

# **Impacts of the Tsunami on Fisheries, Aquaculture and Coastal Livelihoods**

**(06 January 2005)**

**NACA/FAO/SEAFDEC/BOBP-IGO**

This is a very early report of the impacts on coastal livelihoods of the Indian Ocean tsunami. It will be constantly built up as more information is included, and made meaningful with subsequent analyses. The purpose of this assessment effort is to determine the needed resources and efforts to quickly restore shattered livelihoods in the stricken communities. This report has been jointly developed by staff from NACA, FAO, SEAFDEC and BOBP-IGO. Every possible effort has been made, considering the circumstances, to verify the information and the report is considered appropriate at the time of its preparation. It will be updated as appropriate in the light of further knowledge gained at subsequent stages of evolution of the situation. Nonetheless, the Organisations concerned decline any responsibility for error or inaccuracies the report may contain.

The assessment should then be in consultation with other like-minded organizations, governments, communities, and other stakeholders translated into priority needs. The needs will be addressed by projects designed to provide the best possible impact on restoring shattered livelihoods and rehabilitating affected communities as well as the sources or bases for their livelihoods that may also have been seriously damaged.

The information in here is from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka Thailand, and the Maldives.

# Tsunami media update 6 January 2005

*Note: This is a daily summary of media reports concerning damage to aquaculture, aquatic livelihoods of coastal communities and related issues. It is not intended as a summary of general damage. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the NACA organization. A separate regional assessment document is in preparation.*

## ESTIMATED death toll / missing persons as of 6 January 2005\*

Country	Dead	Injured	Missing	Displaced
Indonesia <sup>1</sup>	94,081	>2,500	1,341	271,908
Sri Lanka <sup>2</sup>	30,196	15,683	3,846	834,849
India <sup>3</sup>	9,571	3,281 - Tamil Nadu only	5,914	627,119 (384,956 people in 532 relief camps).
Thailand	5,187	8,457	38,10	
Maldives	82	1,313	26	8,352 (8,500 evacuated to other islands).
Myanmar <sup>4</sup>	59	43	3	3,205 (638 households)
Bangladesh	2			

\* Source: World Health Organization Situation Report No. 7 (covering period 4 January 2005).

1. 172 sub-districts and 1,550 villages destroyed.
2. Affected families 212,223; houses 103,753.
3. Dwelling unites 136,198; villages 883; cropped areas 4,171ha.
4. 592 houses of 17 villages destroyed.

## Thailand

### Industry acts to stress seafood safety

Thailand's fishery and seafood processing industries moved yesterday to restore consumers' confidence that it is perfectly safe to eat seafood, which many people fear will be contaminated from exposure to the remains of tsunami victims. The Thai Overseas Fisheries Association said that since more than 50% of the seafood supply in Thailand was from the deep ocean outside Thai territory. The Fisheries Department, meanwhile, plans to issue an extra certificate to ensure foreign buyers of the safety and sanitation of fishery products exported from Thailand.

The tsunami had not caused any shortage of seafood supplies within Thailand. However, seafood supplies for local consumption in the six affected provinces could fall short as small-scale fishermen in the areas have lost their trawlers and fishing equipment. More than 3,000 trawlers have been reported missing in the affected provinces, especially Ranong, and about 500 are waiting to be retrieved from the sea. It was estimated the tsunami has caused 500 million baht loss to local fishermen. Of the 1.9 million tonnes of fishery products exported by Thailand last year, only 40,000 tonnes came from Andaman sea. Most of the seafood brought back into the country by Thai fishery companies comes from areas outside Thai territory in the South China and Arafura seas.

Source: Bangkok Post

[http://www.bangkokpost.com/Business/06Jan2005\\_biz59.php](http://www.bangkokpost.com/Business/06Jan2005_biz59.php)

## **Tsunami damage "worse than war"**

In southern Thailand, rescuers with industrial-scale pumps have begun draining a lagoon in Ban Namkhem, a fishing village of 5,000 people now almost completely in ruins.

*Source: Reuters UK.*

<http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=648993>

## **Sri Lanka**

### **Sri Lanka's tsunami survivors lose hope, shun coast**

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have de facto rule over the northeast have decided to ban houses near the sea. They have also banned fishing for fear the region's famed seafood could be scavenging on the remains of corpses that are still being washed ashore more than a week after the disaster.

*Source: Reuters (via Khaleej Times)*

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2005/January/subcontinent\\_January120.xml&section=subcontinent](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2005/January/subcontinent_January120.xml&section=subcontinent)

## **India**

### **Fish absolutely safe for consumption: seafood association**

The Sea Food Exporters Association of India today said fish was absolutely safe for consumption refuting rumours that fish caught from the ocean carries a virus 'Zulican' due to the recent tsunami. The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology has confirmed that this is completely false and no such virus exists.

*Source: New Kerala*

<http://www.newkerala.com/news-daily/news/features.php?action=fullnews&id=55633>

### **Tsunami-hit fishermen struggle to make ends meet**

More than a week after tsunamis hit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, over 1,000 fishermen families in Port Blair are not being allowed to fish in the high seas. Demand for fish has dropped due to fear of contamination. Fishermen claimed this was because the administration had directed people not to buy fish as it might lead to health problems. Each family used to sell 100-150 kg of fish a week before the tsunami struck. 45 fishermen are still missing from Campbell Bay, Little Andaman and Katchal.

