country, the contest raised the knowledge and awareness of the children on marine bio-diversity as they went through various sources to prepare for the contest. The programme was organised in association with the Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh. Best artworks were given certificates and financial rewards. The art works will be used to prepare awareness material.



Training of students

Since 2007, the Secretariat has been providing placements for Summer Interns from local colleges/universities. Every year two students are admitted for a period of about 45 days during summer months (May - June) and are assigned topics relating to the work programme of the Organisation. During 2010-11, two students from *Stella Maris College*, Chennai worked on impact of regulations on fisheries trade in the region. During 2010, a group of students from the College of Fisheries in Tripura, India visited the Organisation to discuss about the prospects of marine fisheries sector in India. The Organisation also provided them publications and study material free of charge.

Information dissemination

Setting up YouTube Channel

Now anyone can log in to the YouTube and watch/download the informational videos prepared by the BOBP-IGO, which are otherwise available for a price or through governmental agencies. The Channel (BOBP-IGO) is already getting regular hits from both inside and outside the region. Popular videos are Long-tail Engine Maintenance Video prepared for Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and Maintenance of Marine Fishing Engine prepared for Bangladesh. Use of folk theatre for awareness creation is also getting popular. The feedback has shown the need of disseminating information in vernacular as Tamil and Bangla versions of the above-mentioned engine videos were clicked more often.

Library services and distribution of publications

The Organisation regularly receives reprint orders and provides library services to host of organizations, research scholars, students and individuals from both within and outside the region. Besides, the Organisation has provided set of publications (extra copies received from time to time from FAO and various other organizations on exchange



basis or as gratis) to various fisheries organizations in India and to the National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering (NIFNE), Sri Lanka and the Marine Fisheries Training Centre, Villingili Island, Maldives.

Creating a searchable digital library of visuals

During its four decades of operation, a rich archive of visuals has been created in the Organisation. This visual archive chronicles the development of fisheries in the region and possibly the last place to see some of the artisanal fishing vessels and gear, which are no longer in use. The BOBP-IGO is now digitizing this complete set of images for posterity.

About 50 000 visuals have so far been archived with details on their location, topic and other important features. Work has now been initiated to create an e-library of the images so that it can be placed in public domain.

Publication

The BOBP-IGO since its beginning is using publications as a means to reach the people and create awareness. Regular publications of the Organisation include the quarterly newsletter "Bay of Bengal News" and the annual calendar. The 2011 table calendar based on the theme "Fishing Crafts of the Bay of Bengal" immortalized the kattumarams, teppas and masulas of India, the chandi boat of Bangladesh, the graceful oru of Sri Lanka and the dhoni of Maldives. This calendar provides glimpses into these crafts, which have been active for centuries and may well be around a few more. A list of the publications brought out during the year is given in the end.



3. Fisheries resource management

Preparation for Second Regional Workshop on MCS (RW-MCS)

During 2008, the BOBP-IGO organized the first RW-MCS to review fisheries MCS in its member-countries. Subsequently, the member-countries developed their National Plans of Action on MCS (NPOA-MCS). This exercise was completed in 2009 following preparation of NPOA-MCS of Sri Lanka. The implementation procedure was reviewed during 2010-11 and various measures have been taken by the member-countries to improve their MCS system. The Maldives is implementing logbooks for all fishing vessels; Sri Lanka has also introduced log book system; Bangladesh is preparing for a registration drive and India has taken steps to strengthen data collection, implemented a fisheries census in 2010 and is planning to implement electronic surveillance system. To review the progress, a regional consultation on MCS will be organized during the later part of 2011. The Secretariat in this regard has initiated discussions with FAO for their participation in the second regional consultation, which will review the progress on the NPOA in the member-countries and also move towards a Regional Plan of Action on MCS.

