

Workshop and Symposium

**Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines
on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries**

Report

19-21 September, 2011
Kolkata, West Bengal, India



**Organized by
National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)
in collaboration with**



The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
www.icsf.net

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A fishing boat being put out to sea

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Fisherwomen mending nets in Kharinasi, Orissa.

List of Abbreviations

BLC	boat licence certificate	MFRA	Marine Fishing Regulation Act
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme – Intergovernmental Organization	MFRMA	Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Act
COFI	Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
CRZ	coastal regulation zone	mn	million
CSO	civil society organization	MPA	marine protected area
DISHA	Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action	NCDC	National Co-operative Development Corporation
EEZ	exclusive economic zone	NFF	National Fishworkers' Forum
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	NGO	non-governmental organization
FLC	fish landing centre	PoA	plan of action
ha	hectare	SDF	Sustainable Development Foundation (Thailand)
hp	horsepower	SHG	Self-help group
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers	WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
ILO	International Labour Organization	WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples
LoP	letter of permit	WLPA	Wild Life Protection Act
NGO	non-governmental organization		
MDG	Millennium Development Goal		



A man fishing in a pond adjacent to paddy fields in Orissa.

Preface

The India workshop was the first among a series of national consultations organized across the world by civil society organizations (CSOs), following the decision of the 29th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) approving the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries. The decision to organize such national-level consultations was to ensure that the small-scale fisheries guidelines, a long-standing demand of fishworker and support groups, are prepared through a bottom-up consultative process, and they reflect the day-to-day realities, issues and proposals of small-scale fishing communities themselves.

The India workshop saw 62 participants from both the marine and the inland sector representing 10 states of India. The participants included fishworkers, representatives of fishworker organisations, policy makers, and representatives of multilateral organizations. The workshop was structured to facilitate active interaction and discussion among participants taking into account the language diversity and the contextual differences (marine and inland sectors). The workshop being the first instance where inland

fisheries groups were called along with marine groups under the NFF banner, ample time was provided for them to present their case and context.

Due to the different and diverse understanding of what “small-scale fisheries” means to each participant from different parts of India, it was found useful to explore this issue in detail during the workshop. This discussion set the tone for the workshop. The discussions and proposals from the workshop were synthesized into a statement. The workshop concluded with a symposium on 21 September 2011.

The Workshop and the Symposium contributed to a re-assessment of strategies and policies for fisheries management and development in India in relation to small-scale inland and marine fisheries.

This report is dedicated to Matanhy Saldanha, the late Chairperson of the National Fishworkers’ Forum. Committed to the cause of small-scale fishing and coastal communities and the environment, Matanhy was always at the forefront of battles that involved them. At the Kolkata workshop, Matanhy’s leadership was important in furthering the debate on what constitutes sustainable small-scale fisheries. 3



Traditional fishing boats berthed after the day's fishing in Sundarbans, West Bengal.

Prospectus

Millions of fishermen and women engage in fishing and allied activities along the Indian seaboard and its hinterland. They supply more than 40 lakh (4 mn) tonnes of fish, a principal source of cheap animal protein for the poor.

Harvesting nature's bounty can only be sustained if the resource base is conserved. How far the supply of cheap fish from capture fisheries can be sustained is a moot point. The nearshore and inland waters are threatened by habitat degradation and depletion of living resources. The rivers that bring life to estuaries and the sea are dammed up. Inland water bodies are badly polluted and silted up, thus negatively affecting inland capture fisheries. This has also led to the decimation of the biodiversity of small indigenous freshwater fish species, which are an important source of nutrition for the poor. The seaboard has become the gateway of sewage and effluent to the sea. Destructive fishing gear and practices of an ever-expanding fleet of fishing vessels are depleting marine fishery resources. Indiscriminate urbanization, industrialization, coastal infrastructure and aquaculture development, oil and gas exploration and exploitation at sea, among other things, are threatening the inland, coastal and marine ecosystems and the right to life and livelihood of inland and coastal fishing communities. These threats are further exacerbated by the processes of economic globalization. There are, additionally, threats facing fishing communities from natural disasters and climate change.

To address these challenges, legal and policy measures need further

strengthening to help conserve fish stocks, to protect inland, coastal and marine habitats and resources, and to protect the right to life and livelihood, at the sectoral and inter-sectoral levels. It is in this context that the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) organized the "National Workshop on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries", from 19 to 21 September 2011 at Kolkata, West Bengal, India, in collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust, Chennai.

Objectives

The following were the objectives of the workshop:

- to make the role of small-scale fisheries and fishworkers more visible in the context of food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable use of fishery resources;
- to expose non-fishery factors that threaten fishery-based livelihoods in inland and marine spaces, including natural disasters and climate change;
- to draw attention to the specific human-development needs of small-scale fishing communities, such as education, health, organizational development, social services, and financial and physical resources; and
- to contribute to the international civil society initiative to develop guidelines, within the framework of a human-rights approach, for the international guidelines on marine and inland small-scale fisheries being proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Participants

Sixty-two participants from 10 States of India, representing inland and marine fishing communities, fishworker organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), came together for the workshop. The half-day symposium that followed also included policymakers.

The workshop and the symposium contributed to a re-assessment of strategies and policies for fisheries management and development in India in relation to small-scale inland and marine fisheries, as detailed in the report. 3

DEBASIS SHYAMAL/NFF



Participants sharing views during the group discussion at the Kolkata workshop.

