2018









Sustainable Development Goals Goal 14: Sustaining Life Below Water

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development came into force on 1 January 2016. The SDGs call for action by all countries to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years and to make this happen everyone needs to do their part. Goal 14, captioned 'Life Below Water', is mandated to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources which cover three quarters of the Earth's surface, contain 97 percent of the Earth's water, and represent 99 percent of the living space on the planet by volume. The BOBP-IGO's 2018 Calendar provides a glimpse of some of the important fin and shell fish species as also the iconic forms of life that characterize the Bay of Bengal waters.





Goal 14: Sustaining Life Below Water

2018

























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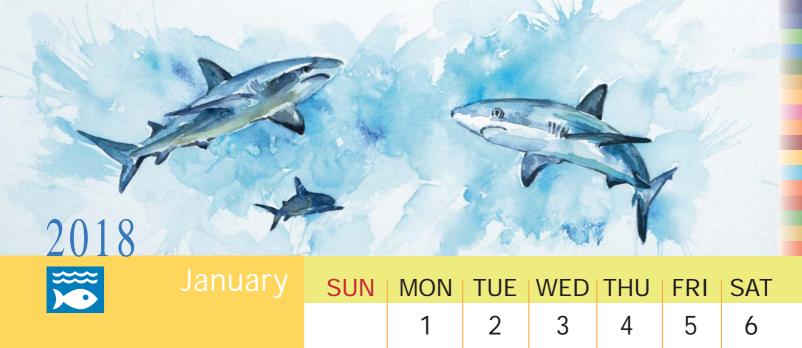


The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), successor to the BOBP, was set up in Chennai, India in April 2003. It assists the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka and also other countries in the region in improving the conditions of small-scale fisherfolk communities. The core activities of the Organisation include technical investigations, capacity building in safety at sea, MCS (monitoring, control and surveillance), EAFM (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management), management plans for shared regional resources (hilsa, shark), promotion of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, climate change and its impact on fisheries, networking, awareness creation and knowledge sharing. (http://www.bobpigo.org)



The Bay of Bengal Regional Project is part of the "Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation - Models for Innovation and Reform" Project (OPP-BOB) funded by the World Bank through a grant received from the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund. Implemented by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) in its member-countries, the OPP-BOB proposes to develop appropriate management plans for tuna and tuna-like fisheries with business case(s) to support its implementation. The Project recognises that the challenges of fisheries management require effective collaboration and coordination and, therefore, works with a full range of stakeholders at international, national and local levels. (http://www.oppbob.org)

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As apex predators, sharks help regulate the population of species below them in the marine food web. Heavy fishing pressure is resulting in reduced numbers of many shark species in the oceans.











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Sardines and mackerels constitute a valuable component of fisheries all over the world. With high reproductive capacity and faster growth rate they contribute significantly to the economy of many countries.











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Coral reefs form some fragile ecosystems on	e of the most diverse and
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Whale shark, the largest fish species in the oceans, is also the largest living non-mammalian vertebrate. Occurring in the tropical oceans, whale sharks were hunted in the past in large numbers. It is now a legally protected species.

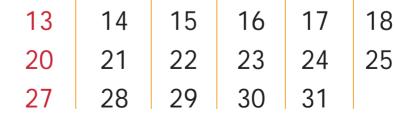












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Sea horses inhabit seagras coral reefs. Their peculiar them highly sought-after fo Starfishes have wide distri- appealing shape makes the	body features make or marine aquarium. bution and their

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Dolphins are highly intelligent aquatic mammals. Well known for their agility and playful behaviour, they are a delight for wildlife watchers. As dolphin populations are threatened from various anthropogenic activities, they are now legally protected.











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Tunas and tuna-like fishes are extensively fished and many species like yellowfin, bigeye and bluefin tunas are highly valued and traded internationally. Sail fishes and marlins are highly sought for sport fishing in many countries.











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The dugong, also called the sea cow, is the only herbivorous marine mammal. Inhabitant of seagrass meadows, dugong is also an endangered species and legally protected in many countries.











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Lobsters are large marine crustaceans living in crevices or burrows on the sea floor. They are highly prized seafood. Crabs, also a crustacean, have wide distribution and are caught, farmed and consumed worldwide.











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Mangrove forests occur worldwide in the tropics and sub-tropics. They are among the most productive and biologically complex ecosystems on Earth and help in stabilizing and protecting the coastline.











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Marine turtles have survived for more than 100 million years. Some species undertake long distance migrations, returning to the same nesting place every year. Of the 7 marine turtle species, IUCN has classified 3 as critically endangered and another 3 as endangered.











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