The BOBP-IGO is also supporting its member-countries for preparation of the National Plan of Action for Conservation of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks). It assisted the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka to organize the first stakeholder meeting for preparation of the NPOA-Sharks at the Negombo District Fisheries Office, Negombo, Sri Lanka in July 2010. The main stakeholders who attended the meet included the multi-day fishers, skippers, shark fin processors, collectors, exporters, and Government Officials from the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Department of Customs. More consultations are planned for this year.

4. Improving Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fishers

Taking safety at sea issues of the region to global audience

An International Workshop, “Improving Safety and Health of Fishing Communities: A Bay of Bengal Initiative” was organised from 13 -14 December 2010 in Mahabalipuram, India. The objective of the Workshop was to bring together governments, regional and international organisations, industry and donors to assist in creating the necessary social and technological infrastructure for safety at sea (S@S) and to carry forward the unfinished agenda under the Global Project on S@S executed by FAO and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The major outcome of the Workshop was the ‘Mahabalipuram Declaration’ to address the S@S issues on an urgent basis through in-country efforts and cooperation from international organizations where needed. The Declaration also stressed on the role of women in fisheries and seeks to improve their working conditions as well as discourage child labour. The Workshop was organised in cooperation with the FAO and the Alaska Pacific Regional Office of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (APRO/NIOSH).



The BOBP-IGO in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Government of Bangladesh and the APRO/NIOSH organised a National Stakeholder Consultation (NSC) on 19 December 2010 in Chittagong on ‘Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fishermen in Bangladesh’. The objectives of the NSC were to ensure implementation of reporting of fishing related accidents at sea by the fishermen and boat owners; and to prepare the modalities for an indemnity programme for marine fishermen in Bangladesh.

Technological development

Under the Global Project on Safety at Sea, two prototype FRP Fishing Vessels adhering to international safety standards were constructed in 2009. Trial for these two boats (IND 30 and IND 30A) were completed during 2010-11 at Devaneri, a fishing village about 60 km south of Chennai city. The BOBP-IGO in association with a FAO Consultant (Mr Oyvind Gulbrandsen) is now analyzing the results of the trial to identify improvement needs before promoting them in the region.



Monitoring and surveillance of accidents at sea

The first step to prevent accidents at sea is to understand the causal chain of accidents. Towards this the BOBP-IGO and APRO/NIOSH developed an Accident Reporting Format for collection of information. The BOBP-IGO and APRO/NIOSH team visited India and Sri Lanka from 26 April to 07 May 2010 to facilitate inclusion of the 'Format' within their existing data collection mechanism. It was agreed that the Indian form would constitute a part of the insurance claims filed by fishers/ fisher families under the Group Accident Insurance Scheme implemented by the Government of India. In the case of Sri Lanka, it was agreed to include the accident reporting form with the log books that the fishermen in Sri Lanka are now required to submit to the Department of Fisheries after each fishing voyage.

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

Assistance to BOBLME

The BOBP-IGO has assisted the BOBLME in organizing the Regional TDA Consultation Planning Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand from 24 - 25 August 2010. The Workshop was organised to develop national consultation roadmaps for validation of the TDA by the BOBLME Project countries.

Assistance to ICFO

The BOBP-IGO has assisted the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in implementing a Training Project on 'Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Asian Countries' since 2006. The Project concluded in July 2010 with the completion of the report preparation work in respect of Indonesia.

Assistance to MSC

The BOBP-IGO is associating with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in its Developing World Working Group (DWWG) to help MSC 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 acceptance from the consumers.

Cooperation with SEAFDEC

The Organisation was invited by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) as a core faculty to participate in the Second Regional Technical Workshop on Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Boats held at the Training Department of the SEAFDEC in Samut Prakarn, Thailand from 20 to 23 April 2010. The Workshop was organized as a sequel to the First Regional Workshop on Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Boats organized by SEAFDEC in December 2003.