The Kolkata Statement

We, 62 participants representing the inland and marine fishing communities, fishworker organizations and non-governmental organizations, having gathered at the “National Workshop on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries”, from 19 to 21 September 2011 in Kolkata, West Bengal, India;

Welcoming the decision of the 29th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to develop a set of voluntary guidelines addressing both inland and marine small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, and would complement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

Noting that about 14 mn people are directly dependent on fisheries in India for their lives and livelihoods, and that the vast majority of them are dependent on small-scale fisheries;

Recognizing that fishing has a long tradition in India, and that social development issues are common to all fishers from traditional fishing communities;

Further noting that small-scale inland and marine fisheries provide employment, income and nutritional security, especially to the poor;

Drawing attention to the critical role played by women within fisheries and fishing communities and the need for specific focus on supporting and empowering women;

Call upon the Government of India, the States, the Union Territories, and the *panchayats*, as appropriate, to address our concerns and to recognize

and defend the rights of small-scale fishing communities, as mentioned below:

Small-scale Fisheries

1. In the Indian inland sector, both freshwater capture fisheries and sustainable forms of culture-based capture fisheries, primarily dependent on indigenous species, are small-scale fisheries for us. In the Indian marine fisheries sector, however, only fishing operations by vessels below 20 m length that do not operate trawls, employ no mechanized towing or hauling power, where owners are full-time fishers and where fishing gear is manually operated, are considered small-scale fishing operations by us. Small-scale fishers would include: owner-operators from traditional fishing communities, fishworkers, allied workers in the above fishing operations, as well as women engaged in post-harvest activities.

Resource Management

2. Respect, protect and secure the rights of traditional fishing communities to fishing grounds and resources, considering the importance of fishery resources to their life, culture and livelihood.
3. Recognize and protect the traditional rights of small-scale fishing communities to fish, including in national parks and sanctuaries. The provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and those of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006, that protect the rights and occupational interests of traditional fishing communities should be implemented in this context.

4. Facilitate bottom-up processes for managing marine and inland fisheries by revitalizing traditional institutions and by employing the traditional knowledge of fishers, within an appropriate policy and legal framework.
5. Make appropriate arrangements to facilitate utilization of water bodies such as ponds, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs and canals for the purpose of fishing.
6. Develop a uniform inland fisheries policy through a participatory process.
7. Protect or grant the right to fish, and to manage fisheries, in inland public water bodies to traditional inland fishing communities.
8. Vest fishing communities with the right to manage resources, including in national parks and sanctuaries.
9. Implement the Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA). The MFRA and related instruments should be amended to facilitate participatory management of fishery resources.
10. Adopt measures to phase out bottom trawling from territorial waters over a period of five years, considering its negative impact on marine ecology, biodiversity and the distribution of marine fishery resources.
11. Promote selective and location-specific fishing gear. Prohibit destructive fishing gear such as purse-seine and fine-meshed gear in shrimp seed collection, considering their negative impact on biodiversity.
12. Prohibit the construction of new trawlers and purse-seiners under the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) schemes for fisheries development, with immediate effect.
13. Restrict the ownership of fishing vessels to one vessel per fishing family. Community-based organizations may be involved in regulating the number of fishing vessels at the local level. Community consent may be taken before registering a new fishing vessel.
14. Cancel fishing vessels under the letter of permission (LOP) facility, and promote vessels fully owned and operated by Indian fishing communities that have the capacity to safely harvest fishery resources such as tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
15. Guarantee preferential access to small-scale fisheries in the Indian maritime zones, also upholding the spirit of the Murari Committee (1996) observations and updating its recommendations.
16. Urgently enact legislation for managing fisheries in the Indian EEZ, also taking into consideration the recommendations of the Majumdar Committee (1978).

Coastal and Marine Environment Protection

1. Protect inland, coastal and marine ecosystems from pollution and habitat destruction.
2. Do not permit nuclear and thermal power plants, chemical and other polluting industries to be set up near the coast and water bodies, including wetlands.
3. Consider all factors, including ecological ones, and the threat of coastal erosion, while designing ports and harbours.
4. Establish an inter-departmental co-ordination mechanism to address coastal, marine and inland pollution, encroachment and other issues, with all concerned ministries and departments on behalf of small-scale fishers. The State fisheries departments should take up this responsibility.

Rights to Land and Housing

1. Secure the rights of fishing communities to land for housing and for fishery-related activities. Land titles (*pattas*) should be issued for housing, and space used for fishery-related activities should be protected as common property.
2. Protect the rights of fishing communities to housing in urban and tourist areas. Land, as required, should be acquired to assure decent housing for fishing communities.
3. Recognize and secure the land rights of fishers and fishing communities (in relation to both private and common property) in land revenue records.

Rights to Social and Economic Development

1. Guarantee specific forms of protection to traditional fishing communities to enable them to improve their socioeconomic status.
2. Equip fishing villages with basic services, such as healthcare, potable water, sanitation and electricity.
3. Extend primary healthcare to all fishing communities. The Yeshasvini Health Insurance Scheme of the Karnataka government could be a good practice to be followed by other States.
4. Deliver nutritional support to pregnant women and children in food-insecure fishing communities.
5. Ensure access to education in fishing villages. Education up to matriculation, including residential facilities at educational institutions, should be made freely available.
6. Provide access roads to fishing villages where they are lacking, as in States on the east coast of India.
7. Develop hygienic landing centres and all-weather approach roads

in fishing villages. Basic facilities such as ice boxes, storage facilities for fishing gear, and toilets for women should be provided at the landing centres.

8. Undertake a census of inland fisher/fishing communities.
9. Enumerate women's work in both inland and marine fisheries.
10. Revive and strengthen fisheries co-operative societies, and support appropriate forms of economic organizations, including self-help groups (SHGs), and fully respect their autonomy.
11. Ensure that access to credit and government schemes, and other economic benefits, are not restricted to the members of co-operative societies.
12. Guarantee credit at reasonable rates of interest to enable all fishworkers to attain economic empowerment and to free themselves from unscrupulous moneylenders.
13. Consider production-enhancing subsidies in small-scale fisheries, subject to the status of fishery resources.
14. Provide adequate compensation to fishers whose livelihood activities are affected due to activities such as oil spills, oil and gas exploration and exploitation, conservation programmes and maritime transport.
15. Ensure diversified livelihoods and appropriate training to fishing communities to reduce pressure on the fishery sector. In this context, fishing community-based tourism, production of value-added products, and employment of local fisher youth in marine and coastal police, and as lifeguards, should be promoted.

Post-harvest Activities

1. Provide hygienic fish markets, basic amenities, transport facilities and assistance to maintain cold chains.

2. Re-develop/upgrade existing fish markets, to ensure hygiene and access to basic facilities such as water, sanitation and storage.
3. Issue identity cards to fish vendors, including women fish vendors.
4. Protect access of women of fishing communities to fish resources for processing, marketing and food.
5. Provide transport facilities to fish vendors, particularly if they lack access to public transport, or are denied access to it.
6. Take steps to eliminate harassment faced by women in fish markets, in particular, and ensure safe workplaces for women.

