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NATIONAL FISHWORKERS' FORUM

NATIONAL AND STATE LEVEL UNIONS' REPORTS

1991

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1991



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Foreword

The long awaited NFF report for 1991 is now ready. It is for the first time these reports of both National and State level unions are being published. This is to give an opportunity for a continued interaction on a national level. It creates an awareness among different state level unions about the differences in the nature of fisheries that exist in different states. It also creates solidarity among different unions. If this interaction has to be complete, these reports have to be translated to the local languages. I request the leaders of the state level unions to undertake this task.

It is important that each state level union writes a detailed report every year about their activities, issues and the status of fisheries in their state. The reports of Kalinga Fishermen's Forum and Dakshin Banga Matsysjibi Forum give us a detailed account of events and activities. I request all the other state level unions also to follow their approach.

This report comprises of three different sections. The NFF annual report presented at Malwan and the discussions that followed are part of the first section. The second section is a compilation of the reports of all the unions affiliated to NFF. The third section contains background papers. An important task of all unions should be to monitor the fisheries development taking place in the respective states. As part of this it will be useful to collect the annual reports of each state fisheries department. This year we are able to obtain reports from the Andhra and Gujarat Governments. These two reports along with the paper presented on behalf of the NFF at a national workshop at Cochin have been included as background papers.

I take this opportunity to thank Ms.Nalini Nayak for editing and correcting reports. Also I want to thank Mr.Vivekanandan, Mr. P.K. Krishnan and Mr.C.R.Aravindan of SIFFS and Mr.Ravikumar, Office Secretary of the NFF for their assistance in making this publication possible. Finally I want also to thank each State Level Union for collaborating with us in making their reports available for all.

Thomas Kocherry
Chairperson

10-11-1992

NFF REPORT — 1991

1. Introduction

Since 1978 the NFF has continued to protest against the growing contradictions in the fisheries sector in India. The NFF has played an important role in the legislation of the Marine Fishing Regulation Act and the Inland Fisheries Acts in different States in India. Further the Kanyakumari March of 1989 was a national campaign of the NFF which emphasized the urgent need for an ecological dimension with a slogan "protect waters/protect life". In 1990 the NFF organised a National Debate on a National Fisheries Policy among the fisheries scientists, fisherpeople, the Ministers and the Fisheries Departmental officials. This process continues. This discussion brought home to the NFF the need for a further understanding of fisheries, particularly in the inland sector. 1991 was an year of intense grass root level activity in understanding fisheries as well as strengthening the base.

2. Political situation

The growth of Imperialism and Capitalism has in no way been impeded these last years. Multinational companies have been expanding their foot hold. The Market Economy and Consumerism have been making their inroads into all areas of our lives.

In India we are in a very critical period. A third minority government has recently taken over. The economic policy is still oriented to growth based modern technology which threatens to further widen the gap between the rich and the poor. The recent IMF loan will make our country indebted further. This will further increase our dependency on the multinational companies while the basic needs of the vast majority of our people in the unorganised sector are not met. The very same people are becoming the victims of the violence of the higher castes and communalism. Tsundur in A.P. has become the symbol of this violence on Dalits. The unity of our nation is threatened by the violence in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Assam, the north east and the LTTE in Tamil Nadu.

The attempt to create an alternative has proved to be difficult. The collapse of the socialist experiment is almost complete with the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

2.1 Hope for the future

However the determination and the will of the people has proved to be the ultimate force. This is a warning to all forms of dominations, authoritarianism and centralism that exist in the world whether it be in the political field, in Religion, in the Trade Unions and other people's organisations.

3. The Fisheries Scenario

3.1 The Marine Sector

In the overall Indian context the marine fish production has gone up to 19.2 lakh tonnes in 1990. However, fishing in the inshore waters has reached, saturation point in many States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Chartered vessels, bull trawlers, and big trawling vessels are becoming a big threat to the coastal fisheries in West Bengal, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Despite being threatened the artisanal sector still maintains its leading role in marine production.

3.2 The Inland Sector

The Inland fish production in 1990 was 13.68 lakh tonnes. However, communities of fisherpeople who have been obtaining their livelihood from several rivers, lakes and ponds have been passing through a crisis period. Catches in the inland sector have been dwindling and the market network continues to be exploitative. Due to the scattered nature of these communities, they have not been able to organise themselves and articulate their problems to the same extent as their counterparts in coastal areas.

Pollution is a major problem. In fact large scale fish deaths are common all over India. There have been frequent reports of fish being affected by several diseases, including "mystery" diseases which have not been identified properly. This leads to a sudden drop in the demand for fish and deepen the crisis for the fisherfolk. Very extensive damage has been noted in recent times in Kerala, the Brahmaputhra and the Chattisgarh area of M.P. Another important reason for the rapid fish population decline in several rivers is the disruption of fish migration patterns caused by the construction of dams and barrages in rivers. The hilsa fish in West Bengal is decreasing. The Sundar Sarovar dam project on the Narmada river is also expected to reduce the numbers of hilsa fish. To make matters worse, at several places, middleman, contractors, and criminals have managed to corner fishing rights and traditional fishermen are reduced to working for them on exploitative terms.

3.3 Destructive fishing

As fisherpeople face a serious economic crisis, they sometimes resort to ecologically destructive fishing methods. While this brings a little extra catch in the short run it is likely to further deplete fish resources. The examples like ring seining, mini bottom trawling, using nets with small mesh size, using high watt bulbs for fishing, using dynamite etc. are becoming common all over India.

3.4 The IMF and fisheries

The borrowing from of IMF will create further dependency on multinational companies. The Government will stress on export oriented fisheries more than the protein rich for local consumption. The IMF demands and the new economic policy to encourage foreign investors,

will result in a further plunder of our resources and a further transformation of our fishing and marginalisation of the artisanal sector.

3.5 Issues for Discussion

- How can we challenge an export oriented fisheries policy?
- How can we act against the large scale fish kills and "mystery" diseases that cause fish death?
- How can we work towards non-destructive and ecologically sound fishing?
- How do we develop an alternate technology that will facilitate conservation of fish resources and integrate labour forces?
- How can we create an inter and intra dialogue within the fisheries sector?

4. People's Manifesto

During the last Elections the NFF has played a crucial role in the framing of a People's Manifesto. This People's Manifesto has created a new debate focusing on people's issues, before the nation. It is important that we continue this debate with other people's organisations. We should further try to monitor the effect of the new industrial policy on the fisheries sector.

4.1 Fisheries policy

It has been a major step that NFF was able to bring together scientists, ministers, planners, fisheries officials and fishworkers to discuss a fisheries policy on a national level. This discussion continued in West Bengal, Maharashtra and Kerala. It is very important that we must continue this debate at the national level and the state level.

4.2 Change of name

The name "National Fishermen's Forum" was changed to "National Fishworkers' Forum". This amendment has been accepted by the Registrar of Trade Unions. This has been a major step in the growth of our own class consciousness as well as our consciousness of a feminine perspective. We must further this in the days ahead. We must make a conscious effort to develop leadership among the workers and a greater participation of women in the committees and in the leadership role. How can we facilitate this?

4.3 Secretariat

The creation of a 5 member secretariat was a new initiative. It met twice, once in Thiruvananthapuram and a second time in Venkatanagaram, a fishing village near Tuni in A.P. It has

planned and evaluated the co-ordinating activities of the NFF. It helped the process of understanding the different fisheries in India particularly A.P. and West Bengal. It has planned the training programme for the leaders and the general body meeting in Malwan. We take this opportunity to thank A.J.Vijayan, Nalini Nayak and Vidyasagar for their collaboration and hard work. We suggest that this must be continued and that the non-members be invited to participate in the General Body and the Executive meetings.

4.4 Leadership Training Programme

Last year we organised a 3 days training programme for the leaders. This year we plan for a 10 days programme. This programme consist of (a) the understanding of the organised and unorganised sectors. (b) the understanding of the fisheries sector with reference to technology, resources, women's participation, intra sectoral conflicting interests, (c) NFF history, organisational matters, relations with the voluntary sector. We take this opportunity to thank John Kurien, Nalini Nayak, Vivekanandan, Sebastian Mathew, A.J.Vijayan, Bas Weilenga, J.John, Lal Koilparampil, Jacob Thundiyl and others for helping us in the training programme. We hope these participants will communicate their understandings to others in their respective states. We thank the Indian Social Institute for providing this facility and opportunity, we suggest that this programme must continue annually and be well documented.

5. Statewise feedback

It is interesting to note that this year we have taken very seriously the Statewise reports. We hope that this will open up new possibilities of interaction and inspire one another in the process of building up the NFF from the grass root level. We suggest that we maintain this tradition in the future. However it is important that we place certain important issues before you for your serious consideration and interaction so that we can grow together.

5.1 West Bengal Fisherpeople's Forum

For the past few years the West Bengal Union was in the pangs of birth. At last they have built up a union covering 9 districts and the central office is in Kakdwip. Kakdwip is the leading fishing area in West Bengal. About 1500, 45 foot gill netters are in operation. Besides, 1000 traditional plank built canoes fish in this area. The owners of the gill netters have a powerful Association and the workers have a union. Both sections are represented in our union. We have formed a Joint Action Committee having representation from all sections. They identified the following issues for joint sessions. They are: problems of labour, lack of marketing facilities and very low prices in times of a bumper catch, indiscriminate price rise in ice and nylon twine by the owners concerned, the threat by the chartered vessels and big trawlers, and the dying traditional sector. They have decided to tackle this unitedly. They have submitted the application for a state level registration. This will be complete within a month or two.

Another problem the West Bengal union faced was a change of leadership. It is important to discuss the issue of leadership. How can we facilitate a democratic process in our own structures? It is also important to discuss the issue of the threat of chartered vessels and big trawlers.

5.2 Sundarban Samudrik Matsyajivi Shramik Union

It is a Registered Trade Union of the workers in the mechanised gill net boats. This is the only Registered Trade Union of workers from the Mechanised Sector and has recently got affiliated to the NFF. Mr. Santhosh Das, president of this union is an outstanding leader capable of handling the labour problems with the boat owners. They succeeded to refuse machine made nets so that the women could continue to have employment. Here is an example of how a group can counter the negative effects of mechanisation. The next step is the organisation of the women.

5.3 Kalinga Fishermen's Forum

The process of building up co-operatives and the union go hand in hand in Orissa. The problem of Registration of the union still remains. Here the voluntary sector is a big support to the union and the co-operative, but this close link can also lead to difficulties on both sides. Therefore it is very important to discuss the role of the voluntary sector and the union (political involvement). It is also important to discuss how we jointly face the threat of chartered vessels and trawlers. The present union base has not been able to move very far in checking the onslaught of the trawlers.

5.4 Andhra Pradesh Fishworkers' Union

The union exists only among a small section of very traditional fisherpeople. They are far away from the highly mechanised sector of Visakapatnam. There the deep sea vessels, mechanised trawlers and traditional sector co-exist. Still 30-40% of the catch is from the artisanal sector. There is a self imposed ban on trawling from April 15 to June 15. Women vendors are present in large numbers in Visakapatnam and other small harbours.

The union has submitted its application for Registration although it is imperative that it expands its base. It has to be in the heart of a fishing centre. Only then it is possible to have an interaction within the sector and build the inter sectoral debate, particularly to tackle the issue of chartered vessels and the big trawlers. We must also discuss the issue of fish vending women and what the union can do in organising them?

5.5 Tamil Nadu Fishworkers' Union (TFU)

This is a Registered Trade Union having about 3000 members. They are highly skilled workers. They organised a massive agitation this year. Their main demands are (1) Ban on trawling during monsoon time (2) implementation of the marine fishing Regulation Act and (3) facilities for women to carry fish in the buses. During the last agitation the Government agreed to allow women to carry their fish in the buses. The other demands are not yet met.

The TFU is planning to have a joint action with the Kerala Swatanthra Malsya Thozhilali Federation and the Bay of Bengal Fishermen's union in 1992 by projecting the common demands of the ban on trawling during the monsoon months. At the same time it will be necessary to discuss whether such a struggle can include other unions with the objective to conserve fish resources as a common concern of all.

5.6 Bay of Bengal Fishermen's Union (BOBFU)

Although the BOBFU was very inactive for the last few years it has picked up and has organised units in 22 villages. Together with the TFU and KSMTF they are trying to organise the joint action for the implementation of the Marine Fishing Regulation Act.

5.7 Kerala Swathanthra Matsya Thozhilali Federation

Since 1981 the KSMTF has been waging the struggle for the conservation of fish resources. It has been at the forefront of all the fisheries involvements and changes. Legislations and welfare measures were enacted by the Government at the intervention of the KSMTF. During the last three years there was a temporary trawling ban. It has many litigations in the High Court and the Supreme Court to its credit. However during the last year it did not take up any Statewide mobilisation except a fishing harbour blockade by the boats. Although it did try to initiate an intra sector debate, it did not pursue this actively and this should be taken more seriously. Also it is vital to discuss the joint struggle for 1992 with TFU and BOBFU.

5.8 All Goa Fishermen's Union (AGFU)

The AGFU was once upon a time at the forefront of fisherpeople's struggles in India, now it seems to be dormant. Many of the fishermen have moved to the mechanised sector and Hotel Industry. The fisheries sector itself is facing a crisis. In this context the AGFU is organising a survey to find out what is happening in the fisheries sector. The leaders of the AGFU are very much involved in the formation of a new political party. Further clarification is required regarding the roles of a trade union and a political party and their interaction. It is also important to discuss the present status of the traditional sector and the mechanised sector in the context of Goa.

5.9 Malwan Shramik Machimar Sangam

In Maharashtra fisheries, 70-80% of the craft are already mechanised. Sindhudurg is the area where the traditional sector is still active. But the presence of purse-seiners is becoming a major problem resulting in overfishing. The presence of the puffers is increasing in this area now. The puffers is a specie that appears when there is a depletion of stock of other common eatable fish. Therefore we have decided to initiate the process of discussion on the depletion of fish resources in this area.

