

DRAFT



ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS FISHERIES POLICY-2018



Andaman Sea

Ten Degree Channel



Chowra



Sombbrero Channel

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
PORT BLAIR**

Little Nicobar Island

Great Nicobar Island

Indira Point

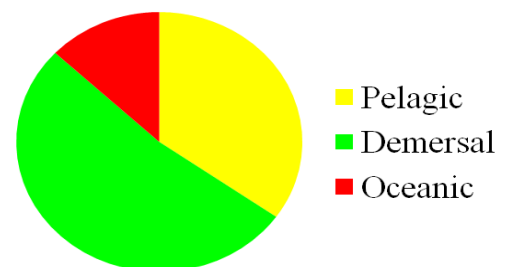
BACKGROUND

Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands lie between 6°45'-13°41'N Latitude and 92°12' -93°57'E Longitude. The total length of coastline of the islands is 1962 km, which is nearly 26.10% of the Indian Coast. The Continental shelf is about 34965 Sq.Kms, which nearly forms 6.60% of the total Indian Continental Shelf. The Andaman Sea surrounding these islands is relatively deep and beaches are narrow. In many places the continental shelf is fouled by Coral outcrops. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Islands is about 6.00 lakh Sqkm, which comprises 29.70% of the total Indian EEZ.

MARINE FISHERIES

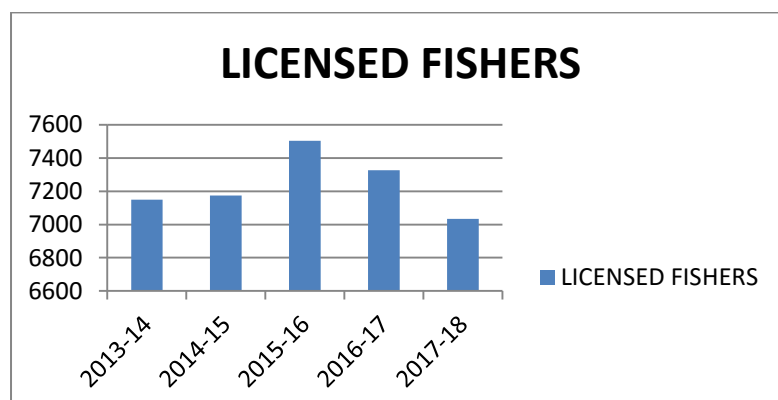
The A&N Islands have very significant marine fishery resources including lucrative fisheries of Tuna and Tuna like fishes and other species of commercial value such as groupers, snappers and other reef fishes.

MARINE FISH RESOURCES		
S.No.	Regions	Potential Yield (MT)
1.	Demersal	32000
2.	Pelagic	56000
3.	Oceanic	60000
	TOTAL	148000



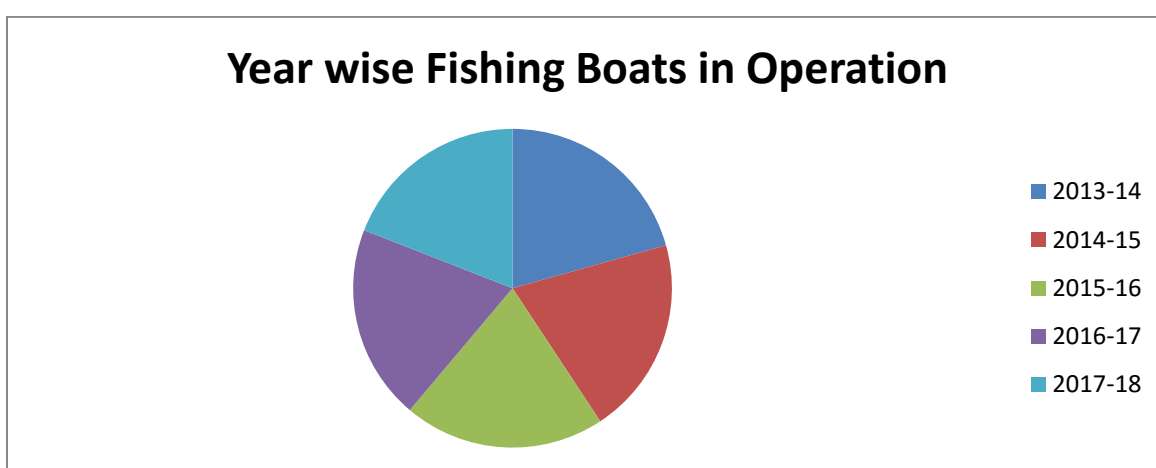
There is no traditional fishing population in A & N Islands. Fishermen from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, who settled in the islands about five decades ago, are engaged in fishing.

NO.OF LICENCED (ACTIVE) FISHERMEN FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS					
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
No of licensed (active) Fishermen	7150	7175	7503	7326	7034



The Marine fish production of the Islands is much less than the resources available. This is mainly due to the non-availability of Infrastructure, suitable boats and skilled Manpower.