Labour, Working and Living Conditions

1. Ratify and implement the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and extend its provisions to all fishers, to improve their working and living conditions.
2. Implement uniform social security for all fishers and fishworkers across all States and Union Territories, and reduce the minimum age for their old-age pension to 50 years.
3. Guarantee access to social security for all those who are engaged in fishery-related activities.
4. Enhance the contribution of the Centre and State governments to the savings-cum-relief scheme to ensure higher monthly payment during closed seasons. The scheme should be inclusive of inland fisheries and women fish vendors of all States, as well as fish sorters, driers and vendors.
5. Provide toilets on board fishing vessels, considering that many fishers meet with accidents while using the gunwale as toilet or while using portable toilets on board trawlers and purse-seiners.
6. Prevent child labour in fisheries and fishing communities, and protect the right of the child to education. Schools for child workers below the age of 14 years should be set up in coastal areas. In this context, the school for child workers in the brick kilns of Orissa may be considered a model.
7. Provide training in, and access to, diversified livelihoods to fishing communities to prevent distress migration.

Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness

1. Utilize effectively the financial resources earmarked for disaster preparedness in the context of natural or man-made calamities of concern to fishing communities.
2. Take steps to prepare both inland and marine fishing communities for disasters such as flood, sea surges and drought, and other unexpected forms of natural or man-made calamities.
3. Train traditional fishers in disaster preparedness. Periodic drills should be conducted to prepare coastal communities to speedily evacuate from affected areas in the event of an industrial or nuclear accident or catastrophe.
4. Take steps to ensure that incidents of old ships being accidentally or deliberately sunk in coastal waters are minimized, given the devastating impact of such incidents on fishing activities.
5. Develop, in a participatory way, the adaptive capacity of fishing communities to meet challenges of climate variability and change, such as floods and cyclones, and shift or extension in distribution of fishery resources.
6. Introduce fuel-efficient engines and promote biodegradable fishing gear, towards mitigation, employing financial incentives. Training programmes should be developed to facilitate improved navigation and fishing methods to

reduce fuel consumption, as well as to facilitate fishing-community initiatives to protect and develop coastal vegetation and features.

7. Create a special fund for cyclone relief, especially to ensure speedy response. Cyclone shelters should be provided in all cyclone-prone States, especially on the east coast of India.

Capacity-building

1. Strengthen capacity-building programmes among fishing communities to enhance their awareness of rights, government schemes and resource management.
2. Establish systems to ensure that fishing communities are consulted during the process of formulating

legislation or policy that could have an impact on their lives and livelihoods, and to enhance their capacity to engage meaningfully in such processes.

Keeping in mind the above, we urge the Government of India to develop a national policy on small-scale fisheries to protect the rights and interests of small-scale fishing communities.

The States, the Union Territories and the *panchayats* may also draw upon this Statement in their policies and programmes for sustainable small-scale fisheries.

We also call upon FAO to draw elements from this Statement in its preparation of voluntary guidelines on sustainable small-scale fisheries. 3

DEBASIS SHYAMAL/NFF



Participants at the VG SSF workshop in Kolkata



Women selling small-indigenous fish species at a market in Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

Report of the Workshop

Day I: 19 September 2011

Inaugural Session

WELCOME ADDRESS

Matanhy Saldanha, Chairperson, National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF), welcomed participants to the three-day workshop. Tracing the history and contribution of NFF towards securing rights and recognition for small-scale fishworkers in India, Saldanha pointed out that this workshop presents an opportunity for small-scale fishworkers, from both inland and marine sectors in India, to put forward their issues, concerns and proposals. Creating a joint platform of small-scale fishworkers, from both inland and marine sectors, will strengthen the representation and voice of small-scale fishworkers in policy-making bodies, he said. The NFF, on its part, would continue its work of taking forward the demands of the small-scale fishworkers to the government and to international bodies, Saldanha concluded.

Following the welcome address, a message from Mahasweta Devi, eminent author and playwright, conveying her wishes for the successful conduct of the workshop, was read out by Pradip Chatterjee, Secretary, NFF.

Delivering the inaugural address, Madan Mitra, Minister of State for Fisheries, Government of West Bengal, congratulated NFF and ICSF for organizing such a workshop. He informed participants about plans being formulated by the Government of West Bengal to support the fisheries sector, and encouraged participants to present their concerns before the respective

State governments. He also invited two representatives from the workshop to present the proposals from the workshop to a State-level meeting on fisheries being held concurrently, with wide participation from fisheries officials in the State.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF

Providing the background to the workshop, Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF, pointed out that fishworker and support organizations across the world have been advocating for more support to small-scale fisheries, given its inherent advantages. At the FAO Global Conference, titled "Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fisheries and Social Development", held in Bangkok in 2008, they advocated strongly for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries, pointing to its usefulness in serving as a guide for national policies and interventions. The decision by the 29th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2011, to develop international guidelines on small-scale fisheries, was, therefore, widely welcomed.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have decided to engage with the guidelines process, and influence it, so that it reflects the aspirations of small-scale fishing communities across the world. Toward this, national/regional workshops covering at least 30 countries are being organized in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as

well as in Europe and North America, Chandrika Sharma said. The present workshop in India is the first in the series of workshops being organized. It is expected that the national-level workshops will help CSOs to develop their own positions and to set out, in clear terms, what they would like to see in the guidelines, and help ensure that they are able to influence the proposed FAO guidelines through a bottom-up consultative process. It is also expected that such workshops will raise the profile of small-scale fisheries nationally, strengthen the organizations representing them, and help in opening up channels of communication between national authorities and CSOs. The outputs from such workshops will be synthesized and consolidated, and will be used to influence the content of the guidelines being developed.

Given that the focus of the workshop is on small-scale fisheries, it will be important to be clear on what can be regarded as small-scale fisheries in an inland and marine context in India, Chandrika Sharma stressed. It will be important to come to an agreement among representatives of small-scale fishworkers present at the workshop on how small-scale fisheries can be characterized, and what may be considered as small-scale fisheries. This was particularly important, given the context of rapid technological and other changes that have also led to major changes with the small-scale sector in the past couple of decades.

PRESENTATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS

**CHAIR: V VIVEKANANDAN,
MEMBER, ICSF**

Given the fact that the workshop was the first instance where inland fishers were also invited, an attempt was made to better understand the distinct

problems and concerns of the inland fishery sector. V Vivekanandan invited the representatives from the inland sector to give brief accounts of the contexts of fisheries in their regions.

INLAND FISHERIES

Tikamgarh District, Madhya Pradesh

The struggles of the fishing community in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh were brought to the fore by Shriram Kevat of Vikalp, Madhya Pradesh. Tikamgarh and Chatterpur areas of Madhya Pradesh are dotted with tanks constructed during 10th century AD by the Chandela dynasty. The tanks, though meant mainly for irrigation and for providing drinking water, also came to be stocked with fish from very ancient times. Thousands of fishworkers from the Dhimar caste and its subcastes are currently dependent on these ponds for employment, income and nutritional security. These tanks range widely in size and spread from 10 ha to 5,000 ha, with different species of fish cultivated in them. During summer, when the water dries up, vegetables are grown on the tank beds.

A 1996 provincial policy that defined anyone who fished as a fisherman, opened the gates for influential outsiders to lease out the tanks, alienating traditional fishers. Many fishers were reduced to daily wage labourers. Traditional fishers organized as part of the Machchuara Sangathan to challenge this policy with the support of a local NGO, Vikalp. Their demand was that only traditional fishers be legally recognized to fish in inland water bodies. After a struggle lasting nearly ten years, their demands were met by the provincial government in 2008. The inland fisheries policy of Madhya Pradesh is now based on the recommendations of inland fishers. Likewise, the lease

amount for the tanks is also fixed in consultation with fishers.

Shriram Kevat sought a national campaign to address issues such as rights of traditional inland fishers, enhancing fish stocks in inland waters, and increasing budget allocations for inland fisheries development. He proposed setting up a national network of organizations or individuals working on issues of inland fisheries and fishworkers.

Loktak Lake, Manipur

Sharatchandra Singh, of the Bishnupur District Fisheries and Allied Co-operative Federation Ltd, highlighted the plight of fishworkers involved in *atha phum* fishing (a type of fishing practised from *phumdis* or floating islands) on Loktak Lake. This lake is the largest freshwater lake in the northeastern part of India, located at an altitude of over 750 m and having a water spread of 286 sq km. In 1990, the lake was designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, with a core zone and a buffer zone separately demarcated. The traditional occupation of the people living in about 200 villages surrounding the lake is fishing and agriculture.

Fishing communities surrounding Loktak Lake have been involved in *atha phum* fishing using encircling gear around the *phumdis*. *Phumdis* are a heterogeneous mass of soil, vegetation and organic matter at various stages of decomposition. They get stabilized over time, and the villagers have built their huts on them. Such *phumdis* are estimated to occupy about two-thirds of the surface area of the lake, with about 25,000 fishers dependent on *atha phum* fishing, catching mainly Indian and exotic carp species introduced into the lake. The co-operative output is over 1,000 tonnes of fish, sold at over Rs54,000 (US\$1,200) per tonne. The proliferation of *phumdis* is thought to have reduced the water-holding

capacity and the water quality of the lake. In 2006, the State government came up with the Loktak Lake (Protection) Act, 2006, and prohibited further establishment of *phumdis* and *atha phum* fishing. Fishing was banned in the core zone, and the *phumdis* are also being removed from there. Fishers are being encouraged to shift to fish culture using pens. Sharatchandra Singh said that some traditional fishers have been using only *atha phum*, and have no experience in other forms of fishing. They need assistance to shift to other fishing techniques that are environmentally sustainable.

West Bengal

The representatives from the inland sector of West Bengal presented three types of inland fishing and aquaculture operations carried out in various parts of the State. Rabin Soren from the Santhal community of Birbhum District talked about a campaign to reclaim stone quarries by converting them to fish ponds. There are many illegal quarries in the region, which tribal communities are trying to convert into fish ponds, while simultaneously trying to secure recognition of their rights to fish in them. About 12 women's groups, each with 25 members, have been formed to carry out these activities. This is also a way to reverse the environmental and other health-related problems, such as silicosis, which had been caused by illegal quarrying, said Soren.

Gobinda Das from Canning District in the Sundarbans narrated the problems encountered while fishing in the vicinity of a tiger reserve (a protected area under the Wild Life Protection Act (WLPA)). Fishing has been banned in the core zone, and is severely restricted in the rest of the reserve. Though the government issues boat licence certificates (BLCs) allowing licence holders to fish, the number of BLCs issued is very limited—fewer than 1,000 though there are more than

50,000 people dependent on fisheries. Those caught fishing are harassed by the Forest Department, and their fishing gear and vessels are confiscated. There has been no consultation with fishers regarding the declaration of the reserve and the demarcation of the core zone, despite the strong provisions of the Forest Rights Act that protect the rights of communities dependent on forests for their livelihoods. Das concluded by demanding the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, and the restoration of the rights of local fishing communities.

Taraknath Bag, a member of the Mudiali Fisheries Co-operative, established in 1961, spoke about how large quantities of industrial and domestic waste water of Kolkata is being recycled to successfully rear different carp species, and to discharge clean water. Although their co-operative is a good example of nutrient recycling, of low-impact aquaculture, and of low-external input sewage/fish systems, it still operates under the threat of eviction by the Kolkata Port Trust Authority that owns the land (about 70 ha is still left). Constant threat of eviction provides no stability for the livelihoods of dependent fishers, comprising about 400 families. Their main demand is to have rights over the area they use for fishing, Bag concluded.

In the discussion that followed, participants sought to explore if such a model could be replicated in other polluted cities, such as Mumbai. There was great potential to replicate it, it was felt, given the benefits. It was cautioned, however, that such fish culture should not be undertaken where industrial effluents contain heavy metals.