6. Conclusion

This year has been a year of learning, building up of the base and the grass root level activities. However, we cannot minimise the importance of political struggles and their impact on stabilising the movement. We should keep this in mind next year and dense creative ways to project our demands through united struggles. Next year will be the election year in the NFF. It is important that we identify and prepare the new leadership to take over. The leadership training is one effort in this direction. During political struggles we must encourage and allow

this leadership to emerge so that the NFF will have a new leadership with new dynamism. Let us all collaborate in this search and formation of leaders.

To conclude this report we extend our thanks to all the State level unions, the members of the executive, members of the Secretariat, ICSF, ISI, Delhi Forum, PJC, PSA, ILO, Planning Commission for their collaboration and support. At the same time the NFF cannot but mention the workers and leaders who became victims of violence. May their sacrifices, strengthen us and inspire us so that we may work together to carry the hopes of the struggling people forward.

Harekrishna Debnath
General Secretary

Thomas Kocherry
Chairperson

DISCUSSION OF 1991 NFF REPORT

Discussion on the Report

1. All agree with the introduction. But it is very brief. It would have been better if we could recapture the whole history of the NFF in a summary form as a background.
2. The members of General Body appreciate the views expressed about the political situation. It is true that there are serious difficulties and crises in the creation of an alternative. However we strongly feel that we need to lay stress on our independent, autonomous character. We must make an all out effort to ensure greater participation of the people in the process of decision making at various levels which will make our democracy more participatory and meaningful.

2.1 Political Situation

It would have been better if we could include some more movements in India. Tribals', Women's and Daliths' movements are of great importance in India. These give us hope to continue our struggles. The Chattisgarh Mukti Morcha's fight is intensifying and gives us hope.

3.0 Marine Sector

We express our serious concern about the menace created by chartered vessels and bull trawlers. Particularly in West Bengal the deep sea fishing vessels are a great menace. The NFF should immediately intervene in the matter and take up the issue at the national level. A concrete plan of agitation must be worked out by each union to ensure the protest and to suggest ways of arresting the destruction. The Joint Ventures created by the new economic policy is going to destroy our sea.

3.1 Inland Sector

We should press for proper legislative and administrative measures all over the country to ensure absolute right of fish workers for fishing and fish culture in all government owned water bodies including reservoirs, lakes, lagoons, canals etc. This is especially important and urgent for the rehabilitation of fish workers displaced by the creation of dams, barrages, industrial establishments etc.

The campaign against water pollution of any form will have to be continued. Different State level unions should take up specific cases and should act on it till it is arrested. Damodar in the lower DVC range in West Bengal, polluted by the Durgapur Fertilizers Ltd and other big factories leading to large scale fish deaths, is a case in point. The fishworkers of Bankura and Bardwan district around Rondia Barrages are fighting against it. They are planning to go to the court. They request the NFF to be party to their struggles. In Kerala the KSMTF undertook a major struggle in view of the inland fish disease. But the Government has not taken any

serious step. The KSMTF has to act in a much more serious way both in the line of study and protest. The other States too must come into the scene.

All steps must be taken for the fish workers to get adequate compensation when there are large scale fish kills taking place. There has been a link established between fish disease and large scale pollution. But this needs to be analyzed and studied so that the facts can be established.

The leasing out of Chilka Lake has become a major issue in Orissa. But the Kalinga Fishermen's Union must collaborate with the movement organised by the students and fish workers. The NFF should facilitate this.

In case of displacement of fishworkers from the traditional fishing grounds for the creation of reserved and restricted areas for forest, wild life, development etc., proper and adequate professional rehabilitation must be made a pre-condition.

The fishworkers of Thorkali Namkhana, Gosaba, Sandehkhali, Hingalganji and other areas of the Sundarbans are fighting for the restoration of their fishing right in the traditional fishing grounds and around the so-called "Core-area" of the Sundarbans. The West Bengal Forum requests the NFF to take up the matter with the Central Minister for Environment and Forestry.

3.2 Destructive Fishing

Every constituent of the NFF must fight against destructive fishing. We must campaign against this issue in the traditional sector, we shall try to create an ecologically sound fishing. In the struggle for survival we loose every thing in the long run unless we create a consciousness of sustainable development. All over the world the implementation of fishing regulations and management comes only when total destruction takes place. Let us learn from history or we too will be condemned by the future generation.

3.3 The New Economic Policy

There is a possibility of isolating the consumers from the fishworkers. So far they have been supporting the struggles of fishworkers. Because of the increase of export due to joint ventures, the fish will become more and more scarce and dear within the country. Naturally the consumers will turn against the fish workers. It is very important that we get in touch with different mass movements and fight against such policies. The prices are on the increase and there is no parallel in history for such increase. People must rise up. How and when should be everybody's concern. The people's defense must be built up. When milk price goes up — we must be able to say no to milk. We must be able to do without it. Such boycott is also necessary.

3.4 Issues for discussion

- Restrict the fishing rights and ownership of the fishing implements to actual fisherpeople only.

- Arrange wider campaign against the new economic policy and organise mass struggles in collaboration with other movements.
 - Orient the indigenous technology to capture the maximum prawn resource and avoid the use of trawlers.
 - Try to organise more dialogue with mechanised and trawler owners and workers.
 - Try to organise the workers in the mechanised sector.
4. We must continue to project a People's Manifesto. Wide discussion among people and different peoples movements should take place.
 - 4.1 We should take up our suggestion to work out a national fisheries policy. Wherever such workshops take place, the NFF and member unions must intervene and do the needful.
 - 4.2 What effort can we take to increase the participation of women. The proposal for a continued discussion on women's perspective must be taken up seriously.
 - 4.3 The effectiveness of the secretariat comes from the smallness of such a workable group. It should continue and intervene effectively.
 - 4.4 Leadership Training Programme was well done. It must continue. Isn't it possible to have it at State level too. Such Leadership Training Programmes will prove effective only when we see the fruit of it in 1992.
 - 5.0 Statewise feed back and written reporting must continue seriously. It will create a new interaction at the national level.
 - 5.1 The chartered vessels and big trawlers in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal are a big threat. A concerted approach to tackle this is very important and it should be facilitated by the NFF. The NFF also should facilitate the dialogue with the workers and owners of deep sea fishing vessels. To ensure a democratic process in the structure of our constituent unions the NFF should keep a regular surveillance by way of tour of the federal leadership in different states and other grass root levels.
 - 5.2 The women could take up net making on a co-operative level by keeping the merchants out. This could be experimented and tested in a small level for study and observation.
 - 5.3 K.F.U.

Started first co-operatives and then began the unionisation. They are trying to be independent and to create their own funds. They are taking political actions like Dharnas, Rallies, Hunger strike etc. and are extending activities in Puri, Bhubaneswar and Chilka. We are trying our best to obtain the Registration of the union immediately.

5.4 A.P.F.U.

The APFU is a small organisation. They have not got the registration yet. They are trying to build up the women's wing in Visakapatanam area particularly to face the displacement problem.

5.5 T.F.U.

Though there was initial enthusiasm in the TFU to fight, it did not continue. Frustration crept in because they could not get the benefit of Rs.10,000 debt Redemption. However these fishermen are determined to collaborate with BOBFU.

5.6 B.O.B.F.U.

After a period of lethargy, leaders and fishermen are in a mood to have the joint struggle.

5.7 K.S.M.T.F. is waiting for the joint struggle. However the victory of the previous years have to be sustained. The fight against the fish disease led to some success. However all did not get the compensation.

5.8 A.G.F.U.

Xavier Pinto is taking the leadership in finding out the present status of fisheries in Goa. This will help to clarify the role of the Trade Union in Goa. It needs a different leadership to continue the struggle.

5.9 M.S.M.S.

The MSMS are continuing their struggles against Trawlers and Purse-seines. They are fighting against the marine park which will destroy the livelihood of fishermen in Sindhudurg area.

6.0 Ongoing struggles must continue. We need to build more support structures eg. co-operatives, literacy programmes, campaign, by which we will be able to pursue our struggles. Let us create more linkages with other peoples' movements, so that there is hope for an alternative.

STATE LEVEL REPORTS

DAKSHIN BANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM
(SOUTH BENGAL FISHER PEOPLE'S FORUM)
ANNUAL REPORT (1991)

1. Short History

Organisational activities for the unionisation of the fisherpeople of West Bengal began a few years back. Initially the activity of the Union was conducted in the name of West Bengal Small Marine Fishermen's Union which was later renamed as West Bengal Fishermen's Union. Then the Union's existence was confined in one or two villages of South 24-Parganas district only. But it got momentum after the Kanyakumari March of NFF in 1989. Since then the Union expanded rapidly and in the meantime it covered nine out of seventeen districts of West Bengal (viz. South 24-Parganas, North 24-Parganas, Midnapur, Calcutta, Nadia, Howrah, Hooghly, Bardhaman and Bankura). Now the Union represents all section of fisheries—namely marine, inland and culture fisheries' workers, fish seed collectors, fish vendors, net-makers and employees of fish merchants and fish plants etc. The Union has ultimately been renamed as Dakshin Banga Matsyajibi Forum in 1991 with its Head Office at Kakdwip (in South 24-Parganas district), the leading fishing area.

2. Last Year's Activities

- 2.1 As a follow-up action of the National Seminar on Fisheries Policy in the 8th Plan we organised a State Level Seminar at Zonal Adaptive Research Station at Kakdwip on the 1st March, 1991. It was presided over by Prof.N.C.Dutta, Head of the Department of Zoology, University of Calcutta. Mr/A.K.Ghorai, I.A.S., former Fisheries Secretary, Mr.P.C.Chakravorty, Joint Director of Fisheries, Dr.Raghunath Das, Scientist—C.A.D.C., Dr.Biplab Chakraborty (Calcutta University). Mr.J.G.Chatterjee, of C.I.C.F.R.I. and Mr.Dipankar Saha of Nimpith Krishi Vigyan Kendra were among the resource persons. Representatives of different Unions and organisations of fisherpeople took active part in the discussion. The recommendations of the Seminar were sent to the Government.
- 2.2 A memorandum was submitted to the B.D.O., Kakdwip on 23-3-1991 by a delegation lead by Shri.Thomas Kocherry. A copy of the same was sent to the Director of Fisheries, West Bengal.

The demands were:

- i) Complete ban on trawling
- ii) Enactment of Inland and Marine Fisheries Regulation Act
- iii) Protection of fisherpeople from piracy
- iv) Subsidy on fuel, crafts and gears
- v) Rehabilitation of all displaced and homeless fisherpeople.

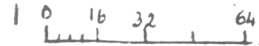
- 2.3 A mass rally was organised at Kakdwip on 20.3.91 on the above demands.

WEST BENGAL

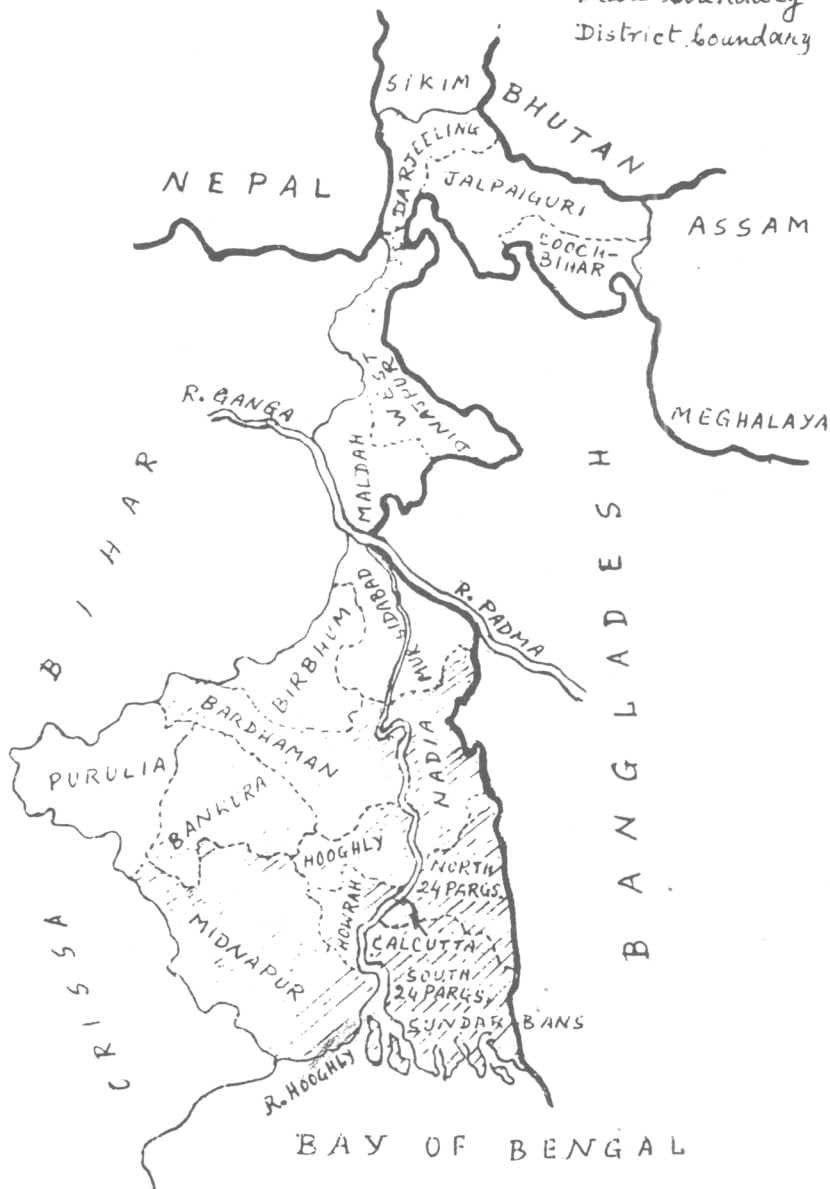
Showing districts covered by —

DAKSHIN BANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM 
[SOUTH BENGAL FISHERPEOPLES FORUM]

Scale English Mile —



International boundary ———
State boundary ———
District boundary - - - - -



- 2.4 A mass rally was held at Jharkhali on the 24th March, 1991 with same demands as Kakdwip Rally together with Protection of Mangroves.

NFF Chairperson participated and addressed both the rallies.