6. Participation in international activities to promote the needs of the BOBP-IGO Member-Countries

FAO FIMSUL Project

The Secretariat participated in the Inception Workshop of the 'Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods (FIMSUL) Project' implemented by the FAO in association with the Governments of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry on 20 May 2010 in Chennai, India. The objective of the Project is to support Tamil Nadu and Puducherry in South India to develop a viable policy framework, agreed among stakeholders, for achieving sustainable management of fisheries in the future.

APFIC programmes

The Secretariat participated in the 3rd Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) and 31st Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) of the FAO held in Jeju,

Republic of Korea from 1-8 September 2010. The focus of the RCFM and the APFIC Session was on adopting Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the region. Besides, detailed discussions also took place on issues such as fisheries information, small-scale fisheries, climate change and controlling IUU fishing in the region. The BOBP-IGO proposed that regional fishery bodies working in the region should maintain close coordination to address these issues.

FAO Programmes

The Secretariat participated in the 'Strategy Meeting on Reducing Vulnerability of Fishing and Fish Farming Communities to Natural Disasters and Climate Change' and the 'Regional Consultative Workshop on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fisheries and Social Development' organized by the FAO in Bangkok, Thailand from 5-8 October 2010. The two meetings were organized to provide inputs to the agenda on small-scale fisheries to be taken up in the forthcoming 29th Session on the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI).



The Secretariat participated in the 29th Session of the COFI, which was held in FAO, Rome from 31 January-04 February 2011. The COFI *inter alia* discussed the progress in the implementation of the CCRF, measures against IUU fishing, including Port and Flag State Measures, Developing a Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels and FAO's role for improved integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection; and good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries. The BOBP-IGO assisted the member-countries in presenting their views during discussions on the agenda items.

The Secretariat also participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN-3) (being the Sixth Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats), which was held at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 07 - 08 February 2011. The RSN-3 discussed a range of issues pertinent to the scope and mandate of the RFBs and also the COFI -29 Agenda, which had reference to RFBs. The BOBP-IGO was elected as the First Vice-Chair of the RSN.

The Organisation was invited as a faculty to participate in the Third Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (3rd GEFTW), which was held in Maputo, Mozambique from 28 February - 5 March 2011. The 3rd GEFTW was organized by the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network and FAO in collaboration with several other organizations/institutions.

The participation helped the Secretariat in building its contacts for the MCS activities being pursued by the Organisation.

Summary of status of activities approved by the Governing Council and undertaken by the Secretariat during 2010-11

Consultation on Regional Fisheries Management Organization in the BoB Region	Capacity building and information dissemination	Fisheries resource management	Improving safety at sea for small-scale fishers in the region	Collaboration and support to organizations/ individuals from member-countries/ region/ international fisheries organizations		
Preparation of Scoping Papers on the need of RFMO	Implementation of CCRF through Training and publication and distribution of documents in vernacular	Preparation of a Strategic Paper on Scope of Fisheries Management in the Bay of Bengal Region	Provision and analysis of data to identify the causes of accidents	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME)		
Organisation of Meeting	Developing a Regional Information Network including portals on hilsa and sharks	Organisation of Regional Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (including publication of national MCS Reports).	Education and training (including guidelines, posters, etc)	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)		
Preparation of Report	Capacity building in fisheries data collection and stock assessment and preparation of identification kits for reef and coastal fish species	Preparation of Management Plans (Hilsa Fisheries)	Awareness building and outreach programmes	Marine Stewardship Council - Developing World Working Group (MSC-DWWG)		
Preparation for next meeting	Capacity building for improving food safety in marine fisheries in the member-countries	Preparation of Management Plans (Shark Fisheries)	Technical support to member-countries to improve safety at sea	International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO)		
	Information dissemination through the Bay of Bengal News, reports and other publications	Scoping studies on tuna fisheries and tiger shrimp brood stock management		National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), India		
	Studies on alternative/ additional livelihoods and on impact of climate change on marine fisheries	Regional consultation for development of transboundary management units for shared fish stocks.				
	Consultancy services to member-countries as and when required	Stakeholder consultation on preparation of management plan for important national fisheries.				
Colour scale (% of work completed against annual target)			100	75-99	50-74	< 50

