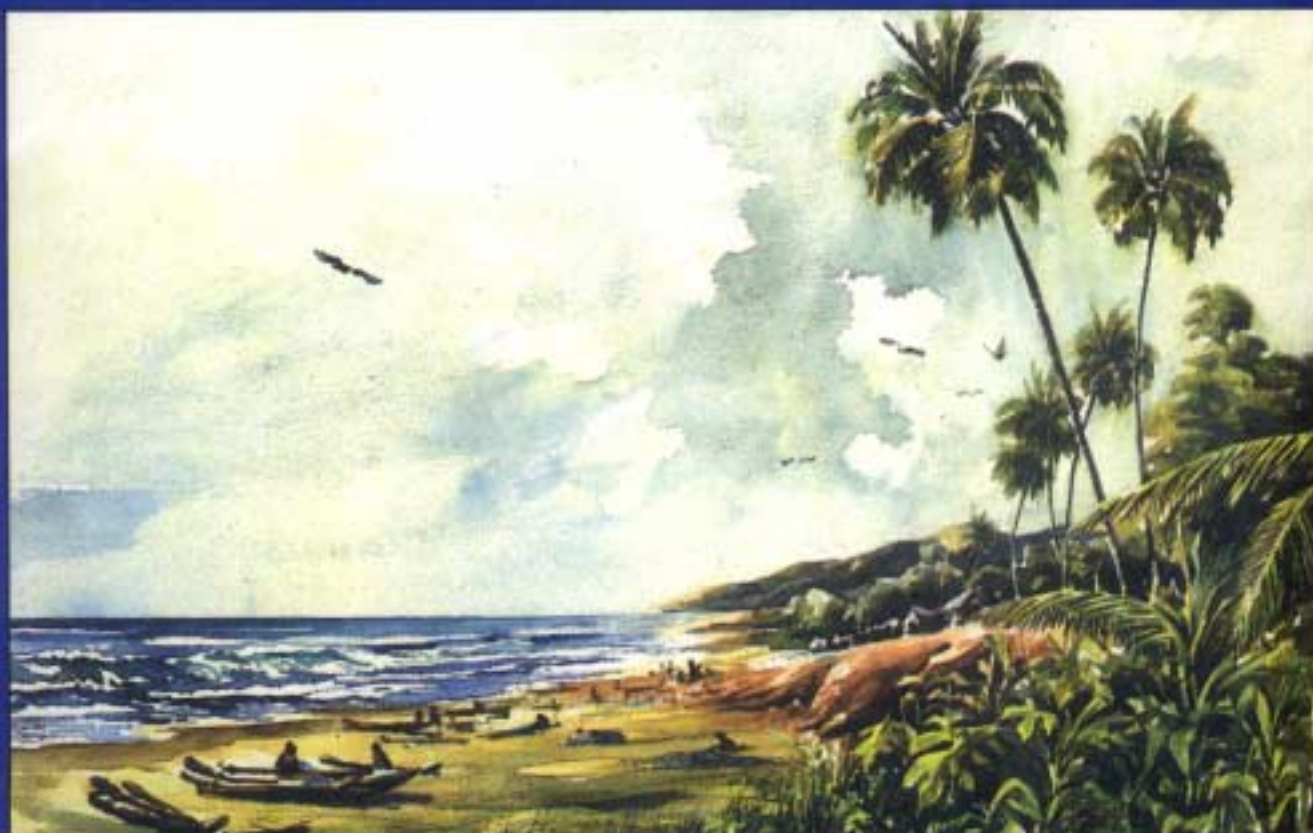


Report of the 20th Meeting of the Advisory Committee



INTEGRATED COASTAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

**REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH MEETING
OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

March 26-29, 1996
Pulau Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia

This document records the recommendations of the 20th Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Bay of Bengal Programme for Coastal Fisheries Management (BOBP), held 26-29 March 1996, in Pulau Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia.

