

Bay of Bengal Programme

Fishing Technology

MANUAL BOAT HAULING DEVICES
IN THE MALDIVES

BOBP/WP/71



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Manual Boat Hauling Devices in the Maldives

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The Republic of Maldives, where fishing is a major industry, has a fleet of about 5500 traditional fishing craft. Most of them are in the 8-15 m range in length. As these craft, built with local and imported timber, are not coated with antifouling paints or sheathed to protect the timber, they are hauled on to the beach at least once a month for scraping of the hull and application of protective oil. Traditionally, the boats are hauled on to the beach by 50-80 men and women pulling the ends of a rope attached to the stern and the sides of the boat.

With labour becoming scarce in the atolls because of migration to tourist resort islands in search of more remunerative work, the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture of the Maldives (MOFA) requested the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) to develop simple low-cost manual hauling devices which would help to reduce the hauling crew. This paper documents the devices developed and the favourable reactions of the local fisherfolk.

This paper is the result of contributions made by MOFA staff, BOBP staff, Varuna Construction and Design Company, Madras, and all those who regularly hauled the boats on to the beach during trials in Madras, and the fisherfolk of the Maldives, both men and women, who participated in the trials.

The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) is a multi-agency regional fisheries programme which covers seven countries around the Bay of Bengal — Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand. The Programme plays a catalytic and consultative role : it develops, demonstrates and promotes new techniques, technologies or ideas to help improve the conditions of small-scale fisherfolk communities in member-countries. The BOBP is sponsored by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom, by member-governments in the Bay of Bengal region, and also by AGFUND (Arab Gulf Fund for United Nations Development Organizations) and UNDP. The executing agency is the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

This document is a working paper and has not been cleared by the government concerned or the FAO.

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Fig 1: Map of the Maldives