Bihar

Suman Singh, from Sakhi, an NGO, narrated the struggle of women from

traditional fishing communities for fishing rights in ponds and water bodies in Madhubani District of Bihar. Women of traditional fishing communities are now organized into self-help groups (SHGs) and co-operatives. Women are handling the entire process from breeding to marketing. In spite of the difficulty in getting recognition, the rights to fish in about 50 per cent of the ponds have been allocated to women. There is need to map all existing water bodies in Bihar through remote sensing, and to ensure that fishing communities are given stewardship of these resources. Singh drew attention to the extremely poor socioeconomic status of the traditional fishing communities in Bihar, and the high rates of illiteracy that are still prevalent. With girls often getting married at a very young age, the situation of women is even more precarious. Urgent attention is needed to improve the socioeconomic situation of fishing communities, she stressed. She welcomed the proposal to form a national network of inland fishworkers.

Manju Devi, a landless fisherwoman from Bihar, who got married as a child, recounted how she and her husband received a pond on a 10-year lease to undertake fish farming, pointing out that such access can be an effective tool for redressing the poverty of landless populations.

Maharashtra

Prakash Malgave of the Vidarbha Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives, Maharashtra, outlined the different types of inland fisheries—in rivers, reservoirs, and in tanks and ponds. In the case of ponds and tanks, fishing is often not seen as an accidental activity. There is a clash of interest over the use of water between fish rearing and agriculture—while the farmer is keen to use the water for irrigation, fishers are interested in keeping the water. Fishermen's

co-operatives have to pay the full lease amount to the *zilla parishad* even if there is no water in the irrigation tanks, he said. There is water to undertake fish culture only during the period from July to September (about 100 days) in a year. Fishers have to seek other forms of livelihood for the rest of the year. Regarding reservoirs, he pointed out that the construction of reservoirs and dams submerge large areas. However, it is only farmers and others who own land who get any compensation. Fishers are never compensated for lost fishing opportunities, even though they are deprived of their livelihoods. At the same time, forests are not cleared from the areas that are to be submerged, making fishing operations difficult once the area is submerged.

Malgave said that instead of subsidies for fishing vessels and gear, more resources should be allocated for conservation of rivers and water bodies, for desilting of tanks and ponds, as well as for fish-seed production. Subsidies should be extended for the conservation of natural seed production areas. The rights of inland fishers are not recorded anywhere; State governments should properly identify and record their historic rights, he said. A comprehensive policy on inland fisheries, and a separate department of fisheries at the State level, is needed, he concluded.

Orissa

Krishna Chandra Jena from Chilika Lake in Orissa—the largest lagoon in India—drew attention to its rich biodiversity. There about 150 villages around the lake, and around 200,000 fishers who depend on it for their livelihoods. Jena described the negative impact of outsider-owned illegal prawn farming rampant in the lagoon, and its destructive environmental and social consequences, an issue that the fishers have been campaigning against for the past couple of decades,

including through legal means. Five fishermen have even died in the course of the agitations. Despite a Supreme Court ruling ordering the removal of the illegal farms (*gheries*), about half of them continue to operate. Even as this issue persists, the opening of a new outlet in the lake has affected the water exchange and productivity of the lake, and has caused erosion and flooding of villages. There are demands that the opening be closed. The livelihoods of local fishing communities have been badly affected, and many fishers have been forced to migrate to work, for example, on board multi-day fishing vessels in Gujarat. There is need for the NFF to support the struggle of local fishermen, seeking restoration of their traditional rights, Jena concluded.

Andhra Pradesh

Hannu Rao from Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, described the campaign undertaken by local fishing communities against the location of a power plant in productive wetlands that have been their traditional fishing grounds.

Karnataka

Vasudev Bloor of the Akhil Karnataka Fishermen Parishad said that rights to carry out fishing operations in tanks were being given to influential groups. Recently, however, the State government has issued an order that all fishing rights in tanks should be given to fishermen's societies. Bloor also spoke of the struggle launched by the fishing community against pollution and discharge of untreated chemical effluents in water bodies and along the coast.

MARINE FISHERIES

About NFF

Rambhau Patil, General Secretary, NFF, provided a brief account on the origins of the organization, a federation of State-level unions formed in 1978.

Its formation was the direct result of the conflict between the then newly introduced mechanized trawlers and the small-scale traditional and artisanal fishworkers. The demand of traditional fishworkers was for a ban on trawling to protect their livelihoods and fisheries resources. Stressing that issues of biodiversity have always been high on the agenda of NFF, Patil spoke about the “Protect Waters, Protect Life” march undertaken by NFF in 1989, which had traversed the entire coastline of the country. In 1991, NFF led the campaign against the deep-sea fishing policy that allowed foreign fishing vessels to fish in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of India. An all-India fisheries strike was organized on 4 February 1994 to protest against the joint-venture policy. A nine-day hunger strike was also organized. The policy was subsequently revoked on the recommendations of the Murari Committee that had been set up in the aftermath of the massive struggle by fishworkers.

Through such campaigns, NFF has enabled fishworkers to have a voice, said Patil, stressing the importance of organization. In a context of globalization and privatization, the need for such organization is more pressing than ever. There are important livelihood issues that need attention: the takeover and degradation of the coasts; implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification; and scrapping the letter of permit (LOP) scheme and conservation initiatives that deny fishermen the right to fish. There is urgent need to improve management of resources through co-management. Patil concluded with a strong appeal for fishworkers to maintain their unity, and for women to take a lead role in the organization.

***Small-scale Marine Fisheries:
Issues and the Way Ahead***

Pradip Chatterjee, Secretary NFF,

provided an overview of the current activities and campaigns of NFF, related to, among others, improving coastal and fisheries management; securing land rights of fishing communities; ratifying the ILO Work in Fishing Convention 2007; implementing aquarian reforms to benefit active fishers; improving adaptation to climate change; and improving access to social security. There is need to regulate and proscribe destructive fishing gear such as bottom trawls, as well as foreign fishing vessels in the Indian EEZ under the LoP scheme. A legislation to regulate fishing activities in the EEZ is long overdue, Chatterjee noted.