*Source: Rediff.com*

<http://us.rediff.com/news/2005/jan/05an.htm>

### **Tsunami breaks backbone of fishing community**

At least 471 people were killed in a cluster of villages in Karaikal, close to Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. Hundreds more are still missing. At least 3000 mechanised boats and catamarans, 500 fishing nets and more than 7000 houses were damaged by the tsunami which displaced more than 25,000 persons within its few minutes of fury. The estimated damage in Karikal alone is Rs 256 crore and most of the affected are fishermen. Until March this year the entire region had exported around Rs 3000 crore worth of fish overseas.

*Source: The Tribune*

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2005/20050106/main2.htm>

## **BJP extends Rs 600 million relief to Tsunami victims**

BJP today said the party and the state governments ruled by it have earmarked Rs 600 million besides a large quantity of relief material for tsunami victims. At a meeting of BJP's Tsunami Relief Committee, the party demanded waiving of outstanding loans of disaster-affected fishermen and provision of interest-free loans to them for purchase of new boats and fishing nets or their repair. The main opposition party also demanded that the central government unveil a comprehensive National Coastal Insurance Scheme for the benefit of fishermen.

*Source: NewKerala.com*

<http://www.newkerala.com/news-daily/news/features.php?action=fullnews&id=55683>

## **Tsunami-triggering quake tweaks Indian Ocean map**

Some islands of the Indian archipelago of Andaman and Nicobar have disappeared without a trace, the effects of the disaster standing out most prominently in the form of the partly submerged lighthouse at Indira Point, considered India's southernmost tip. Indian geologists say satellite images indicate the shift of small islands, some islands have submerged and there are permanent changes in coastlines. Another island has been restructured with a large stretch of undersea coral reefs surfacing. Satellite images show discernible changes between 'before' and 'after' in islands like Trinket, inhabited mostly by tribespersons, which appears to be split down the middle.

*Source: New Kerala*

<http://www.newkerala.com/news-daily/news/features.php?action=fullnews&id=55272>

## **Maldives**

### **Tsunami's salt water may leave islands uninhabitable**

Some Indian Ocean islands could have been made permanently uninhabitable by the salt water that flooded them during the tsunami. Water experts are now warning that, in the long run, the salt invasion may prove almost as destructive to the land as the tsunami itself. It could leave some communities dependent on outside aid for food and water for months or years to come.

There are widespread reports from across the stricken region that seawater has filled wells, invaded the porous rocks on which communities depend for water, and poisoned soils. Dozens of coral atolls in the Maldives were completely overwhelmed and their underground water reserves have been poisoned with salt. On 17 or 18 islands there is no drinkable water, supplies must be shipped in. Communities will have to wait for rains to flush out aquifers, which in some cases may be unusable for many years.

*Source: NewScientist.com*

<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn6840>

## **Myanmar**

### **Burma relatively unscathed, WFP says**

Burma was "relatively unscathed" by the tsunami that wreaked havoc in other Indian Ocean countries last week, according to the World Food Program (WFP), which sent an assessment team to the Army-ruled country known for its secrecy. The WFP said the official number of 59 deaths was in the right range, backed up by its team assessing food aid needs, the Red Cross and aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders). The hardest-hit area was the Irrawaddy delta region where about 10,000 people needed food aid. Many fishing villages escaped serious damage on the coastline just north of Thailand's hard-hit resorts of Khao Lak and Phuket.

*Source: Reuters (via ABC News).*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200501/s1277091.htm>

## Malaysia

### **RM50m set aside to help affected fishermen**

Agro-Based Industry Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said that losses suffered by the agriculture sector from the recent tsunami disaster have been estimated at RM55.7million and that fishermen suffered the most. The Government has set aside a RM50mil fund to help them. Affected fishermen can apply for interest-free loans through the Fisheries Development Authority (LKIM) to repair or buy new boats. Aquaculture operators can apply for soft loans provided by Bank Pertanian.

A total of 5,997 fishermen from Kedah, Penang, Perlis and Perak were affected by the tsunami, out of which 3,549 were from Penang. A total of 2,387 sampans and 271 boats were damaged or sunk when the tsunami hit the coastal areas in the four states. Boat owners and their crew recorded a total of RM30million in losses while the aquaculture operators suffered losses amounting to about RM24million.

## Indonesia

No relevant clips today.

## Regional

### **Experts dismiss HK govt fears of post-tsunami fish**

Hong Kong's government has urged residents not to eat seafood from tsunami-affected areas as they may be tainted. The city's health authorities asked seafood traders to temporarily suspend imports of seafood from South Asian countries on Tuesday, saying fish may have ingested heavy metals churned up from the seabed by the seismic movements. Experts brushed off such fears saying fish could be contaminated with heavy metals only over a long period of time, and that only 10-20 percent of fish imported into Hong Kong originates from the affected areas.

*Source: Reuters Foundation.*

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HKG245396.htm>