- 2.5 Mangrove seeds have been collected from the Sundarbans in collaboration with the Forest Department. The Forum has taken up a Mangrove Plantation Programme at Jharkhali area.

- 2.6 A joint Action Committee has been formed at Kakdwip with the representatives of West Bengal Forum, National Forum, Gill netters' Association and Sundarban Samadrik Matsyajibi Sramik Union to tackle the problems of labour, marketing of catch, threat by trawlers, indiscriminate increase of price of ice and nylon twine by the owners concerned and perishing traditional sector unitedly.

A Joint meeting of the Joint Action Committee, Dakshin Banga Forum Executive Committee and representatives of different regional units of the Union was attended by Chairperson of NFF on 31-8-1991.

The Joint Action Committee has taken up the issue of price of ice and has been successful in fixing up the price of ice for peak and lean seasons after a fair amount of agitation, picketing and boycotting of the local ice plants at Kakdwip.

- 2.7 The Forum has registered several cases against the damage of nets and gears by trawlers.

In addition to above activities we had to undertake the tough task of enrolling members in 7 (seven) more districts this year. The process is going on. The application for registration of the Union has already been submitted to the registering authority.

- 2.8 A mass petition was submitted to the Director of Sundarban Tiger Reserve and a delegation of the Union met him on the issue of harassment of the fishermen in the Sundarban areas by the Forest Department and Tiger Reserve personnel.

3. Demands Of The Forum

- ✓ i) Complete ban on trawling
- ii) Enactment of Inland and Marine Fisheries Regulation Act
- iii) Compensation to the fishworkers for the loss incurred due to Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (mysterious fish disease) and other calamities.
- iv) Subsidy on fuel, crafts and gears
- v) Subsidy on Aquaculture inputs
- ✓ vi) Prohibition of privatisation of fisheries
- ✓ vii) Rehabilitation of all displaced fisherpeople
- ✓ viii) Formation of a Fishery Guard to protect coastal fisherpeople and fishing grounds from the atrocities of pirates and trawlers.
- ✓ ix) Conservation and regeneration of Mangroves
- ✓ x) Protection of Waterbodies from pollution.

4. Problems Faced In Achieving The Demands And Self Critique

During the last two years the main activities of our Union was centered around Kakdwip, the main marine fishing centre and Jharkhali—one of the main estuarine fishing centres of West Bengal. Both the places are in the southern part of the district of South 24-Parganas. Most of the fisherpeople of these places are refugees from East Bengal (now Bangladesh). Many of them have come after the emergence of Bangladesh, like their predecessors, as the victims of communal partition. The process continues till date. It is these refugee fisherpeople who have introduced marine fishing with gill net and motorised boats which boosted up the ecologically sound marine fishing in West Bengal over the last 15-20 years. There are about 1500 gill netters motorised boats and about 1000 country boats with a total workforce of above 20,000 fishermen operating from Kakdwip and its neighbourhood alone. In addition, there is a big number of net makers, boat builders and other ancillary workers.

At Jharkhali there are about 300 country boats engaging about 2000 fishworkers in the estuaries in and around the Sundarbans.

- 4.1 In spite of such a big concentration of active fishworkers and in spite of having all the conflicts and constraints in the fisheries sector like other parts of the country, these people could not build up any sustainable movement so far because of their peculiar legal status—which needs an in depth understanding:

Though it is the solemn duty of India to rehabilitate the displaced Hindu, Buddhist and Christian minorities of East Bengal—the victims of communal partition—the Government of India has taken an unjust attitude towards the refugees coming after the emergence of Bangladesh. They are denied the right of Citizenship and rehabilitation and worst of all, they are termed as “infiltrators” liable to be pushed back to Bangladesh. They have left their ancestral abode for ever and they have no will or scope of going back. In the context of this apathetic attitude of the Government they have to depend solely on the sympathy and mercy of others for living in India concealing their actual date of arrival.

Taking advantage of this handicapped position of these hopeless people all interested quarters want to keep them under subjugation to cash on their plight. This is why these fisherfolk always try to avoid confrontation of all forms which may expose them to the authorities concerned. Even in case of any offence committed against them (e.g. destroying their nets by trawlers, piracy etc.) they hesitate to file a case to the police for fear of their own antecedents being dug out. So the legal status of these fisherfolk remains to be a big hurdle in the way of any conclusive agitational activity.

- 4.2 The actual fishing ground is far off from the centres like Kakdwip, Jharkhali, Raidighi etc. During the monsoon season (May - October) the fishermen usually remain in the fishing ground for 7 to 15 (seven to fifteen) days for a single voyage and come to the centre for a short while to unload their catch and to take fresh inputs. They seldom stay at the centres rendering the task of any sizable agitation very difficult during the monsoons.

The winter fishing (November - February) is operated from some isolated barren islands in the Bay (viz. Zambudwip, Kalisthan etc) far off from Kakdwip, Jharkhali etc. The fishworkers stay at those isolated islands for the whole winter season. For any effective mobilisation they need to be brought to any important seat of administration like

Kakdwip, Diamond Harbour, Canning or Calcutta which is a gigantic task beyond the capability of our union at the present stage.

- 4.3 The topography of South 24-Parganas is a big hurdle for any speedy co-ordination among different fishing centres and villages. The available public transport system consumes a lot of time and man-power . During the monsoons the situation becomes worse when many areas become almost inaccessible without any special transport arrangement.

Future Plans

1. Agitation against trawling will be the main task of the Union for 1992.
2. Programme of Plantation of Mangroves at Jharkhali will continue.
3. Expansion of Unionisation work will continue together with consolidation of the existing units.
4. Efforts will be made through the Joint Action Committee to tackle the identified problems and to achieve the demands mentioned earlier.
5. The problem of large scale fish kill due to Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome in West Bengal as a whole and that in the Lower Damodar Range due to Water pollution will be the two important issues of our activities in Inland Sector.
6. Local level training camps for the Union activities will be organised at different centres of our society.

Nirmalendu Das
President

Shyamal Kumar Mandal
General Secretary

Dakshin Banga Matsyajibi Forum

KERALA INDEPENDENT FISHWORKERS FEDERATION REPORT FOR 1991

Short History of the Union

It was in 1979 that our union started functioning at State level. During 1979-80, four district level unions came together and gave birth to the Federation. But the Federation was registered as a trade union only in 1983. The issue that stimulated the growth of the union was the conflict between the traditional fishermen and the mechanised trawling boats. In the inland sector the traditional fishermen struggled against the pollution of the back waters by various factories.

In the 1979-80 period, we were in the forefront demanding new legislation to protect the interests of traditional fishermen and fish resources. The union also became a member of the NFF from its inception. Because of our continued efforts, Kerala enacted the Marine Fishing Regulation Act in 1980 itself.

The first major struggle of the Federation took place in 1981. There was just one demand to ban monsoon trawling. The agitation resulted in the first ever Scientific study by an Expert Committee on the need to conserve the fish resources. This agitation continued in the following years too. The 1984 struggle of fishworkers in Kerala spearheaded by us was historic, as it was the first state-level agitation of its kind. This struggle included other demands too. The Government finally succumbed to the demand of monsoon trawl ban only in 1989. In order to consider different aspects of the need and implementation of fisheries management measures in the Kerala seas three expert committees were constituted from 1984 to 1991. Only from 1989 to 1991 this management measure has been enforced. But the number of ban days decreased in successive years as the stiff opposition of trawler owners increased.

We must emphatically state that, as a result of trawl ban, the fish landings have improved tremendously especially in the traditional sector. The CMFRI figures show that in 1989 and 1990, Kerala's marine fish landings crossed 6 lakh tonnes. The highest landings ever before these years was 4.5 lakh tonnes in 1973. The experiences of fishermen all over Kerala also justify these figures. It must be acknowledged that good rainfall during these years also helped to improve the catches.

Both at the state and district levels, our union has a history of many other struggles too. It has resolved many issues and established the rights of the fishworkers. Some of the important achievements of the Federation are given below.

1. ✓ Sanction of educational lump-sum grant for the children of fishworkers by the State Government.
2. Ban of night trawling.
3. Special buses and train bogey exclusively for fish selling women.
4. ✓ Monthly old age pension of Rs. 75 for fishworkers.
5. Total exemption to fish selling women from paying market fees.

6. Stopping anchoring of trawling boats in many important areas of traditional fishing.

Very many different agitational methods were employed by our union to achieve these demands. They include mass rallies, mass dharnas, picketing, hunger strikes by leaders (individually & collectively), Blocking Rail, Road & Air traffic, Fishing Harbour blockade, strike, Catching trawlers which violate the laws and rules at Sea, Marching to Fisheries Minister's residence or Fisheries Offices without prior notice etc.

One important aspect of our struggles had been the active participation of women in large numbers. Involvement of community as a whole was encouraged for the success of struggles.

Here, we also have to recall some painful aspects of the struggles too. Seven traditional fishermen were attacked and killed by the operators of trawling boats during the last 10 years. In 1984, many fishworkers, including women and children, were severely beaten up and then kept in Jail by the Police.

At the moment we have seven district committees working under the State Committee of the Federation. There are village level and Taluk level committees also which work under each district committee.

Major Events of last year

The most important event during the year was the struggle demanding compensation and prevention of the fish disease which struck the inland waters of Kerala this year. The disease which is called E.U.S. affected most of the inland waters and almost the entire inland fishing population. On the whole around 45000 were rendered jobless. Tonnes of dead fish began to float in the inland waters. Even good fishes which were not affected by the epidemic could not fetch any price because people were afraid to eat it. This was the result of the panic created by the Scientists as well as media spreading wrong & unscientific news about it. The State Government, was not doing much either to stop the spreading of the disease or in helping the affected fishworkers.

It was in this background, the Alleppey District Committee of the inland fishworkers met and decided to launch an agitation with the following 3 demands. (i) The State Government should pay Rs. 3000/= per fishworker affected by EUS. (ii) Take preventive measures to stop the spreading of EUS and start control centres manned by experts & officials in areas which were severely affected (iii) Fix the floor price for fish and government to take steps for procuring and marketing. The agitation started on the 7th of October with an indefinite hunger strike by the District President before a Taluk office. Slowly the agitation began to pick up and most of the fishworkers from the inland areas started supporting it. In the mean time, at all other district headquarters where our federations has units, relay-hunger strikes were started. In Alleppey, the inland fishworkers one day collected together and picketed the National Highways also. Still the government was not responding. Then, the Federation organised a Jeep Rally from Wynad a northern most district to the South explaining to people our demands as well as the situation of inland fishworkers as a result of the eruption of the fish epidemic. On 1st Nov. the former President of the Federation and leader from the Inland sector, Jose Kaleekal, started an indefinite hunger strike in front of the State Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram. Together with that we launched a series of different types of agitation which began

to put a lot of pressure on the State Government. Hundreds of workers, including women & children started coming and camped before the Secretariat Gate. About 50 women started a 'march on foot' covering about 200 kilometres. Children of fishworkers celebrated the 'Children Day' on Nov 14th with new slogans like 'Hunger Day' etc. parallel to the official celebration. Hundreds of fisherwomen marched towards the residence of fisheries Minister with diseased fishes in their hands without informing the Police and they almost reached the Gates, creating big panic to which the police did not know how to respond.

Meanwhile on the 10th day Jose Kaleekal was forcefully removed by the Police and taken to Hospital, but he refused to take any food, and continued fasting inside the Hospital. He was released from the Hospital after 2 days and he came back to the Secretariat gate again. Finally the Government relented. The Chief Minister himself had to call the leaders of Federation for a Conference. So on the 15th of Nov. this conference was held and the Chief Minister assured us that he would declare the compensation and other relief measures within two days. On that assurance the Hunger-strike and other agitations were called-off. Next day the Chief Minister announced a compensation of Rs.150/- each per affected inland fishworker and a week's free ration.

This agitation we feel has certainly made the entire population of Kerala aware of the fact that our inland water bodies are facing serious pollution problems which would ultimately lead to the total annihilation of living organisms. This agitation also helped to create a sense of unity, solidarity and an awareness of their own strength to fight for their rights among the so-far unorganised inland fishworkers. All this perhaps is more valuable than the relief measures announced by the Government. We also want to record and appreciate here the tremendous support we received from the general public and very prominent citizens for the agitation. There are many more things and aspects we would like to share regarding this agitation, but for lack of time and space we are not able to do so.

Another major event last year was the ban of monsoon trawling again for the third year consecutively, this time by the new UDF Government. This year we had only one agitation, i.e. blocking of the Cochin Fishing Harbour, and the Government banned it soon after. But anyhow, they withdrew the order one week early in the face of stiff opposition on the part of the trawler owners.

Another event this year was the agitation in Kollam district on the 'night trawling ban' issue. Though trawling is banned from sunset to sunrise, the trawl boats in this district continue to violate it especially in September - December months. The district committee of the Federation took this up again and caught hold of 14 boats which violated the law. There were a series of violent incidents due to this problem and many fish workers on both sides were hurt in clashes. Two country crafts and about ten fishing nets were destroyed by the trawler operators and our traditional fishermen then retaliated and caught hold of two trawl boats and destroyed them. Finally the District Collector convened a conference and a settlement was reached. The authorities wanted time till they acquire effective mechanisms to implement the night trawl ban effectively. So till 31st December, trawl boats were allowed to go to sea after 12 midnight.

An important event in the northern district, Kozhikode, is the formation of fishermen marketing societies under the union. It's main function is to tackle the exploitation of middlemen and merchants. Though there was stiff opposition and resistance on the part of these vested interests, the union has so far succeeded in containing them.

The federation organised a State level seminar as a follow-up of the NFF Delhi seminar. It was well attended by fishworkers as well as fisheries officials, scientists, planners and social activists. As a continuous effort in this line a State level seminar on 'Fishing Harbours and Landing Facilities' was also held later.

Though we had a few meetings and dialogues with the trawler owners associations we could not succeed much in reconciling the serious issues involved. But we jointly organised a State level seminar on 'Mandal Recommendations and Fishermen Communities'.

We had a memorial get together on the first anniversary of the tragic accidental death of Joyachan Antony who was our former President and a member of the NFF Executive Committee. On that occasion, the federation gave an amount of Rs.30,000/- which we collected from fishworkers and other well-wishers to his bereaved family.