An important NFF campaign is for legal recognition of the rights of fishing communities over the working and living spaces traditionally used by them. With respect to aquarian reform, NFF is demanding that active fishers from the fishing community should be given priority rights to fish in water bodies (including sea, river, brackishwaters, wetlands, lakes, reservoirs, etc.). Challenging top-down conservation initiatives Chatterjee said that prior consultation with, and consent of, the fishing community should be ensured before any conservation is undertaken, especially if it entails the restriction of fishing activities. Climate change is likely to affect fishing communities, and there is need to develop, in a participatory manner, the adaptive capacity of fishing communities to meet the challenges posed by climate change. Appropriate social-welfare schemes for fishing communities are sorely lacking, and attention to issues such as housing, insurance and education is urgently needed. The saving-cum-relief scheme should be extended to all fishworkers, including women, said Chatterjee. 3

Day II: 20 September 2011

Group Discussion

On the second day of the workshop, participants were divided into three groups—two focused broadly on marine issues, while the third focused on inland fisheries. The groups were asked to reflect on three key issues of concern to their lives and livelihoods, as well as to make specific proposals to address these issues. They were also asked to discuss what is considered to be small-scale fisheries in their contexts. The reports from these group discussions were the basis of the Kolkata Statement that emerged from the workshop.

REPORTING BACK FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Group I: Marine Group I (Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu)

From the discussions, it was clear that what was seen as small-scale fisheries varied from State to State and place to place. According to fishers of southern Maharashtra, traditional fishing employing non-mechanized and non-motorized fishing craft within 10 fathoms from the shoreline should be considered small-scale fishing. For mechanized fishing vessel owners in Karnataka, small-scale fishing would include only vessels with engines up to 10 hp, or those without engines. Mumbai fishers said non-mechanized vessels, or those with engines up to 32 hp, undertaking any territorial-water fishing operations other than trawling could be considered small-scale fishing vessels. For the Tamil Nadu fishers, all fishing vessels up to 37 hp undertaking fishing operations, except trawling and purse-seining in territorial waters,

could be considered small-scale. Small-scale fishers, participants agreed, would include owner-operators of the above categories, workers engaged in fishing operations in these vessels, and allied workers and processing workers, including women.

It was agreed to consider non-trawl fishing vessels which is below 20 m in length and using engine up to 20 hp, with manually operated gear, especially with no mechanized towing and hauling power, and whose owners regularly go out to sea, as small-scale fishing in the national context. It was also agreed that small-scale fishers in India would include: owner-operators from fishing communities, and workers on board, and allied to, small-scale fishing, including resident and migrant workers as well as women fish-processing workers. Traditional fisheries can be divided into traditional small-scale and traditional large-scale, it was suggested; the latter would include those who fish in waters beyond the territorial limits. The traditional large-scale fishers should be licensed to fish in the EEZ and the Central government should facilitate this, it was held.

The participants highlighted the immediate need to discontinue the subsidies for building new fishing vessels. It was proposed that tax rebates on diesel fuel for purse-seiners and trawlers should be withdrawn, considering their destructive impact on fishery resources. The group debated, inconclusively, whether or not it is better to consider a one-time subsidy to shift to more fuel-efficient engines,

instead of continuing with the current regime of recurring fuel subsidies. The group also discussed the desirability of re-targeting existing fuel subsidies towards better health and education programmes for fishing communities.

Discussing the equity dimension of ownership, the group was of the view that each fishing family should not own more than one or two vessels. It is ideal to restrict the number of fishing vessels to one per ration card (a card issued by the provincial government for a family to obtain food or other essential commodities, which is treated like a family identity card in India). It was also suggested that community consent should be obtained before registering new fishing vessels.

While discussing bottom-up processes for fisheries management, several questions were raised for consideration, such as how far self-regulation is effective; how far existing traditional arrangements could be useful; the relevance of traditional knowledge in a fast-changing fishery scenario; and the role of government in fisheries management. The group was keen that the government should have an oversight role in all fisheries-management arrangements. There is also need to ratify and implement the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, and to ensure social security for fishworkers across States.

Participants also reflected on issues related to the growing competition over coastal lands and resources, and their own struggles to protect coastal resources. There is need to protect the rights of fishworkers to their living and working spaces on the coast, and, in this context, it is important that revenue records recognize the rights of fishing communities to both private and common property. Attention was drawn to the example of Maharashtra, where rights of *koliwadās* have been reflected in revenue records.

Group II: Marine Group II (Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal)

Participants in this group were from the east coast states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, and also included some people from inland fisheries. Attention was drawn to a gamut of problems that continue to face fishworkers and their communities. Several proposals were mooted, with priority being given to the need to recognize the rights of fishworkers to coastal lands customarily used by them, including in urban and tourist areas, as well as their rights to access and manage fishing grounds and water-bodies. This should also include the right to protect them from destruction and degradation. This was particularly in the context of ongoing developments, such as those related to tourism, power generation, ports, industrial development, and conservation initiatives, which were leading to the displacement of fishing communities from their lands and waters, and causing widespread pollution and destruction of habitats and resources. There is also need to ban trawling and other destructive fishing techniques and gear in inland and inshore waters, and to strictly implement the provisions of the State-level Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA). At the same time, the restriction on fishing in sanctuaries and national parks should be reviewed to allow for fishing by traditional small-scale fishers.

Several participants drew attention to the continuing high levels of poverty among fishing communities on the east coast, and stressed the need for specific interventions to reduce the incidence of poverty, including provision of nutritional support to women and children, where needed. The situation was such that it was leading to high levels of out-

migration from fishing communities by those in search of employment. Attention was also drawn to the persistence of child labour in some poor coastal regions, as in the Sunderbans.

The group stressed the need for landing centres equipped with basic infrastructure, good facilities at markets, and access to healthcare, decent housing, sanitation, potable water (especially in the Chilika Lake area), education and roads. Given that much of this area is cyclone-prone, there is need to provide cyclone shelters in every village and to ensure disaster preparedness.

Specific attention was drawn to the need to recognize women fish processors and vendors, including through issuing identity cards and ensuring their coverage under various government social-security schemes, such as the saving-cum-relief scheme. Pointing out that women fish vendors are often not allowed to board public transport buses, the need to address the problems faced by women vendors related to transport and to harassment at markets was repeatedly stressed.

Many of the participants in the group highlighted, in graphic terms, the continuing hold of, and exploitation by, moneylenders and traders, and the need for well-functioning co-operative societies that also provide access to credit at decent rates, including for purchase of craft and gear.