The document contains the annual reports (or status reports) of the projects in the Programme. These reports briefly recapitulate the objectives and status of the activities, describe the work and achievements during 1995 and evaluate the progress that was made. Work plans for 1996, where applicable, have been indicated. The report was prepared at the end of 1995 and presented to the 20th Meeting of the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee is composed of member countries, agencies funding BOBP projects, and the FAO. The Committee meets once a year in member-countries on a rotational basis.

The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) is a multiagency regional fisheries programme which covers seven countries around the Bay of Bengal - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Programme plays a catalytic and consultative role in developing coastal fisheries management in the Bay of Bengal to help improve the conditions of small-scale fisherfolk communities in member countries. The BOBP is sponsored by the Governments of Denmark, Japan, United Kingdom and the International Maritime Organization of the UN. The executing agency is the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	=	Asian Development Bank
AGM	=	Annual General Meeting
APO	=	Associate Professional Officer
APRACA	=	Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association
ASFDC	=	Andaman Sea Fisheries Development Centre
BED/TED	=	Bycatch/Turtle Excluder Device
BFDA	=	Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agency
BOBP	=	Bay of Bengal Programme
COPDANET	=	Coastal Poor Development Action Network
DANIDA	=	Danish International Development Agency
DFARD	=	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development
DGF	=	Directorate General of Fisheries
DOF	=	Department of Fisheries
DRDA	=	District Rural Development Agency
EIA	=	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESBN	=	Estuarine Set-Bag Net
FAO/UN	=	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FRI	=	Fisheries Research Institute
GEF	=	Global Environment Facility
GIS	=	Geographical Information Systems
GOI	=	Government of India
HACCP	=	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
ICAM	=	Integrated Coastal Area Management
ICSF	=	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
IGA	=	Income-Generating Activity
IMM	=	Integrated Marine Management
IMO	=	International Maritime Organization
IOFC	=	Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission

IRED	=	Innovations and Development Networks
ITQ	=	Individual Transferable Quotas
KAP	=	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
KDFSF	=	Kanyakumari District Federation of Fishermen's Sangams
LME	=	Large Marine Ecosystem
MCS	=	Marine Conservation Society
MES	=	Madras Editorial Services
MFARD	=	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development
MOFA	=	Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
MRS	=	Marine Research Section
NABARD	=	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NARA	=	National Aquatic Resources Agency
NGO	=	Non-Governmental Organization
NIFT	=	National Institute of Fisheries Training
NORAD	=	Norwegian Agency for International Development
NRI	=	Natural Resources Institute
ODA	=	Overseas Development Administration
PFS	=	Provincial Fisheries Service
PHFP	=	Post-Harvest Fisheries Programme
PHFRP	=	Post-Harvest Fisheries Research Programme
PIB	=	Permanent Ice Box
PMBC	=	Phuket Marine Biological Centre
PN	=	Pushnet
ROSA	=	Rural Organization for Social Work
SAMP	=	Special Area Management Plan
SEAFDEC	=	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre
SEU	=	Social and Economic Unit
SIDA	=	Swedish International Development Agency
SIFFS	=	South Indian Federation of Fishermen's Sangams
SIFR	=	Strategy for International Fisheries Research

SRL	=	Sri Lanka
SWEDMAR	=	Swedish Centre for Coastal Development and Management of Aquatic Resources
TAPP	=	Technical Assistance Project Proforma
TCDC	=	Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries
UNDP	=	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	=	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	=	United Nations Children's Fund
VESHI	=	Volunteers for Social Harmony and Improvement
VJNNS	=	Visakha Jilla Nava Nirmana Samiti
WID	=	Women in Development

**REPORT OF THE 20TH MEETING
OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME
FOR COASTAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Advisory Committee of the Bay of Bengal Programme for Coastal Fisheries Management (BOBP) held its Twentieth Meeting from 26 to 29 March 1996, at the City Bayview Hotel, Pulau Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia. A list of the participants is given in Appendix A.
2. The Meeting was formally inaugurated by Dato' Shahrom bin Haji Abdul Majid, Director-General of Fisheries of Malaysia.
3. The working session of the Meeting was opened on 26 March 1996 by the outgoing Chairman from Indonesia, Mr Zainuddin Siregar, Chief, Provincial Fisheries Service, North Sumatra, Republic of Indonesia.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

4. The Advisory Committee unanimously elected Mr Lui Yean Pong, Head, Resource Management Branch, Department of Fisheries, Malaysia, as its Chairman to hold office until the beginning of its Twenty First Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Advisory Committee adopted the Agenda shown in Appendix B. The documents placed before the Committee are listed in Appendix C.

COASTAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (GCP/RAS/150/DEN & 151/JPN)

6. The focus of the Project should be on facilitating and enabling the management of coastal resources by working with the users rather than coastal resources per se.
7. The proposed study on values, perceptions and attitudes of stakeholders should be comprehensive and include issues related to fisheries management such as coastal aquaculture, mariculture and the post-harvest system.

8. The proposed study of values, perceptions and attitudes should try to identify and document local knowledge and practices relating to management and conservation of coastal resources, as such knowledge could facilitate and give direction to the Project's efforts.
9. The proposed skill gap analysis and training needs assessment should be confined to areas relating to the management of coastal resources and should be undertaken with a view to give direction to the capacity-building functions of the Project.
10. In building the capacity of fishery and other related agencies in coastal fisheries management, given the similarity in problems and conditions, training, where feasible, should be undertaken on a sub-regional and regional basis.
11. While each of the pilot efforts is unique, there are some similarities, and the Project should make efforts to promote the sharing of learnings and skills through facilitating exchange visits of concerned national staff, using TCDC-type nationally assisted arrangements.
12. The 1996 workplans proposed for each Member Country and the region as a whole are agreed to in principle, and should be refined, modified and finalized by the Project in consultation with their counterparts prior to implementation.
13. Given the national execution thrust of the Project's activities, the workplan should clearly indicate the responsibilities of national agencies and the BOBP in implementation.
14. The decision of DANIDA to release the savings of the 2nd Phase Project (GCP/RAS/118/MUL) to supplement the 3rd Phase Project's activities, is welcome and appreciated. Such supplementary funds should be used primarily for, though not restricted to, undertaking assessments of various types and for enabling better monitoring and evaluation systems.
15. The Member Countries continue to consider the Information Service of the Project (GCP/RAS/117/MUL) an important component of the Project, given the emphasis on communications and awareness-building, and confirmed to support the effort regularly through their annual contributions.
16. Efforts need to be made to standardize methodologies of data acquisition, analysis and reporting of fisheries and fisheries related information to facilitate exchange of learnings and experience and improved management of resources of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem.

CLEANER FISHERY HARBOURS (IMO)

17. Given the importance of cleaner fishery harbours in order to improve fish product quality and public health, FAO and BOBP should make efforts to locate alternate sources of funding to support new and continuing efforts in the region to promote cleaner fishery harbours.

18. The Committee placed on record their appreciation of the International Maritime Organization's support of the Cleaner Fishery Harbour efforts in India, Thailand, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

POST-HARVEST FISHERIES (ODA)

19. Bangladesh emphasized the need to strengthen the existing co-operation and coordination between the activities of the Post-Harvest Fisheries Project and the Coastal Fisheries Management Project, in view of the fact that both Projects are focusing on estuarine set-bag net fisheries.

20. To ensure appropriate Government clearance of the Post-Harvest Fisheries Project, the ODA, through appropriate channels, should formally inform the Government of Bangladesh of the Project and the fund allocations.

21. Sri Lanka requested that the Itinerant Fish Trader Project's activities be expanded to cover the whole market chain, by addressing the post-harvest needs and concerns at fish landing centres and fish marketing outlets.

22. While the main project of BOBP facilitates coordination and communication between Governments and agencies working under the BOBP umbrella, there is a need for each agency to also have regular contact with Governments to ensure that they are kept adequately informed.

SIFR PROPOSAL ON FISHERIES INFORMATION FOR BOBP REGION

23. Acknowledging the importance of timely information to facilitate and enable fisheries development and management, all the Member Countries emphasized the need to improve and strengthen fisheries information systems at national and regional levels.