Training of Fisheries Officials and Fishers

Training of fishers and fisheries official in various aspect of fisheries management is one of the main activities of the BOBP-IGO. Since 2008, the Organisation has trained 188 persons, including 87 fisheries officials, 91 fishers and 10 boat builders. These training programmes are custom-made to suit the requirements and levels of skill in the region and are not only useful for the BOBP-IGO member-countries but also other countries in the region. Presently, the Organisation has one regular training programme on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, targeted at junior and middle-level fisheries officials. From 2011, the Organisation will be introducing another regular training programme on strengthening fisheries information base. These training programmes are conducted in cooperation with the premier research institutes of the region. The table below gives a snapshot of the officials and fishers trained by the BOBP-IGO during 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Fisheries Officers and fishermen trained by BOBP-IGO during 2008-09 to 2010-11

Training Programmes	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Myanmar	Sri Lanka	Total
Regional Training Course on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (2008-10: 3 Programmes)	11	12	12	4	13	52
Training Programme on FRP Boat Construction (2009: for boat builders)	–	10	–	–	–	10
Training Programme on Life saving techniques, rescue, navigation and communication at sea (2009-10: 3 Programmes for fishers)	21	70	–	–	–	91
Adapting to Climate Change: Field-level Capacity Enhancement Programme in Fisheries Sector (2009)	–	15	–	–	–	15
Study Tour and Training Programme on Fish Processing Technologies (2010)	–	–	4	–	–	4
Workshop on Improving Communication Skills in Fisheries (2010)	–	16	–	–	–	16
Total	32	123	16	4	13	188

Staff position during April 2010 - March 2011

#	Staff	Designation	Date (month/ year)	
			Joining	Leaving
Professional				
1.	Yadava Y S	Director	05/03	Till date
2.	R Mukherjee	Policy Analyst	09/09	Till date
General Duty/Consultants/Casual Assignments				
3.	S Jayaraj	Publication Officer	08/06	Till date
4.	V Srinivasan	Administrative Assistant	11/06	Till date
5.	M Paramasivam	Consultant	05/05	10/10
6.	R Ponnuchamy	Consultant	11/10	Till date
7.	S R Madhu	Consultant	WAE Basis*	
8.	Cheryl Verghese	Secretary	01/08	Till date
9.	M Krishna Mohan	Secretary	01/08	Till date
10.	Em Shivakanth	Videographer	WAE Basis*	
Seconded Staff from Member-Countries				
11.	M Sharifuddin	Assistant Director Marine Fisheries Office, Chittagong, Bangladesh	05/07	Till date

* When Actually Engaged

Audited Consolidated Financial Statement for the Year 2010 (in US \$ and INR*)

Details	Year 2010			
	Receipts		Payments	
	US \$	INR	US \$	INR
Opening Balance	117191.06	5273598.00		
Income				
Contributions from Member Governments	120058.40	5402628.00		
Other sources	103080.71	4638632.00		
Government of India Reimbursements for Office Expenses	77929.55	3506830.00		
Redemption from Reserve Fund	100000.00	4500000.00		
Sale Proceeds	136.60	6147.00		
Total	518396.32	23327835.00		
Expenditure				
Administration Expenses			30331.57	1364921.00
BOBP-IGO Activities			173606.08	7812269.00
Office Maintenance			64552.35	2904861.00
Printing			32178.95	1448053.00
Reserve Fund			122222.25	5500000.00
Salary and Allowances			70319.28	3164368.00
Closing balance			25185.84	1133363.00
Total			518396.32	23327835.00

* The figures are also reflected in INR since the Audit is carried out using INR as the base currency.

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**BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME
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