Some participants from West Bengal drew attention to the problem of piracy and lack of security. Pointing out that fishers often face harassment from the coast guard, it was suggested that the important role that they can play in coastal security should be recognized. Fishers could, for example, be employed in the marine police.

Group III: Inland Fisheries

The inland fishery group observed that the right over water bodies for fishing should be granted to fishery co-operatives comprised exclusively of members of fishing communities and traditional fishers. To facilitate this process, the group said, a census of inland fishing communities should be held. The group sought a uniform inland fishing policy, stressing that fishing communities should be consulted when any legislation or policy is drafted that could have an impact on their lives and livelihoods. It further sought the responsibility for dealing with fishing rights in water bodies to be handed over to the department of fisheries. The group upheld the importance of recognizing the role of fisherwomen in inland fisheries and aquaculture, and their right to a secure workplace and dignified treatment. The women fish vendors were sometimes harassed and evicted from local market places. The group sought an end to harassment and exploitation of women in markets.

Lack of education was identified as the main problem behind the exploitation of fishing communities. The group urged that a targeted education programme should be implemented for fishing communities. It pointed out that inland fishers are regularly exposed to disasters such as floods and droughts, to climate change-related processes, and even to unknown disasters. Steps should be taken to prepare fishing communities for these disasters, it was suggested. The group sought the establishment and strengthening of a network of community organizations in the inland sector with the support of the State. 3



The late Matanhy Saldanha of NFF addressing the participants of the Kolkata workshop.



Suman Singh of Sakhi sharing the views of the inland group during the plenary of the Kolkata workshop.

Report of the Symposium

Day III: 21 September 2011

Chair: V Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF

A symposium was organized on the final day of the workshop, chaired by V Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF. The panel members were as follows:

- Akhil Giri, MLA, Chairman, Benfish, West Bengal
- Yugraj Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Programme—Intergovernmental Organization, (BoBP-IGO)
- S Umananda Singh, Fisheries Extension Officer, Department of Fisheries, Manipur
- Pradip Chatterjee, Secretary, NFF
- Suman Singh, Sakhi, Bihar
- Ujjaini Halim, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)
- Rambhau Patil, General Secretary, NFF, and Representative, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)
- Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

Matanhy Saldanha, Chairperson, NFF, welcomed all the panelists. Vivekanandan drew attention to the main issues flagged in the Kolkata Statement of the workshop. Panel members were then invited to offer their comments and suggestions on the presented statement and on the way forward.

Akhil Giri, Chairman, Benfish, recalled that fisheries is the main source of income for the local population in many parts of West Bengal. However, both capture fisheries and fish farming are facing serious problems of resource degradation, and efforts being made by both the State and the central

governments to address the issue are important for the development of the sector. It is also useful that financial institutions are coming forward to invest in aquaculture, given the tremendous potential for its expansion. There is need to address issues like the paucity of training institutions and the lack of access to modern technology and the need for a liberalized regime for imports and exports. Giri also underscored the importance of improving sanitation facilities in fishing communities.

Yugraj Yadava of BoBP-IGO began by complimenting the workshop participants on the comprehensive statement. He said that it raises issues that need to be taken note of by State and national governments, as well as by others.

Referring to the resource depletion observed in both inland and marine fisheries, Yadava said that if appropriate steps to improve management of these resources are not taken, the future of small-scale fisheries would appear bleak. There is urgent need to protect rivers, floodplains and other waterbodies including from encroachments and pollution. There is need to prepare, through a participatory process, a model Inland Fisheries Bill, for adoption and implementation by States. The 2004 Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy should also be reviewed and a revised policy should be brought out, after wide consultations. Yadava added that many of the issues in marine fisheries, including that of the LoP scheme, can be addressed if the

recommendations of the Murari Committee are implemented. It is essential to augment the capacity of fisheries departments, he stressed, especially to improve delivery of services for the benefit of fishworkers, and to work with communities on issues of management.

Yadava also commented on various issues highlighted in the Kolkata Statement. With reference to the demand that subsidies for new trawlers and purse-seiners under the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) Scheme should be withdrawn, he suggested that it would be better if subsidies for introduction of any new craft are withdrawn, given that there is already excess capacity. He also agreed that the government should focus its efforts on constructing fish landing centres (FLCs) and providing better facilities at such FLCs. This will have greater benefits across the coast than the construction of large harbours. On the issue of enhancing benefits from the saving-cum-relief scheme, and ensuring that it covers inland fisheries and women fishworkers, he said that this is a proposal in the 12th Five Year Plan. Finally, Yadava stressed the importance of education to better the lives of fishworkers as well as the importance of tailoring the curriculum to bring in subjects related to fisheries, the coastal environment and climate change.

Umananda Singh, Fisheries Extension Officer, Department of Fisheries, Manipur, provided a brief account of the fisheries sector in Manipur. He emphasized the necessity to protect resources from natural and man-made threats for the benefit of the fisheries sector and fishworkers. He cited the example of Loktak Lake that has greatly reduced in size due to pollution. He also highlighted that the Department of Fisheries in Manipur has always worked together with fishing communities

for the implementation of all schemes and policies.

Pradip Chatterjee, Secretary, NFF, emphasized the importance of resource management. Fishing communities are the natural custodians of their resources—they know well that only if the resources are healthy and well managed will there be any fish. The threat from pollution is very severe today, and pollution of water bodies and coasts should not be allowed. Inland fisheries, said Chatterjee, is very important from the point of view of food security for the poor. In the marine context, apart from revising the MFRAs, there is also need to put in place legislation to regulate fishing activities in the EEZ. Provisions in legislation should recognize, and provide for, the role of fishing communities in fisheries management. There is also need to recognize the common-property nature of the lands and resources used by fishing communities, he said. Further, fishworkers should not be unduly harassed by security agencies in the name of security. Rather, security agencies should recognize them as the first line of surveillance, and efforts should be made to work together with them, as is happening in some areas.

Chatterjee also flagged the issue of corruption in the use of funds available for fisheries. It is important that proper measures are taken to monitor the use of funds such as those earmarked for housing and social security of fishworkers. The benefits of such schemes often do not accrue to genuine fishworkers.