Many of our union's activists collaborated with the census of fishing crafts undertaken by SIFFS during the year. The result of the survey will be publicised by the union as an awareness programme. The Government of Kerala has recently started a new welfare programme for the fishermen. Each fisherman has to pay Rs.45/- per month for eight months which comes to a total amount of Rs.360/- and then the Government will pay back an amount of Rs.1080/- during the lean season, i.e. monsoon months. The union will try to mobilise all fishermen to make use of this scheme.

The major issue

The major issue faced by the fishermen of Kerala is still the 'management' problem. Our fish stock is getting depleted on the one hand, but the fishing effort in both the traditional as well as mechanised sectors seem to increase. So the capital investments increase and stiff competition arise. Fishworkers with small-scale and traditional type implements are thrown in the race. Suppliers of OBMs and nylon nets etc make good profits. So we have less and less fish and more and more people to catch it with sophisticated means. How to resolve this problem of crisis is the most crucial issue that we face.

The demands of the Union

As a new UDF Government has come into power in Kerala, the federation has submitted a new charter of demands. The leaders of the federation met the State Fisheries Minister in person on 6th July 1991 and appraised her of the major demands. The following are the 12 demands.

- ✓ 1. Ban trawling during the three monsoon months.
- ✓ 2. Enforce strictly all the orders issued on the basis of KMFRA.
3. Enact a new legislation to protect the inland fish resources and allow the actual inland fishermen to operate on one licence in all the inland water bodies.

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4. ✓ Enact a new legislation, to give the right to own and operate fishing implements exclusively to actual fishermen.
 5. Collect all the arrears from exporters and boat owners towards the welfare fund and increase the monthly pension from Rs.75 to Rs.100.
 6. ✓ Exclude all non-fishermen from the membership of cooperatives and conduct democratic elections to elect new committees in it.
 7. ✓ Ply more buses exclusively for fisherwomen and create more facilities like toilets and clean selling platforms etc. for them in the markets.
 8. Increase the fishworker's death-cum-accident insurance amount from Rs.21,000/- to Rs.25,000/-
 9. Create more small mini-harbours and landing centres exclusively for small and traditional fishermen.
 10. ✓ Give pattayam (land rights) to all fisherfolk land holdings and give new land to landless fishworkers.
 11. Give all arrears of lump-sum grant to fishworkers' children.
 12. Pressurise the Central Government to enact all the recommendations of the Mandal Commission which are applicable to fisherpeople.

Organisational problems

When we think in terms of organisational problems concerning the building up the movement, there are very many. Though our federation has a history of more than 10 years of involvement, we still do not have even one unit in four marine districts. In northern Kerala particularly, we still have to make inroads.

Though fisherwomen outnumber men whenever we have rallies, dharnas or picketing we must say that women are not properly represented in the leadership of the federation. In some places, women are not given even membership. This has to be rectified.

Though we have started a journal to publicise our activities and conscientise the fishworkers, we have not been able to run it regularly and improve its circulation.

Though our Union has been very successful in condemning the destructive types of fishing gears, we must say that many traditional fishermen who also form part of our union have initiated the use of similar methods for fishing in recent times. Though one might say, our traditional fishermen are forced to use these to survive along with mechanised crafts, in the long run it is very harmful and our integrity can be questioned. Since our union is 'independent' in nature, i.e. not affiliated to any political parties, it has its merits and problems too. All political parties look at us as enemies and try to defeat or demoralise us using power and

other means. Goondas and Police were used to crush us and some of our leaders and cadres were attacked, and beaten up.

One important issue, which we so far could not take up is the plight of women fishworkers who migrate to other parts of the country. Their working and living conditions in the processing and freezing plants where they work are so bad and they are even tortured and exploited. Recently there were even reports of deaths of some of them caused by harassment by owners and contractors. We request the support of Fishworkers Unions in other States to resolve this problem.

Future plans

In 1992, there is a plan initiated by the KK Union to have a joint agitation of Kerala and Tamil Nadu fishworkers with a set of demands which include monsoon trawl ban.

KSMTF will also focus on the charter of Demands and pressurise the Government to implement them.

We have to enlarge our area of activities too and it requires more committed leaders who can spare time to travel and stay out of station for longer periods.

KALINGA FISHERMEN UNION (KFU)

Gopalpur-on-sea. Pin: 761001

Ganjam, Orissa

1. Brief History of Kalinga Fishermen Union (K.F.U)

The Kalinga Fishermen Union was formed in the month of August 1986. The initial organisational activities started in the year 1980 in the form of strengthening existing three marine fishermen co-operatives and protest actions by the fishermen against the occupation of the coastal area through planting of trees by forest department starting of military base establishment of a port and ensuing threat of displacement of fishermen. The same struggle continues and the problems too are getting intensified.

But it was in August 1986 when the Andhra trawlers began to fish very close to the coast within 5 km. (against the Orissa marine legislation) in a massive manner threatening the very existence of the fishermen, that all the fishermen irrespective of all the local differences got together to chalk out a long term action against the intrusion. That was the beginning of the K.F.U. Gradually the fishermen from other parts of Orissa joined the movement. Besides the campaign and struggles enumerated below K.F.U. undertook the following activities.

Meeting with Revenue Minister Mr.S.N.Nayak, 10th June 1991 at Konark

200 delegates from Ganjam and Puri were present at the meeting and demanded the following:

1. Permanent settlement of all the coastal fishermen as most of them are constantly in the fear of displacement.
2. Banning the massive illegal distilling of alcohol near to the fishermen settlement.

He promised to give permanent home patta near the fishing area and to remove all the distilleries near the settlement.

Result

Till now no action has been taken.

Meeting with Fisheries Department at the Secretariat on 14th , 15th March, 1991.

Eight K.F.U. delegates met fisheries minister Ms.Surya Narayan Patro on 14th and discussed the issue of limiting the trawling area, banning of trawling during the three months (June, July, August) of monsoon and of patrolling the area by a speed boat.

Result

An officer was appointed in Gopalpur and after three months he was transferred and at present there is no one to watch the movement of trawlers.

Emergency Meeting of K.F.U. at Gopalpur Youth Hostel July 30, 1991.

The meeting of representative from fishermen villages and youth representatives met to discuss the sale of prawn. They decided to sell headless prawn in Kg. system instead of selling in 'PANAS' (80 pieces 1 to 1.5 Kg, depending on the size)

Pana System

As fishermen are illiterate and not aware of Kg. and the outside marketing system they used to sell prawn as pana, ie. 80 pieces and fixed a price depending on size. But the actual price of a pana is always higher. Here there is need for the system in favour of the actual fishermen.

Now the transaction is done on Kg. basis and as a result the fishermen get a better and consistent price. Now they get about 30% more price. The merchants are still trying to take advantage of other fishermen who are not aware of the new system.

28th August 1991. KFU Meeting at Konark

In this meeting it was decided to file a writ petition at Orissa High Court to include the marine fishermen of Orissa as Scheduled castes on the basis of the previous court decision (OJC 247/78) which states that all those who are using nets and boats for fishing could be included as scheduled castes.

The preparations for the petition is in progress.

Structure and Activities of KFU.

Village Units	Zonal Unit	District	State Level Unit (KFU)	Active Members
Ganjam-26	3	1		1200
Puri -8	3	1	1	5000
Chilika-1	1	1		3000
Total - 35	7	3	1	9200

Objectives

1. To assert the traditional fishermen's right to fishing on the coastal sea where they have been living for ages.
2. To have effective and creative control over the coastal sea the marine wealth, the fish economy and the places for dwelling and keeping the fishing equipment.
3. To make the above traditional rights into effective laws for permanent settlement of fishermen.

4. To upgrade their fishing and marketing methods to ensure sustainable economy.
5. To protect the marine and costal ecology for sustainable fishing economy.

Ongoing Activities

Village Wise Meetings : Village wise meetings are held at least once a month and as per need. The facilitating team would attend such meetings and highlight the important issues affecting the life of the fisherfolk. Each village has a village committee with a youth wing. This village unit is the most important unit of KFU. In village meetings, besides village issues and disputes, the common issues of fishermen are dealt with.

Zonal Units

Zonal meetings are held to discuss zonal issues and other urgent matters such as trawling, displacement, fishing policy. Scheduled caste issue, fishing techniques harmful to marine wealth such as disco net, hook lines, purse-seine and also improved method of fishing and marketing.

District Level Meetings

All the zonal representatives get together to chalk out their action plan in district level meetings which are held quarterly and as per need.

State Level

State level executive body having 17 members (15 men + 2 women) meet quarterly. This body makes the final decision regarding major issues like election, hunger strike, displacement issue and major policies.

People's Court

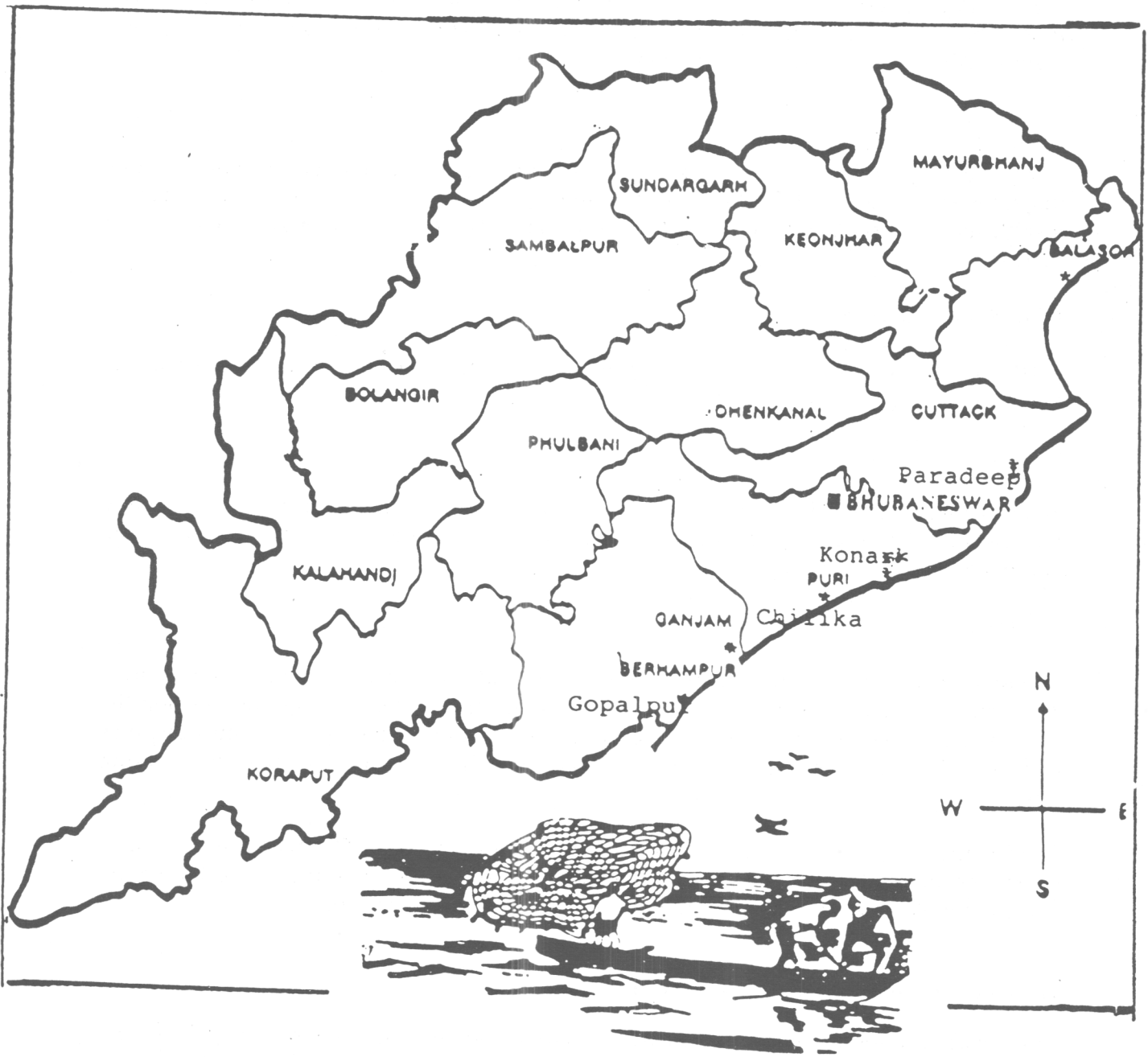
The fishermen have been the victims of the present judicial system from time immemorial. The police, the middlemen, the merchants and other vested interests constantly exploit the fishermen in every respect. They are dragged to police station even for purely family disputes and the police extract money from them. As a result, they loose both money and working days.

To save the fishermen from the exploitation two zones in Ganjam District have decided to settle most of the disputes in the respective villages. As a result the exploiters feel unhappy and the people save money, time and increase the unity of the community.

Women's Movement among the fisherfolk

Women are traditional fish vendors and they face exploitation in buying, transporting and selling the fish. Formerly they could not buy fish directly as the powerful middlemen and merchants having money power monopolised fish economy. Hence, they got themselves

AREA MAP OF KALINGA FISHERMEN UNION [K.F.U] ORISSA



organised and started a saving scheme to have a capital to buy fish. This organisation is called the 'head load women's forum' which holds regular meetings to discuss the difficulties faced by the women. Though now they have some control over the market still they are harassed during the transportation of the fish by bus owners, passengers and policemen. So they urgently need facilities for transportation. They also require facilities for storing fish so that they can transport the fish at their convenience. To protest against harassment by buses they have started to picket the buses and now most bus owners do allow them to travel by bus.

The women have joined men in hunger strike and rallies for tackling the wider issues affecting the fisher-folk.

The women have already started a women's cooperative unit to initiate a women's bank as an alternative credit system for supporting sustainable productive economic activities.

Organisational constraints and a self critique

1. Internal constraints :

- (i) Most of the activities and personnel are centred around Gopalpur and as a result the other coastal areas cannot be properly organised.
- (ii) As the area is very vast there is transport problem and people cannot be reached fast.
- (iii) The team lack skilled persons who have scientific knowledge of marketing, fishing economy and Ecology.