24. The SIFR proposal needs to be carefully thought through for possible modification, keeping in mind the particular information needs of policy makers, fishery managers and other stakeholders and the sustainability of information systems beyond the project period.

25. Further, there is a need, in considering the institutional framework of the project and the modalities of information collection, analysis and dissemination, to avoid duplicating the efforts of existing regional fishery bodies and national systems.

ITQ APPROACHES TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

26. All Member Countries are interested in learning more about ITQ Approaches to Fisheries Management in order to consider whether such approaches may have utility for selected fisheries in the region.

LEARNINGS FROM BOBP SECOND PHASE

27. In reviewing the project findings and recommendations of the Small-Scale Fisherfolk Communities in the Bay of Bengal Project (GCP/RAS/118/MUL), Member Countries recommended that the learnings from the 2nd Phase of BOBP be given consideration in the implementation of BOBP's third phase programme.

GEF PROPOSAL

28. All Member Countries strongly endorsed the project proposal for Sustainable Environmental Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem being submitted to the Global Environmental Facility. They requested BOBP to continue regional coordination of the effort.

29. Delegations of all Member Countries informed the Committee that their Governments were considering the proposal favourably. Ministries overseeing fisheries and environment, and acting as nodal points for GEF-related issues, are expected to convey their endorsement of the proposal to GEF shortly.

OTHER MATTERS

30. The ODA informed the Committee that the 3rd Phase of the Post-Harvest Fisheries Project will come to an end in March 1998 and there is a need for the Committee to reflect on post-harvest fisheries needs of the region and consider ways of addressing them after the project ends.

31. The FAO informed the Committee that the main project of the BOBP (GCP/RAS/150/DEN and 151/JPN) will have a Mid-Term Evaluation early in 1997. The 6 -8 weeks Mission will consist of 3 persons nominated by the Government of Japan, DANIDA and FAO, respectively. Given the importance of the activity there is a need for the BOBP and the Member Countries to start preparations for the Evaluation.

32. The FAO informed the Committee that the Government of Netherlands had offered the services of two Associate Professional Officers (APOs), to be posted to the BOBP, one focusing on resource economics and the other on geographical information systems. The Indian delegation offered to respond expeditiously to the matter of clearing the postings.

33. All Member Countries emphasized that there was a need to reflect on what could and should happen beyond the year 1999 when the present Phase of BOBP would end. There was a suggestion that the Member Countries could consider evolving the Project into an inter-governmental agency to continue the work of the BOBP and act as the implementation arm of the IOFC's BOBC. The BOBP was requested to present a discussion paper on the issue for the consideration of the Committee at its 21st Meeting, next year.

34. All Member Countries reiterated their interest in the BOBC Subgroup's findings and recommendations and expressed their commitment to progress in the matter. The BOBP

and BOBC Secretariat will actively pursue the possibility of attracting donor support to facilitate the implementation of the recommended projects.

35. The Committee reflected on a suggestion made by the Director General of Fisheries of Malaysia in his opening address, wherein he had suggested that while BOBP has always concentrated its efforts on small-scale artisanal fisherfolk, the “BOBP should now consider promoting commercial fishing with the advent of modernization and better fishing technology”. While the Project Document, given the interactive nature of fisheries in the region, allows BOBP to work with any fishery provided the ultimate benefit reaches the small-scale artisanal fishers, the Committee felt that addressing the needs of a commercial fishery outside of such a context would perhaps only be possible if the Programme is able to attract additional funding.

36. It was noted that BOBP could collaborate with other regional agencies, particularly INFOFISH and SEAFDEC, in the areas of fishery information and programme development, in order to enhance effectiveness and to avoid duplication of efforts.

NEXT MEETING

37. The Committee gratefully acknowledged the invitation of the Government of India to host the 21st Meeting of the Advisory Committee in conjunction with the 10th Session of the IOFC/BOBC in New Delhi, subject to government clearance.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

38. The report was adopted on 29 March 1996.