Suman Singh, of Sakhi, an NGO in Bihar, echoed concerns about high levels of corruption. Fishers must have a say in deciding how to use the allotted budget, she said. Interference in the functioning of co-operatives must be stopped, and their autonomy should be ensured. Commenting on the poor socioeconomic conditions of

inland fishing communities in Bihar, Singh stressed the need for improving access to education, healthcare and decent housing, and of addressing social issues such as child marriage, which are common among fishing communities. There is also need to invest in capacity building, especially of community-level organizations, she concluded.

Ujjaini Halim of WFF said that the stress on human rights in the Kolkata Statement is important, as it also emphasizes the need to improve the accountability of governments. Pointing to the current lack of recognition of small-scale fisheries, she called for a pro-small-scale fisheries policy, developed through participatory processes. She also called for developing better networks and solidarity links between fishworkers, including at the international level, given that they face problems that are similar in nature.

Rambhau Patil, General Secretary, NFF, pointed out that fishing communities have consistently highlighted the importance of conservation and management. NFF has led many campaigns and struggles highlighting the need to protect coastal and fisheries resources. He pointed to the alarmingly high levels of pollution near urban centres such as Mumbai, and the impact this has had on fisheries resources. It is important that systems of co-management are put in place, to address the crisis

developing in the sector, he said. For this, the rights of fishing communities to their lands and fishing grounds must be recognized and protected.

Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF, said that the workshop had provided an opportunity for taking stock of issues facing both inland and marine fishing communities in the current context, and in highlighting proposals from communities on how to deal with these issues. Even as many of the 'traditional' issues facing fishing communities, such as the control by middlemen and traders, remain, several new issues additionally threaten the lives and livelihoods of fishing communities today. Such threats include non-fisheries developments that pollute and destroy water bodies and coastal habitats, and the takeover of lands and fishing grounds traditionally used by communities. The Kolkata Statement, she said, captures the proposals from the workshop participants, and it is important that these are taken seriously by policymakers and others. It is also important that the statement influences the content of the international guidelines on small-scale fisheries being developed by the FAO.

In his closing speech Matanhy Saldanha thanked the panelists. He said that the Kolkata Statement will be widely circulated to facilitate awareness on the demands of both inland and marine fishworkers. 3



Fish Vendors at Bhubhaneshwar Market, Orissa.

Appendix 1

National Workshop on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries Seva Kendra, Kolkata

19 to 21 September 2011

Programme

Day 1		Monday, 19 September 2011	
0800 – 0900 hrs		Registration	
0900 – 1100 hrs		Welcome and Introduction to the Workshop Matanhy Saldanha, Chairperson, NFF Inaugural address Mahashweta Devi, Eminent Author and Playwright Message Madan Mitra, Minister of State for Fisheries, Government of West Bengal Introduction to the Workshop Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF	
1100 – 1115 hrs		Tea	
1115 – 1300 hrs		Introduction by Participants	
1300 – 1400 hrs		Lunch	
1400 – 1600 hrs		Introduction by Participants (contd...)	
1600 – 1615 hrs		Tea	
1615 – 1800 hrs		The Proposed FAO Guidelines on Small-scale Fisheries: Presentation and Discussion Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF	
Day 2		Tuesday, 20 September 2011	
0900 – 1300 hrs		Group Discussions on Issues Facing Small-scale Fisheries and Fishing Communities in Inland and Marine Fisheries, and Proposals for Addressing These Issues	
1300 – 1430 hrs		Lunch	
1430 – 1630 hrs		Group Discussions (contd...)	
1630 – 1645 hrs		Tea	
1645 – 1800 hrs		Presentation of Group Reports	
Day 3		Wednesday, 21 September 2011	
0900 – 1230 hrs		Synthesis of Proposals: Presentation and Discussion Adoption of Proposals	
1230 – 1400 hrs		Lunch	

Appendix 2

Symposium on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries Seva Kendra, Kolkata

21 September 2011

Programme

Wednesday, 21 September 2011

1400 – 1430 hrs	Welcome Matanhy Saldanha, Chairperson, NFF Rabeendra Sangeeth Debjani De
1430 – 1515 hrs	Presentation of Workshop Proposals by Workshop Representatives
1515 – 1545 hrs	Tea
1545 – 1730 hrs	Responses to Workshop Proposals: The Way Forward Chair: V Vivekanandan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Akhil Giri, MLA, Chairman, Benfish - Yugraj Yadava, BoBP-IGO - S Umananda Singh, Fisheries Extension Officer, Department of Fisheries, Manipur - Pradip Chatterjee, NFF - Suman Singh, Sakhi - Ujjaini Halim, WFF - Rambhau Patil, WFFP - Chandrika Sharma, ICSF Discussion
1730 – 1800 hrs	Concluding Remarks Matanhy Saldanha, Chairperson, NFF Closure of Symposium

Appendix 3

List of Participants

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WORKSHOP AND SYMPOSIUM

Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries

Report

The workshop and symposium titled Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries was jointly organized by the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) and the Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA), in collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF).

The workshop was the first in a series of consultations around the world organized to discuss the Voluntary Guidelines on Small-scale Fisheries (VGSSF) and propose measures, keeping in mind the interests and concerns of small-scale fisheries and fishing communities. The workshop was also a forum to make the role of small-scale fisheries and fishworkers more visible in the context of food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable use of fishery resources.

The workshop had 62 participants from both the marine and inland sectors, representing 10 States of India. The participants included fishworkers, representatives of fishworker organizations, policymakers and representatives of multilateral organizations. The workshop was structured to facilitate active interaction and discussion among participants, taking into account linguistic diversity and the contextual differences of the marine and inland sectors.

This publication will be useful for fishworkers, fishworker organizations, researchers, policymakers, fish farmers, members of civil society and anyone interested in small-scale fisheries and livelihoods.



ICSF is an international NGO working on issues that concern fishworkers the world over. It is in status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN and is on ILO's Special List of Non-Governmental International Organizations. It also has Liaison Status with FAO. As a global network of community organizers, teachers, technicians, researchers and scientists, ICSF's activities encompass monitoring and research, exchange and training, campaigns and action, as well as communications.