2. External Constraints

- (i) As the marine fishermen are Telugu speaking the State Government and the general public consider them as outsiders and hence they get very little support from the government and the people.
- (ii) Most of the traditional fishermen leaders have become agents of vested interest and hence have become exploiters of fishermen. Such leaders follow a policy of "Divide and Exploit" the fishermen. They do oppose any change in leadership.

Training of Children and youth

We have also initiated training of fisher children through Non Formal Schools so that they become well equipped for future activities. A Vocational Training Centre for this purpose is also planned.

Special attention is given to consolidate the youth activities.

We intend to intensify our leadership training camps for youth. They will be given training in improved methods of fishing, managing, marketing, and accounting skills, so that they can

take active roles in upgrading the fishing skills and marketing, and that they become effective and creative agents of controlling their own fishing economy.

Future Plans

1.Extension and consolidation

We intend to extend our activities to Balasore district which is not yet covered in our present activities. As we extend, the village and zonal level activities are to be strengthened. For this purpose we intend to organise fisher folk in cooperatives to organise the economic activities. So that they have effective, creative and sustainable control over their economy.

2.Training

To have effective control over their economy, the fishermen/fisherwomen need to up-grade their skills and learn new skills. Hence innovative and relevant method of fishing, marketing, fish processing and preserving and also fish related activities will be promoted.

TAMILNADU FISH WORKER'S UNION (TFU) ANNUAL REPORT 1991

Dear Friends,

The Tamilnadu Fish Worker's Union was started in 1989. It was started in a small village called Periyavilai with a few people. Now it has spread to eighteen villages. It has 2500 members. The Union is growing slowly and steadily. The workers of other than members are also getting interested in the activities of the Union.

The Activities of the Union:

Once in two months district executive meeting is held. In these meetings we discuss many problems and issues relating to fish workers. So far we had four such meetings. In the first meeting Mr. Paschlis from fishery department of Kanyakumary District gave a talk on Government's schemes for fishermen. It was an eye_opener for the fish workers. They learned a lot, about the availabilities of the Government schemes for their welfare and improvement.

In the second meeting—the Chairperson of National Fishermen's Forum Shri Thomas Kocherry gave an enlightening talk on the general election. He instructed the general body how to conduct the election both at the unit level and at the district level. He also explained the qualities, characteristics and the commitments of the executive members. The general body was happy and profited very much from his talk because it was necessary for a growing union such as TFU.

And in the next meeting the representatives from Kerala Malsya Thozhilali Federation and Bay of Bengal Union together with TFU Executive discussed about the co-ordinated and joint action plan against trawling in the forth coming year. It was decided that TFU would meet with Kerala and Bay of Bengal Federation to Chalk out detailed plan for this joint venture viz agitation.

In the month of May we had public meetings Pada Yatra and action against trawling during monsoon in the different villages of Kanyakumari district. Each unit organised cultural programme and public meeting. It went on for a month. On June 16th Shri. Francis de Sales went on indefinite hunger strike in front of the Collectorate of Nagercoil. The TFU put forth five demands before the Government. The most important demand was ban on trawling during monsoon season. It went on for three days. On 18th June thousands of fishworkers gathered in front of the Collectorate to show their solidarity with Sales and to demand their rights. It was a real success and it gave a real boost for the struggling fishworkers.

A street-theatre group was formed to conscientiae the fishworkers. They have performed many programmes in different villages. There is a plan to form many more such groups.

Identity cards have been issued to the members. There is a lot of interest among the women workers to have an identity card.

In each unit regular general body and Executive Meetings are held every month. In these meetings the workers discuss their problems relating to their work and village. A few villages have taken local issues like drinking water, roads street lights etc. They had planned the agitation and implemented them successfully.

TFU had many discussions with the Bishop of Kottar regarding the conflicts between the traditional fishworkers and the trawler owners. As a result of these on-going discussion the bishop has appointed a committee to monitor the problems and to report him.

The obstacles faced by the union:

- The workers expect loan from the union or expect the union to get loan from the Government like other Sangams.
- When the Union does not involve in the local or village issues the people are not interested in the Union.
- The workers are afraid to enter into a Political agitation.
- They are worried about their work, income and family. So they don't show much interest in the agitation. They are also afraid of being arrested by the Police.
- The workers expect immediate results from a single agitation. They are not yet prepared for continued struggle.
- The workers do not have still a clear idea about the union and its activities. We feel that good workers could be formed only by continuous education and developing a will for agitation to struggle for long period.
- The Parish priests and some leaders of the many coastal villages are against the union.

Conclusion:

Though Union has faced many obstacles this year it has grown in its activity and its involvement. We could really see that the fishworkers are conscientised about their rights. They are also aware of their conditions in future, if they do not struggle now. We are sure that all the fishworkers of Kanyakumari District will join one day in the union to protect their own rights.

A ROUND - UP OF OTHER UNIONS

AGFU (All Goa Fisheries Union)

In Goa the number and size of Rampons have been substantially reduced. This was due to the depletion of fish resources. The workers have gone into other employments like tourism and to work on trawlers. There has been a ban on giving licences for new trawlers. But the traditional fishermen can obtain loans and get a licence for trawlers. The Government has not been interested in implementing the Marine Fishing Regulation Act. The case is still pending in the Supreme Court.

They have regular union meetings. But the struggles are dormant. There is no interest in creating a new fervour among the fish workers. It is very important that a status report on Goa fisheries has to be prepared. Xavier Pinto is making an all out effort to get this done.

The AGFU's main demand is to ban trawling during Monsoon months and a ban on Night Trawling. AGFU continues to fight against industrial Tourism which is destroying the ecology and the environment of the sea shore and displacing fish workers and destroying fishing grounds.

It is important that Goa and Maharashtra must come together to fight against the encroaching of deep sea fishing vessels into the territorial waters. It is important that the central Government must legislate on deep sea fishing and it should be implemented.

BOBFU (Bay of Bengal Fishermen's Union)

The BOBFU was started in 1982. Putting forward certain demands like demanding of coastal roads, water supply and electricity the BOBFU went on a hunger-strike in 1983. The union got registered in 1985. In Mayoor area all fish merchants were Muslims and there a communal clash took place. The BOBFU intervened and brought about an amicable settlement. In 1985 the BOBFU organised a big Rally in Madras and the BOBFU was affiliated to the NFF. The BOBFU joined in the protest Rally against the Marine Police Firing and killing of 6 fishermen. In 1986 a big Rally and Dharna was organised in Mahabalipuram and the Chairman of the NFF participated in the Rally and the Dharna demanding pattas for the fishermen. The BOBFU joined in the nation wide agitation organised by the NFF and Swami Agniwesh inaugurated the rally in Madras. About 2000 people participated in it. The main demand was the implementation of Marine Fishing Regulation Act. In 1989 the BOBFU organised a Marine Cycle Rally in Madras and submitted a Memorandum to the Fisheries Director and the NFF Chairperson was present. In 1989 the BOBFU actively collaborated with the Kanyakumari march organised by the NFF. About 100 people participated at the Mass Rally in Kanyakumari on May 1st 1989.

After the Kanyakumari march the BOBFU became very inactive. One of the reasons was the lack of financial support as the BOBFU has not become a self-supportive union. It always

depended on voluntary organisation support. So once the financial support was withdrawn the BOBFU leadership also withdrew and the BOBFU became inactive.

Once again in 1991 the NFF Chairperson together with Ravi.P. and other fishermen's leaders like Daivasikamony and others organised a Yathra and started setting up new committees in 22 villages. The main demands were the implementation of the Marine Fishing Regulation Act, pattas to the house-less fishermen, control on water pollution, implementation of the Mandal Commission Recommendation. A general body meeting was held on 15th March 1991 and the name of the union was changed to Singaravelar Kattumaram Meen Thozhilalar Union. A new executive committee was elected with Daivasikamony as president, P.Ravi as secretary and Jayaraj as Treasurer. 50% women are elected as members of the Executive Body.

On August 5th, 1991, 5 trawlers violated the Marine Fishing Regulation in Puthupattanam. They were caught by the fishermen and the fish on deck was sold. Rs. 85,000 were distributed among the fisherpeople. When the police party came, the women stood in front of the crowd and finally the police had to withdraw from the scene. On September 1991, 17 fisherpeople were caught by the Trawlers and their Cattamarams were taken away by the Trawlers. A police case was filed and the case is going on. The people in Puthupattanam say that the people are in utter poverty because there is no catch and the uncontrolled trawling is taking away the little catch the fisherpeople would have got.

A Joint Action Council was formed for the Joint Agitation in 1992 with the TFU and KSMTF. This will be a major step forward in 1992. Implementation of the Marine Fishing Regulation Act, ban on Monsoon Trawling, pattas to the house less, immediate election to the co-operatives are some of the major demands.

We have to wait and see how Singaravelar Union is going to rise up to the occasion in waging this agitation to victory.

Malvan Taluka Shramik Machimar Sangh, Maharashtra.

In 1961 there were 14,000 fishermen in Sindhudurg District alone. In 1988 they were reduced to 5,000. In 1988 there were 87 Rampons and in 1991 they were reduced to 37. This happened due to the encroachment of trawlers and Purse-seiners. In all the other districts almost 80% mechanisation has already taken place. There is a Marine Fishing Regulation Act and Trawling is banned during the Monsoon period, and the mechanised boats have to operate beyond 10 km but they are not implemented at all. There is also trawling during the night. In 1988 our union took a huge Rally of 3,000 fishermen to the Fisheries office, but no action was taken. In fact NFF should fight for making all mechanised boats operate beyond the 50 metre depth.

Another problem that is troubling us is the creation of a Marine Park in Sindhudurg area. This is going to stop all fishing in the territorial waters. This will create a greater problem to the traditional fishermen. In fact the Kanyakumari march created greater awareness about conservation of fish resources in this area against pollution. But now we are facing greater problems.

The appearance of puffers in this area is a symptom of depletion of fish resources. In fact this crisis is going to affect the entire Maharashtra.

The NFF together with other unions in Maharashtra and Goa must take up a large scale campaign to put an end to all these problems.

Sundarban Samudrik Matsyajivi Shramik Union

About 1,500 Gill netters are operating in West Bengal from Kakdwip area. They are 45 footers with 250 H.P. and use drift nets of 2 to 3 km length, and about 50 to 70 in depth. 15 to 20 workers operate as crew. They are in the sea from 7 to 15 days. This fishing craft, gear and crews have come from Bangladesh as Refugees. Some have citizenship and others do not have. They are the victims of the partition.

The workers face a lot of problems. They have no job security. And thus they formed this union and got it registered in 1984. Most of the time the workers are in the sea and therefore they do not find much time for union activity. The greatest problem the workers face is from the deep sea fishing vessels operating from Visakapatanam. When the trawlers are in operation their huge nets will be destroyed. Despite protest from owners and crews so far no action was taken.

The SSMSU has also formed a Joint Action Council (JAC) with owners and workers. Their purpose is to settle all the grievances. It started functioning quite well. But we have to wait and see how long it will survive.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

FISHERIES SECTOR OF GUJARAT STATE

Marine Fisheries

1. Physical Features

Gujarat is one of the major maritime states of India, possessing the longest coastline and the widest continental shelf area. More than a fifth of the country's marine fish production is from the Gujarat coast.

- 1.2. The coastline is about 1600 Km. and accounts for about 28% of the total coastline available to the country and about 59% of the western coastline of India. There are two extensive Gulfs—the Gulf of Kutch and the Gulf of Cambay. The area of the continental shelf is in the vicinity of about 165,000 sq.Km., which accounts for about 29% of the total continental area available to the country.
- 1.3 Ten out of nineteen revenue districts of the state are coastal and support the marine fisheries activities. Junagadh, Amreli, Jamnagar, Valsad and Kutch are the leading in such activities.
- 1.4 A comparative picture of the State's physical aspects, in so far as the marine fisheries is concerned, is shown in the table below.

Particulars	India	Gujarat
Length of coastline	7517 Km	1600 Km
Continental Shelf Area	468,000 Sq.Km.	165 Sq.km.
Fishing Villages	3355 Nos	179 Nos
Fish landing Centres	2072 Nos	190 Nos

2. Resources

Presently the fishing operations off the Gujarat coast is carried out by about 17,000 artisanal and mechanized/motorized boats and about 1800 medium and small trawlers within the depth contour of about 72 Meters. The seas beyond this depth is marginally touched upon by the occasional fishing by the exploratory fishing boats of the Government of India and the foreign deep sea fishing vessels procured under the Charter Fishing Policy of the Government of India from 1983 to 1989.

- 2.2. Taking the continental; shelf area and the coastline into consideration, and basing on different stock estimation carried out from time to time, it has been estimated that the standing fishable stock off Gujarat coast is in the range of about 773,000 tonnes, as detailed hereunder.

Demersal Standing Stock upto 40 fms	:	338,000 Tonne
Demersal Standing Stock beyond 40 fms	:	195,000 Tonne
Pelagic Standing Stock	:	240,000 Tonne
Total	:	773,000 Tonne

2.3. Fish Varieties.

About 3300 species of fin-fish and shell fish are reported to be available from the Gujarat Coast. However, the following contribute a major share to the State's fish yield.

Bombay Duck (*Harpodon nehereus*)
 Pomfret (*Pampus argentius*)
 Jew Fish (*Pseudosciaena Sp., Polydactylus Sp.*)
 Thread Fin (*Eleotheronema Sp., Poludactylus sp*)
 Hilsa (*Tenulosa ilisha*)
 Giant Eel (*Muraenosox Sp.*)
 Seer Fish (*Scomberomorous Sp*)
 Cat Fish (*Arius Sp*)
 Silver Bar (*Chirocentrus Sp*)
 Croaker (*Johnius/Otolithus Sp*)
 Red Snapper (*Lutjanus Sp*)
 Perch (*Pomadsasis Sp*)
 Shark
 Ray/Skate
 Grey Mullet (*Mugil Sp*)
 Shell Fish
 Shrimp/Prawn (Penaeid/Non Penaeid)
 Lobster (*Panulirus/Thynnus*)
 Cuttle Fish (*Sepia Sp*)
 Squid (*Loligo*)

3. Infrastructure

There are 190 landing centres distributed in 179 fishing villages along the coastline of the state. Of these, 18 have proper landing facilities, besides surf-beaten coast, where the dug-out canoes and flat-bottom artisanal boats are landing their catches.

- 3.2. The State has developed two major fishing harbours and allied shore facilities, with the World Bank assistance at Veraval and Mangrol. In addition another fishing harbour with infrastructure facilities has since been developed at Porbandar also.
- 3.3. It is now contemplated to develop the fishing port of Jakhao in Kutch District into a full-fledged fishing harbour and port Okha in the Jamnagar District into a Deep Sea Fishing Harbour in the ensuring plan period.

4.. Fishing Crafts & Tackle

The state has 16817 fishing boats engaged in marine fishing and the split-up thereof is given below.

Mechanised Boats	
Trawlers	2814
Gill Netter	1946
Motorized/Mechanised	
FRP//Wooden Canoes	2857
Other Mechanised	523
Total Mechanised	8140
Non Mechanised	8677
Grand Total	16817

4.2 The important fishing gear deployed here are : trawls, surface and bottom-set gill nets, fixed/anchored bag and stake nets

5. Fish Production

The marine fish production of Gujarat was 500.042 tonne during the fiscal year ending on 31.3.1991. The trend of fish yield from the marine sources for the last few years is given below:

Fiscal Year	Production (Tonne)
1984-85	290,708
1985-86	306,577
1986-87	315,942
1987-88	327,560
1988-89	414,075
1989-90	432,364
1990-91	500,462

6. Deep Sea Fishing

The State-owned Gujarat Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd. (GFDC) has been engaged in the exploitation of deep sea resources from 1976 onwards deploying two 23 Metre (LOA) Mexican-built Out-rigger trawlers basing from Vizag (Andra Pradesh). The GFDC subsequently added two more such vessels to its fishing fleet (as a charter obligation) in 1984.

The GFDC took an active part in the utilization of the Charter Fishing Policy of the Government of India during 1983-1989, when chartered five pairs of foreign 30-35 Metre (LDA) deep sea fishing Vessels and operated along the deep seas off the Indian coast.

7. Co-operatives

The state has about 300 primary co-operatives engaged in the fisheries activities. The apex co-operative, viz. Gujarat Fisheries Central Cooperative Association Ltd. (GFCCA) is presently engaged in the exploitation and marketing of fish produced in the state, in addition to providing shore facilities such as boat building, supply of marine engines and Outboard Motors, manufacturing and supplying fishing gear, providing bunkering facilities at the important centres etc. In addition, the GFCCA participates/operates some of the state's welfare/supportive schemes to fishing communities of the State.

Inland Fisheries

8. Resources

The Inland fishery resources of State comprise of the open estuaries, rivers and all land-locked water sheets. The category-wise inland fishery resources are shown in the table hereunder.

Type of Resources	Area in Ha	Production Potential Kg per Hectare
Village Ponds	20,519	2500
Reclaimable		1500
Water logged areas not suited for agriculture	100,000	2500
Existing Reservoirs	140,000	100
Upcoming Reservoirs	140,000	100
Minor Irrigation Tanks	44,025	300
Rivers	1129 Km. length	1000 Kg per km
Estuaries	21,290 Sq, Km	100

Against this vast potential, the inland fish production during the past several years have been very poor. The fish production from the Inland sources for the past few years is given in the Table below.

9. Seed Production

The seed is from the most important pre-requisite for inland fisheries development. From 1974-75 to 1980-81, the used seeds produced an average quantity of about 100 lakh fry in the state. Besides this, on an average, 400 lakhs fry used to be imported from the West Bengal to meet the immediate need of the State. During 1981-82, the state took a policy decision to reduce the import of seed and increase the seed production locally, by modernizing and improving its own seed farms within the state. This resulted in a considerable increase in the fish seed production of the state. The fish seed production in the state during the past few years is given in the table below.

Year	Fish Seed Production (Lakh)	
	Span	Fingerling
1986-87	830.57	92.28
1987-88	789.57	87.73
1988-89	1842.56	204.72
1989-90	2190.00	243.33
1990-91	4007.89	332.13
1991-92	5196.40	534.00

The state's policy is to completely commercialize the fish seed production and distribution in the course of time through the State-owned Gujarat Fisheries Development Corporation and the Gujarat fisheries Central Co-operative Association, the Fish Farmers Development Agencies, Primary Societies etc. Similarly it is contemplated to develop the rearing programme for the seed also through such agencies.

Year	Inland Fish Production
	(Tonne)
1984-85	23,814
1985-86	24,172
1986-87	24,451
1987-88	22,551
1988-89	22,315
1989-90	27,416
1990-91	45,000

10. Reservoir Fisheries contributes the major share in inland production. The national average yield per ha. of reservoir area is about 8 to 12 kg. The average production from some reservoirs of the Gujarat is shown in the table below :

Name of Reservoir	Area	Average Production (1984-1989)
Dantiwada	4144	96.00
Dharoi	11863	183.00
Kadana	8363	235.00
Ukai	60095	2216.00

Other medium and minor reservoir are being developed under state development scheme and also under national co-operative development corporation. Under the NCDC scheme 43 medium reservoir being developed on scientific lines at a total cost of Rs.2.33 crores.

11. Fish Farmers Development Agencies

At present there are 15 FFDA's working under centrally sponsored programme in Gujarat. The first FFDA was established in 1976 at Surat. An approval for two more FFDA has already below given by central government for which the sanction from the state government is awaited. The progressive data under FFDA's programme till 30th September 1991 is given below.

Area under fish culture (ha)	14593.50
Renovation of tank (ha)	2784.39
Persons trained (Nos)	4464
Farmers engaged in fish culture (Nos)	6641
Fish Catch (Tonnes)	2709.45

It is necessary to apply modern technology and to undertake intensive monitoring to increase the present level of fish production.

Brackish-water Aquaculture

12. The National Commission of Agriculture (1976) and the government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture (1981) have estimated the brackish water area available to Gujarat as 376,000 Ha. of which 4000 Ha. are immediately available for development as detailed below.

Particulars	All India	Gujarat
Total Brackish Water area (Ha)	14,56,000	376,000
Estimated Culturable Areas (Ha)	902,000	187,000
Area under Culture (Ha)	50,800	100
Targeted Area for immediate use	25,000	4,000
As per action plan upto 1997	-	5,000

13. In conformity of the Government of India's general policy the Government of Gujarat has adopted a land lease policy for brackish water aquaculture development in the state in 1987. As per this policy land for development for brackish water culture can be made available to the individual farmers, co-operatives, public sector companies or joint venture agencies in the following manner.

Type of beneficiary	Entitlement
Private/Public sector companies	: 100 Ha
Co-operatives	: 50 Ha
Individuals	: 5 Ha

The District Collectors are authorized to allot the lands on the recommendations from the State Department of Fisheries, while the allotment of the remaining land is made by the Government of Gujarat. (50% land is reserved for the SC/ST/weaker section/fishermen/local entrepreneurs).

14. Brackish water Development Agencies

The state has established three BFDAs in the south Gujarat region for the development of brackish water aquaculture activities. They are established at Valsad (1989), Surat (1990) and Bharuch (1990). The main objective of these BFDAs are to identify areas suitable for aquaculture and appropriate beneficiaries and to train them and support them in the area of brackish water culture by providing input, tie up finance and provide them with subsidies.

15. RLEGP Estates by the GFCCA

The Department of Fisheries has through the GFCCA have contemplated to establish five Brackish water Estates under the RLEGP programme in south Gujarat area with 20 Ha, each at a cost of Rs.28 lakhs per estate. The total investment including operational cost will be Rs.130,824 lakhs. The total production anticipated is 150,000 Kg. of prawn valued at Rs.67.50 lakhs. The beneficiary coverage will be 4 persons per ha. and totally 400 persons.

16. Constraints

The main constraint for development of brackish-water aquaculture is the lack of suitable seed of Tiger and White Prawn, as the same is not locally available. It is produced in places like Andhra Pradesh and Orissa by the TASPARG and the OSPARG. But since the supply is not assured, it would be necessary to have a permanent tie-up through the concerned Governments.

A Paper On

**“SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS
OF TRADITIONAL FISHERFOLK”**

Presented At The National Workshop On
“ Development Of Marine Fisheries For Higher Productivity And Export”
Held At Cochin On 5-7 June 1992.

By

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Introduction.

First of all it is important to explain who are these traditional fisherfolk. These words are used with different meanings and understandings. In order to deal with the topic, one should explain the meaning of these words, otherwise there can be a lot of confusion. However my understanding may not be acceptable to all. Still with this understanding let me handle the topic before me.

Who are these traditional fisherfolk?

The traditional fisherfolk are all those men, women and children who earn a livelihood by being involved in HARVESTING, HANDLING, PROCESSING and MARKETING of FISH and FISH PRODUCTS. Therefore traditional fisherfolk include: 1. Artisanal fishermen, working on non mechanised and motorised crafts in coastal waters. 2. Fishermen working on mechanised boats in coastal waters. 3. Workers at fish landing centres involved in unloading, sorting and icing etc, 4. Workers involved in traditional methods of fish curing and drying etc, 5. Workers involved in prawn peeling sheds, 6. Workers in fish processing firms, 7. Workers involved in marketing of fish inside the state. They include men, women and children. They need not belong to the fishing castes as well.

However traditional fisherfolk exclude all persons involved in the fish economy solely in the pursuit of profits by mere rearing by virtue of ownership of capital alone, or by involvement in arbitrage and/or/speculation.

What is happening in the traditional sector

The traditional sector is undergoing drastic changes in the pursuit of fish. The introduction of out board engines has widened the area of operation. Many are moving out of territorial waters and moving into deep sea fishing. Some are going to 100 to 200 m depth with hook and line and with inboard and out board engines catching sharks and tunas. with trammel and prawn nets traditional fisherfolk are becoming a threat to the bottom trawlers. With ring

seines and out board engines the traditional fisherfolk are challenging purse-seiners. With huge 45 footed boat and powerful 150 to 450 HP inboard engines and huge drift nets sometimes 2 to 3 km long moving out of territorial waters staying 1 to 2 weeks in the deep sea, traditional fisherfolk are becoming a big threat to the Big Trawlers and Huge Fishing Ships operating from Visakapatnam.

In the midst of these drastic changes, there still exist small non mechanised boats and cattamarams. Some times they are better off than the so called motorised and the mechanised boats because there is less investment and no fuel costs in the operation. The traditional skill of using sails is of paramount importance in the context of shortage of fuel in India. Japan is using huge sails in operation of huge ships and thus saving fuel.

However 90% of the traditional fisherfolk live below the poverty line. Most of them have huge debts ranging from one thousand to two lakhs rupee. Many of them are living in huts and do not own any property. Most of the women are displaced because of mechanised net making and centralised fish landing. The working condition of women working in peeling sheds is pathetic. And let us not forget that the exporters are making profits and the Nation is getting foreign exchange at the expense of these traditional fisherfolk. Traditional fisherfolk are at the mercy of merchants and money lenders.

Fisheries Development

During the first five year plan, the planners thought that there was plenty of fish in the sea and the resources were not exploited. They thought that the traditional fisherfolk did not have the skill to exploit the deep sea fish resources. So they decided to import modern technology.

Though the original plan was to exploit deep sea fish resources, the fisheries development ended up in EXPORT ORIENTED FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT, which created havoc in the territorial waters. Modern technology meant new costs in fishing, new costs necessitated higher returns, higher returns necessitated more aggressive fishing which initially resulted in higher landings. The predicted boom became a reality which gave a spurt to accompanying new infrastructures.. fishing harbours, larger landing sites, cold storage, processing plats, marketing infrastructure, new markets and large profits., So modern technology became synonymous with higher production and large profits and this is what Fisheries Development was meant to be about.

The traditional fisherfolk did benefit in the initial stages as there were a number of spill-over effects. The returns from exports did bring added returns, making fishworkers credit worthy and so capital flowed into the sector. New employment openings were created for women in the processing plants and the large landing sites invited surplus labour from the inland for other jobs. The availability of ice,l made marketing easier and larger landings invited larger merchants into the field.

This change from production for subsistence to production for profit occurs in curious, exploitative and violent ways. New technologies were more efficient and they hauled up larger quantities of fish. How ever the destructive and over efficient gears destroyed juveniles and fishing grounds. The by-catch of these gears oriented mainly to catch shrimp became cattle feed and manure. So besides a waste of valuable protein food, the destruction of

juveniles has an impact on the diminishing resources. So while as the technology on the one hand depletes the resource, on the other hand it demands new market infrastructures to handle the big landings to make it profitable. What finally happens is that these large landings have to be carried away by large trucks to farther away markets where they can fetch the net price and leave behind the women either with no access to these landing sites with no ability to 'compete' in the auction and secure fish for rural distribution. The economies of profit defeat the economics of subsistence, leaving the masses more deprived, malnourished and depressed.

However there is a difference in the fisheries development that took place in Maharashtra and Gujarat. There has been a more balanced and sustainable development in these two states. There was much less competition. To a large extent fisheries development integrated the traditional fisherfolk. Still about 25% of traditional sector exists in Maharashtra mainly in Sindhudurg District. This sector is very much victimised by the big mechanised sector. The mistake can be corrected by proper fisheries management.

No scope for further exploitation in territorial waters

A glance at Table-1 and Table-11 clearly shows that there is no scope for further exploitation within the 50m depth. And any further investment will become a dead investment. In any case there is no room for catching more prawns in territorial waters. More fishing pressure will further deplete the stalks and reduce the size of prawns catches.

According to Bose Committee report only 1% of deep sea fish resources are exploited. A look at Table-1 shows that there is plenty of fish resources in the deep sea. However the deep sea is so vast and more deep and therefore more investment and more fuel cost and thus brings less return. Therefore the question before us is what kind of deep sea fishing is called for.

The options before us

In India we can identify two different patterns of fisheries development. Please refer pattern-1. The pattern-1 includes Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhra and Goa. It was a violent introduction of foreign technology without any respect for the skills, culture and traditions of the traditional fisherfolk. As a result there has been competition in territorial waters. There was 50% decrease in traditional sector. Though there was an initial increase of fish catch in the mechanised sector, later there was decrease in the same sector too. There was no area extension. Instead of going to deep sea for further exploitation all concentrated in the territorial waters. There was a lot of displacement of labour force. The quantity of fish exported diminished. The size of prawns became smaller. As a whole it was an export oriented fisheries development.

On the other hand Maharashtra and Gujarat followed pattern-2. There was a greater integration of skills, culture and traditions of the traditional fisherfolk in the fisheries development. It was more a balanced approach. There was no one sided stress on export to the neglect of catching fish for internal consumption. It was a sustainable development. By developing their own skills, they were able to extend the area of operation.

Suggestions for Improvement of Socio-Economic Status of Traditional Fisherfolk.

1. There is a need for developing Fishery Development similar to the pattern-II. Sustainable development is a multifaced concept including biological, human and technological dimensions. Fish being a renewable resource, biologically it would mean that the rate at which the resources are harvested should be in harmony with the rate at which they multiply. Humanly it means that principles of equity and basic needs get a high priority. Technologically it implies, using means that augment rather than displace human kills, utilise renewable energy resources and methods which are environmentally appropriate and less destructive. From the organizational and employment points of view, the policy of increased people's participation and decentralization of investments and planning will offer added impetus. This kind of development will improve the socio-economic condition of the traditional fisherfolk.
2. Improving the socio-economic condition of the traditional fisherfolk means to guarantee their present employment. They should not be displaced due to development. The need to restrict the right of ownership of fishing assets only to those who are willing to fish. With one stroke the breed of absentee fishermen will be pushed out. This will significantly reduce the excessive fishing effort-particularly by trawlers- and the salutary effect of this will go a long way to enhance the ecological productivity of the active fishermen.
3. The entire territorial waters must be exclusively kept for the use of only traditional fisherfolk. The necessary legal protection must be ensured. Granting the rights and responsibilities of management of fishery resources in this area to such a community of owner-workers fishermen. This will further improve the socio-economic condition of traditional fisherfolk.
4. The rights at sea gained through aquarian reforms can become fully effective only when the rights over the produce of labour at sea can be ensured. An important policy decision will be to give the legal rights to decide on the mode, structure and price of the first sale transaction of fish to fishermen. This legal confirmation of rights will provide the foundation for them to organise the forms of producer control appropriate to their respective contexts. In the face of pressures from trade interests, this legal entitlement will provide a basis for more zealous unity of action on the part of fisherfolk wherever and whenever it becomes necessary.
5. A major policy shift is required which will have an effect on the structure of the fish economy. This pertains to the need to exercise greater social control over the marine export sector. There is need to ensure a balanced development of this sector in such a way that it does not result in socio-economic and technological polarization of the type that exists now. Export orientation which directly or indirectly (Through ecological destruction) results in less fish for local consumption also needs to be curbed. Such measures will complement the measures of aquarian reform and greater producer control over first sale. This will to a great extent improve the condition of the traditional fisherfolk.
6. Fisheries Development means increasing "production". But "production" has only meant making more efficient the nature of fishing by improved craft and gear technology. It has never occurred to the officialdom that "production" means to create, to recreate to make grow. What the state has considered "production" is actually the act of consumption,

with the result that all that would have gone to regenerate the resources has actually been greedily destroyed, the waters are devoid of nutrients brought down to them by the rivers as rivers are damned and polluted. Wherever the mangroves have existed, which were the habitat and a source of life for young fish, they have been denuded and the sensitive eco-systems have been destroyed.

Therefore it is vital that the capture fishery be sustained by a nature fishery. This means non remunerative and time consuming labour. It demands an attitude of patience as there is no short cut in the process of human growth. Thus time provides opportunity for learning and correction so basic in any growth process. Any interaction with the natural resources requires these attitudes too. If development processes have to be life sustaining, then they have to place stress on nature-tasks that do not have immediate fruits and are certainly not profit oriented in today sense of the word. Nature involves protecting and re-creating the fish habitats, be they reefs, the mangroves or the breeding grounds. It means caring for the natural flow of nutrients to the water and preventing pollution. It means providing for need and not for greed- a perspective of more equitable distribution.

7. The development of off shore fishing may be started in a phased manner. The traditional fisherfolk may be encouraged to be trained and equipped with appropriate craft and gear with cruising facilities for 2-3 days as well as provision for storage and communication. They may be sent under the guidance of mother vessel for locating shoals and rendering other facilities to ensure safety of the crew. The department of fisheries both at the state level and Central level should have deep sea fishing section to look after this. Experts in deep sea fishing must be put in charge of such a division.
8. The Parliament should enact a Marine Fishing Regulations Act applicable to the sea beyond territorial waters. A proper machinery like Fishery Guard with sufficient manpower and equipment should be set up to implement this legislations. This Fishery Guard should work closely with coastal state governments for implementing the regulations within the territorial waters too. Preference should be given to appropriately qualified persons from the traditional fisherfolk. This legislations should empower the guard to check all forms of encroachments, illegal fishing, benami license, destructive fishing like Bull Trawling. It must put an end to all joint ventures, which are going against the very interest of the nation.
9. Further construction of major and medium fishing harbours must be discouraged. Alternatively safe anchorages for artisanal sector and beach facilities to keep and maintain modernised equipments may be provided.
10. Wholesale fish markets must be provided with modern facilities. Sufficient space should be made available for movement of vehicles and for fish handling. A fresh fish storage capable of storing a portion of the market arrivals for any duration from 24-48 hours to help stabilise prices should be provided in the major markers. The major fish markets should be regulated through market committees as in the case of agricultural produce. The interests of traditional fisherfolk should be well represented in such bodies. Floor prices for commercially important varieties of fish should be fixed. The Central Institutions should develop low cost processing technologies especially to help traditional fisherfolk in particular areas to dispose of bulk landings during certain seasons.

11. In areas where overfishing and depletion of important commercial species are taking place, management measures like trawl bans, closed season etc may be enforced to revive the stocks. The ecological as well as the socio-economic impact of such measures should be scientifically studied.
 12. Recognise the crucial role women play in the distribution of fish and net making in the marine sector. These two will improve the socio-economic condition of the traditional fisherfolk. In order to improve the working condition of women in processing plants, a women's wing of Fisheries Department should undertake the following functions: registration of all women workers in fish processing plants, skill development. All labour laws must be strictly implemented concerning women and child workers in peeling sheds and processing plants. Enact new legislations for covering the self-employed sector in general with reference to fisher-women workers in the following areas: protection and access to purchase areas at landing centres, provide clean and hygienic market places, providing storage facilities and banning machine made nets.
 13. Co-operatives of traditional fisherfolk should be strengthened by making everybody a member if it. Though the apex of the co-operatives Welfare Funds should be introduced. All the agencies like Central and State governments, MPEDA, owners as well as workers should contribute towards this fund. The present per monthly 45 rupee matching contribution scheme should be introduced in all the states through the co-operatives and made sure every worker contributes towards it. The death-cum-Accident Insurance Scheme should continue and it should cover the women too. The subsidies should be made available to enhance the ownership of gears and crafts by the traditional fisherfolk. A comprehensive housing legislations should be enacted by the state governments to guarantee every family of the traditional fisherfolk own a house. The lump-sum grant must be guaranteed. The recommendation of the Mandal Commission, that all the traditional fisherfolk be recognised as Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe should be adopted. And the reservation of the coastal assembly and parliament segments should be created exclusively for traditional fisherfolk.
 14. Catch statistics should be collected by the state governments using a uniform sampling methodology in consultation with the Central Fishery Research Institutions. Adequate central financial assistance should be provided to the state governments to set up an appropriate machinery exclusively for this propose. data collection on various other aspects like census of fisherfolk, inventory of fishing crafts and tackles, cost and earnings etc must be strengthened and timely publication of such information for the benefit of all end-users should be ensured.
 15. Taking into account all the above suggestions the Central government should evolve a comprehensive and clear cut National Fisheries Policy to achieve sustainable development and improve the socio-economic condition of the traditional fisherfolk. Such a policy should be worked out with the active participation of traditional fisherfolk and state governments. This is a process and all those who are interested in sustainable development, equity, integration of labour force, increase in export, increase in the supply of cheap protein for the masses must join together in this process. We cannot put stress on one to the neglect of the other. It should be a balanced approach with a concern for conservation, maximising exploitation of resources and the improvement of the socio-economic condition of the traditional fisherfolk. All those forces that are against this
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process must be faced with unitedly. This ongoing struggle is part and parcel of this process.

Table - 1

Marine Fisheries Resources Potential in the Indian EEZ
(in '000 tonnes)

Regions	Demersal		Pelagic		Oceanic	Total
	0-50m	Beyond 50m	0-50m	Beyond 50m		
North West Coast	377	379	273	188		1217
South West Coast	361	112	589	245		1307
North East Coast	103	40	117	61		321
South East Coast	195	118	195	46		554
Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	139		139
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	63		63
Oceanic					295	295
Total	1036	649*	1174	742	295	3896
300-500 m depth		4**				
Grand total	1036	653	1174	742	295	3900

* Includes resources upto 500m depth in lat. 8-10 N

** Except lat. 9-10 along the West Coast

Source: Prepared by Working Group

Table 2

Region-wise All-India annual marine fish landings during 1986-89

Region	1986	1987	1988	1989
North Upper Coast	222702	217659	182139	206940
South East	256307	317086	308668	293660
Total East	479009	534745	490807	500600
South Lower West	626588	589539	772384	1018404
North Upper West	571605	522102	522607	689594
Total west	1198193	1111641	1294991	1707998
Grand Total	1677202	1646386	1785798	2208598

Source : CMFRI Cochin.

BRIEF NOTE ON DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

1. Introduction

Fisheries sector contributes to the protein food needs of the general population and the improvement of the living conditions of fishing community. To achieve these aims and to utilise the existing resources to the optimum extent the Government of Andhra Pradesh have taken up measures by implementing various schemes.

2. Resources:-

a) Marine Resources

Andhra Pradesh has a long coast line of 974 kms. with a continental shelf of 31,044 sq.kms upto 200 mt. depth. There are 4.51 lakh marine fishermen living in 406 Marine Fishing Villages of whom 1.35 lakh are active fishermen. The fishery potential of marine resources is estimated 4.00 lakhs tonnes per year out of which only 30-40% is only being exploited at present.

b) Fresh Water Resources

There are 102 reservoirs with a water spread area of 2.34 lakh hectares, 20,0331 perennial & long seasonal tanks with a waterspread area of 3.73 lakh hectares, besides 1268 tanks exclusively meant for fish culture with a water spread area of 12,375 ha. Kolleru with a water spread of 30,040 ha. is one of the biggest fresh water lakes in the country. The length of the river courses in the state is 8577 kms. These fresh water resources offer a good potential of fresh water fish production. There are 3.16 lakh inland fishermen out of whom 1.22 lakhs are active fishermen.

c) Coastal Aquaculture

Coastal aquaculture is a promising area of development specially to learn foreign exchange and to provide rural employment. An area of 17,000 ha. in 120 plots was found suitable for brackish water aquaculture out of an area of 63,962 ha. all along the coast.

II. Marine Fisheries:-

The marine fish production during the recent past is as follows

S.No.	Year	Achievement ('000 tonnes)	shrimp Production (Tonnes)
1.	1985-86	115	10,506
2.	1986-87	140	11,874
3.	1987-88	136	19,611
4.	1988-89	90	15,452
5.	1989-90	110	18,943
6.	1990-91	120	18,123

The major thrust was given on providing Landing and Berthing facilities, industrial estates, village access roads, Motorisation of traditional crafts and introduction of Beach Landing Crafts.

1. Landing & Berthing Facilities, Fishing Harbours:

Vide detailed note enclosed separately.

2. Village Access Roads:

151.3 kms. length of roads connecting 22 villages in Visakhapatnam, east Godavari and Guntur Districts were completed under the integrated Marine Fisheries Project. Similarly 6 roads and bridges were also sanctioned in Nellore and Prakasam Districts.

3. Fisheries Industrial Estate:

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of Fisheries Industrial Estate at Muttayapalem, Guntur District at a cost of Rs. 30.00 lakhs to benefit 600 fishermen, in 6 Coastal Villages is under implementation, Infrastructure such as Jetties, Approach Road, Auction hall, Office Building, Ice Plant and Workshop building will be created.

4. Motorisation of Traditional Crafts:

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Motorisation of Traditional Fishing Crafts with 50% subsidy has been sanctioned. Under this scheme it was proposed to supply 400 engines at a cost of Rs.133.50 Lakhs out of which Rs. 66.75 lakhs is the subsidy.

S.No.	Year	Govt. of A.P. Sanction orders	Amount Rs.in lakhs	Date of keeping in AFCOF
1.	1986-87	114 F&A (Fish II) Dept Dated. 18.3.1987	18.75	8.7.1987
2.	1987-88	221 F&A (Fish II) Dept Dated, 24.3.1988	9.50	9.8.1988
3.	1987-88	799 F&A (Fish II) Dept Dated 17.3.1988	15.00	21.12.1988 14.8.1989
4.	1988-89	207 F&A (Fish II) Dept Dated 28.3.1989	89.25	3.4.1989

Out of this amount , 247 engines and 207 Out Board Motors were supplied as detailed below:

S.No.	District	Engine	Subsidy Rs. Lakhs	O.B.Ms	Subsidy Rs.Lakhs
1.	Nellore	20		2	0.150
2.	Prakasham	15		145	10.875
3.	Guntur	50		-	-
4.	Krishna	60		-	-
5.	West Godavari	13		-	-
6.	East Godavari		27,582		
	Rajahmundry	4		15	1.125
	Kakinada	85		32	2.400
7.	Visakhapatnam	-		13	0.975
	Total	247	27,582	207	15.525

The Balance amount of Rs. 9,393 lakhs is in A.P. State Fishermen Co-operative Societies Federation Ltd., Hyderabad.

5. Beach Landing Crafts:

131 Beach Landing Crafts were supplied to 3335 fishermen Co-operative Societies with the Financial assistance from NCDC, New Delhi. 44 Beach landing crafts were supplied under the Hire Purchase system. Supply of balance 33 BLCs will be made before March, 1992.

6. Subsidy on H.S.D.Oil Supply.

There are about 1000 Mechanised Fishing Vessels operating in the Coastal waters. It is estimated that a subsidy of Rs.7,000 per boat per annum to meet the excise duty levied on H.S.D.oil price. Up to 1990-91 the subsidy was borne entirely by Govt. of India. During the year 1990-91, a sum of Rs.21.00 lakhs subsidy was released to A.P Fisheries Corporation Ltd ., During the year 1991-92 the rate if subsidy allowed by the Govt. of India was revised to 80% and reaming 20% is to be borne by the state government. IN VIII five Year Plan, it is proposed

to meet an expenditure of Rs. 120.00 lakhs per annum out of which Rs.100.00 lakhs will be born by Govt. of India and the balance amount by the State Government.

3. Assistance to A.P.Fisheries Corporation Ltd., for "Manufacture of Diversified Fishery Products."

An amount of Rs. 443.95 lakhs was sanctioned as grant-in-aid to A.P.Fisheries Corporation Ltd., for implementing the project of "Manufacture of Diversified Fishery Products" during 1979 vide G.O.I.Lr.No.12035/6/77-Fy (T-1) dated 24.3.1979. This amount was diverted by the A.P.Fisheries Corporation Ltd., for other purposes. The A.P.F.C. Ld informed Govt. A.P in Ir.APFC/RO/D/2278/81-82 dated 2.9.1984 that these funds became part of accumulated losses. Further it was stated in the same that if the project is to be taken up the cost would go up due to escalation in the cost of materials and project could be taken. if the Government of A.P. comes forward to for release of funds. The A.P.F.C. has expressed to submit the revised cost of the project, if the Government of A.P. agreed to the above.

In Lr.No.5459/J2/82 dated 27.6.1986 the Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., Hyderabad submitted proposals to Govt. of India for Establishment of Feed mill Plant in joint venture to utilise the Grant-in-aid fully. The Government of India have differed proposals and insisted for refund of Grant-in-aid along with 6% interest. Since, the A.P Fisheries Corporation is not in a position, the Government of A.P. was addressed in the matter.

III. Brackish Water Fisheries

1. Brackish Water Lasing Policy

The Government of Andra Pradesh declared land leasing Policy of Brackish water Lands for allotment of 3000 ha. of Brackish water lands in Nellore, Krishna and East Godavari Districts. Land was allotted to an extent of 453.50 ha. and 508.00 ha. to 12 fishermen Co-operatives and to 127 technocrats, respectively. The Government of Andra Pradesh had further announced the allotment of about 8000 ha. of Brackish Water Lands in 8 Coastal Districts. The Criterion for allotment is, 60% of the extent is to be allotted to Fishermen Co-operative Societies 20% to entrepreneurs. The Screening of application is under progress.

2. World Bank Assisted Shrimp and Fish Culture Project.

Andra Pradesh has taken up the Coastal Aquaculture and Reservoir development (AP Aquaculture Project) with the assistance of World Bank. It is conceived to develop 1990 Ha. of Brackish Water Lands in Bhyravapalem (120 ha), Ippur (75 ha), CG Palem (240 ha), and P.T. Palem (1555 Ha) in East Godavari, Nellore, Prakasham and Krishna districts respectively. The development of these areas result in an actual Water Spread Area of about 1393 ha. All the mentioned sites were in the physical position of the Fisheries Department.

Shrimp seed plan was prepared. The hatcheries proposed were to be allocated to the private sector. The state government has identified sites in Mypadu (3 Ha.), Tummala penta (3 Ha.) Chennaiyapalam in Nellore Dist., Kotha patnam (4Ha.), Voda revu (2 Ha) in Prakasham Dist.,

Konapapapeta (2 Ha), Perumallapuram (4 Ha), Danaipeta (2 Ha.) in East Godavari Dist. Each selected place would be **sufficient** to accommodate 2 to 3 Prawn Hatcheries each with a capacity of 25.00 million Prawn seed per a year.

A Socio-Economic conditions survey of the Fishermen living in the adjoining villages to the sites in the project area is **conducted**. The selection of beneficiaries can only commence once the detailed engineering plan site-wise were provided by Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery ponds. Other wise, if selected beneficiaries can not be provided ponds, complication may arise. Hence, the condition that selection of beneficiary on site to site basis linked up with development plan has to be submitted to the World Bank before negotiations. The modalities of the selection of small farmers, commercial farmers for B.W.Ponds and Entrepreneurs for Prawn Seed Hatcheries, Carp seed Hatcheries, Feed Mills, Ice Plants and Processing Plants were formulated.

It is also aimed to develop inland Fisheries by taking up 51 tanks and small reservoirs in the districts of Chittoor (4), Nellore (3), Krishna (5), Khammam (10), Karimnagar (7), Medak (13) and Nizamabad (9) with the total effective Water Spread Area of 15,300 Ha. The selected 51 reservoirs are under the control of the Dept. of Fisheries. A detailed work plan for implementation of Reservoirs was prepared. The technical suitability of reservoirs selected for the first year (8) and functioning of fishermen co-operative societies was examined. The remaining reservoirs are also subjected for such examination in due course. Where a Reservoir was found not suitable for technical reasons or for reasons for deficiency in F.C.S. for management of the equivalent Water Spread Area. That state Govt. considered the following non. government organisations to associate in the project in the districts indicated.

AWARE in Nellore and Krishna for B.W Ponds and small reservoir projects; AWARE in Prkasam, West Godavari and East Godavari for B.W.Ponds; AWARE in Khammam for F.W.Ponds; Rayalaseema Seva Samithi in Chittoor district for F.W.Tanks; Grama Abhyudaya Mandali in Nizamabad and Karimnagar district and Deccan Development Society in Medak mandal for F.W.Tanks. Above Organisations were requested to offer their opinion about their role and involvement in the proposed project.

The state Project Unit was sanctioned and key-personnel were positioned. The state level monitoring co-ordination committee was also constituted. The project cost is as follows;

1. Brackish Water Ponds and related items	Rs. 5890 Lakhs
2. Inland Fisheries	Rs. 580 Lakhs
3. Technical Assistance	Rs. 95 Lakhs
	=====
	Rs 6565 Lakhs
	=====

There is also provision for Physical contingencies and price contingencies.

3.2 Brackish Water Culture in Public Sector

A pilot project at Polekurru in East Godavari district in an area of 15 ha. was constructed and prawn culture experiments conducted. The Marine Products Export Development Authority has established demonstration farm at Tallapalem, Krishna district which is giving training to prawn farmers and extending 15% subsidy over the total costs to prawn farmers.

The Brackish Water farms were also constructed by the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, A.P. Agricultural University, A.P. Fisheries Corporation at Kakinada. A Centrally sponsored scheme at Polekurru for construction of 46 ponds with a water spread area of 50.6 ha. to benefit 46 weaker sections at a cost of Rs. 30.69 lakhs has been completed. A demonstration farm for construction of 19 ponds under Polekurru, Phase-II is taken up. A Centrally sponsored scheme for construction of 55 ponds with 41.60 ha. water spread area at an outlay of Rs. 24.00 lakhs has been up at Kanurupedda patnam in Krishna district. This scheme will benefit 55 farmers from weaker sections.

Under the financial assistance from S.C. Finance corporation, a complex of 25 ponds with a water spread area of 23.75 ha, at an outlay of Rs.14.22 lakhs has been completed in East Godavari district. Phase-II project under this corporation for the benefit of 27 Scheduled Castes with an outlay of Rs.26.00 lakhs will be started shortly. A complex for 19 Scheduled Caste farmers in Nellore district with a water spread area of 19.00 ha. at an outlay of Rs. 17.41 lakhs is nearly completed and farmers were also trained. Similar schemes were also proposed in Krishna and Guntur districts. The Dist. Rural Development Agencies in Krishna, West Godavari, East Godavari have also provided assistance for the development of Brackish water fish farming.

4. Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agencies.

Three Brackish Water F.F.D. Agencies under centrally sponsored scheme are functioning in Machilipatnam, Nellore and Srikakulam districts. Each Fish Farmers Development Agency would be developing 50 ha. for allotment to 50 beneficiaries every year by providing 25% subsidy and arranging institutional finance and training. The Govt. of India has sanctioned 2 more B.W.F.F.D.A.s in the districts of East Godavari and Prakasham, The proposals for establishment of 3 more B.W.F.F.D.A.s in the dist. of Guntur,

Visakhapatnam and West Godavari have been submitted.

5. Brackish Water Prawn Hatcheries:

Marine Products Export Development Authority has created TASPARG and this has established a hatchery with a production capacity of 40 million prawn seed per year and had started functioning at Mangamari peta, Visakhapatnam dist. The Prawn hatchery at Surya lanka, Guntur district, under the Centrally Sponsored scheme with a production capacity of 25 million prawn seed per year has also been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs.210,60 lakhs.

IV. Inland Fisheries:-

The Inland Fish production and the fish seed production are furnished below:

Year	Inland Fish Production (Tonnes)	Fish seed production Millions
1985-86	1,07,504	230.60
1986-87	1,07,950	271.64
1987-88	1,21,106	261.37
1988-89	1,21,977	347.32
1989-90	1,34,423	442.73
1990-91	1,36,245	452.21
1991-92	(up to Oct '91)	400.00

1. Fish Seed Production Farms:

The total fish seed requirement in the state is estimated to be 1000 millions. Two National Fish Seed farms at Sreeramsagar and Somasila have commenced Fish Seed Production and the Construction works for a Third Fish Seed Farm at Bramhamgari Matham at a cost of Rs. 35.00 lakhs is under progress. Fish seed farms at Nandivagu in Ranga Reddy District at a cost of Rs.70.00 lakhs. Kalakuru in West Godavari District at a cost of Rs.63.29 lakhs are also sanctioned. 4 more fish seed farms are also proposed with world bank assistance. It is proposed to produce 590 millions by the end of VIII Five Year Plan.

2. Fish Farmers Development Agencies:

22 F.F.D.A.s are functioning in 22 Districts (except in Hyderabad Dist.) under the centrally sponsored scheme to enhance the fish production by reclamation of the ponds ensuring timely supply of inputs, and to create rural employment. Subsidy 25% of Rs. 16,000/- per ha. for re-excavation, repairing of ponds, 25% of Rs.4,000 per ha. for inputs is provided. Rs.15/- per day as stipend and Rs.25/- towards conveyance for short term training of 15 days are also provided. The Fish Farmers Development Agencies have achieved the targeted fish production. Besides the previous 11 F.F.D.As 11 more FFDA's have also been sanctioned and started functioning from February, 1991.

During the year 1991-92 the total number of F.F.D.As functioning are 22. The programme of selection of beneficiaries and imparting training has already commenced. The reclamation of tanks and supply of inputs is under progress. So far, 68.64 lakhs of Fish seed was stocked and 1260 beneficiaries have been trained. By implementing the scheme the average per hectare production has been increased from 500 kg.s. All necessary steps have been taken to increase the production up to 2,000 kg per Hectare.

The Integrated Marine Fisheries Project Phase-II a block cost of Rs.2195.65 lakhs in Krishna, Guntur and Visakhapatnam District for supply of fishing inputs, establish infrastructural facilities like Auction Halls. Ice Plants, Fish Transport Vehicles, Engine Service Centres has also been sanctioned in March, 1991. The project is under implementation. The fishermen are given the financial assistance of 25% subsidy. 25% interest free share capital and 50% as loan.

List of Participants of the General Body Meeting in Malwan 1991

1. Mr.Devacigamani,
Chaltanagar - 604303,
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2. Mr.K.Jayaraj,
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5. Mrs.Suloksana.A.
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6. Mr. Constantine,
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Kanyakumari Dist.,
Tamilnadu.
7. Mr.Christu Raj.E.,
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Manavalakurichi.P.O.
K.K.Dist. Tamilnadu.
8. Mrs. Edwitch,
Sahayamatha Street,
Cape Comerine,
K.K.Dist.
9. Miss.Mary Therese,
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Via Colachel,
K.K. Dist. 629251.
10. Mr.Francis De Sales,
St.Lawrance Thope,
Thengapattanam.P.O.,
Kanyakumari Dist.
11. Sri.Hare Krishna Debanath,
vill- A.G.Colony,
P.O.- Maniktala,
Dist North 24 Parganas,
West Bengal.
12. Sri Radha Govinda Barman,
P.O. & Vill.- Sankahai,
Durdwan Dist, West Bengal.
13. Sri.Niranjan Das,
Vill- Sankijahwn Colony,
Gopalganj Hat.P.O.,
Via- Nimpith Ashram,
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.
14. Sri.Shyamal Mondal,
P.O. & Vill- J.K.Bazaar,
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.
15. Sri.Atal Maity,
Vill.-Fawanipur,
Namkhana. P.O.,
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.
16. Sri. Dilip Chakraborty,
P.O. & Vill. Kali Nagar,
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.
17. Sri.Gadadhar Das,
Vill- Ganeshpur (Near Rajalekshmi
Cinema)
P.O.,Kakdwip,
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.
18. Sri. Sakti Pada Sarma,
Vill.- Kalinagar,
P.O.Kak-Kalinagar,
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

19. Sri. Santhosh Das,
Vill-Kalinagar,
P.O. Kak-Kalinagar,
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.
20. Sri. Jagan Nath Das,
Vill- Ganeshpur,
P.O.Kakdwip,
South 24 Parganas. West Bengal.
21. Sri. Peton Ch. Das,
Vill-Kalinagar,
P.O. Kakdwip.
South 24 Parganas. West Bengal.
22. Sri. Nirmalendu Das,
Vill- Subarnapur Colony,
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North 24 Parganas. West Bengal.
23. Sri.Hiralal Das Roy,
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24. Sri. Sudhir Chatterjee,
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32. Mr.Fr.Dennis Koya,
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34. Mr.K.Tatayya,
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