FISHING BOATS IN OPERATION FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS						
S. No	Fishing Boats in operation	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	Mechanized Boats	43	68	69	83	85
2.	Motorized Boat	1401	1352	1385	1255	1353
3.	Non Motorized(Country crafts)	1571	1510	1528	1550	1346
Total		3015	2930	2982	2888	2784



The Department of Fisheries has been implementing various schemes/ programmes in the Islands to enhance the Marine Fish Production which in turn helps in increasing the Fish Production year by year.

YEAR WISE MARINE FISH PRODUCTION (Qty. in MT)				
YEAR	DEMERSAL	PELAGIC	OCEANIC	TOTAL
2003-04	14213	16310	535	31058
2004-05	9178	8420	167	17765*
2005-06	6394	5505	154	12053*
2006-07	13790	14649	161	28600
2007-08	13894	14433	528	28855
2008-09	14585	16658	1092	32335
2009-10	15028	15200	2772	33000
2010-11	15039	16276	2420	33735
2011-12	15409	16495	3168	35072
2012-13	15863	17295	3268	36426
2013-14	17005	18454	1294	36753
2014-15	16329	18231	2420	36980
2015-16	15405	18704	3016	37125
2016-17	16543	18978	3060	38581
2017-18	16731	19478	3075	39284

*The low production is due to Tsunami that hit the islands during December, 2004

FRESHWATER FISHERIES/ AQUACULTURE:

The freshwater resources are limited in these Islands. This is due the absence of large water bodies. There are about 2605 of freshwater ponds owned by the farmers which were constructed under Minor Irrigation Scheme of the Department of Agriculture by availing subsidy. A few of these ponds were constructed under IRDP, NREP and MG-NREGA.

Inland Aquaculture in the Islands is getting importance day by day as high income can be generated with low investment from a unit area. Break-up of the freshwater resources available in the Islands are as under:

MINOR IRRIGATION PONDS IN A&N ISLANDS			
S. No	Place/ Tehsil	Fresh water Ponds (No.)	Water Area (ha.)
1.	South Andaman	533	34.64
2.	Neil Island	70	4.55
3.	Havelock	105	6.82
4.	Little Andaman	80	5.20
5.	Baratang & Kadamtala	229	14.80
7.	Rangat	250	17.02
8.	Billiground	365	26.06
9.	Mayabunder	107	6.06
10.	Diglipur	820	67.06
11.	Car Nicobar	07	0.45
12.	Nancowry	06	0.39
13	Campbell Bay	33	2.14
	TOTAL	2605	185.19

RESERVOIRS IN A&N ISLANDS		
S.No	Name	Area in ha.
1.	Dhanikari Reservoir, South Andaman	65
2.	V.K. Puram Reservoir, Little Andaman	48
3.	R.K. Puram Reservoir, Little Andaman	65
4.	Dilthaman Tank, South Andaman	03
5.	Chakkargaon Tank, South Andaman	03
6.	Nayagaon Tank, South Andaman	03
7.	Kalpong Reservoir, Great Nicobar	180
	TOTAL	367

The main species that are cultured in the Islands are Indian Major Carps i.e Catla, Rohu, and Mrigal. Apart from these, fishes like Singhi, Magur, Tilapia, Roop Chanda, Silver carp, Grass carp are also cultured in some areas of Andaman. The inland fish production during the year 2017-18 was 220MT.

BRACKISH WATER AQUACULTURE:

Though 33,000 hectares brackish water resources are available in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the brackish water Aquaculture is practically absent. Most of the brackish water resources are mangrove infested and come under reserved forest. The presence of salt water crocodile in some parts of islands is impeding the development in these areas for brackish water aquaculture. Good quantities of mullets, milk fish, sea bass, shrimps and crabs are available in the mangrove areas. These species could be cultured in the brackish water areas suitable for aquaculture. During 2003, a survey was conducted by Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture, Chennai and they had identified following few areas for development of brackish water Aquaculture. The total area identified for Brackish water Aquaculture is 618.806 Ha.

AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR BRACKISHWATER AQUACULTURE	
South Andaman	Teylarabad, Bimlitan, Sippighat, Guptapara, New Wandoor, Badmashpahar (Chouldari), Ograbbranch, Mithakhari, Kadakachand, Kanyapuram, Shoal Bay, Govindnagar, (Havelock), Bharatpur and Lakshmanpur (Neil).
Middle Andaman	Karmatang, Rampur, Dhanapur, Padmanabhapuram, Panchavati, Humkunj, Nimbutala, Dasarathpur and Kadamtala.
North Andaman	Kalipur, Shibpur, Durgapur and Deshbandhugram.
Nicobar	Great Nicobar Islands

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES:

The major infrastructure facilities available in the Islands are Fish Landing Centres, Ice Plant, Cold Storages etc.

FISHERIES INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES IN A&N ISLANDS		
Infrastructure	Quantity	Remarks
Fish Landing Centres	08	09 more FLCs are under construction and for 02 FLCs work is yet to commence.
Ice Plants	04	Each Ice Plants is of 10 MT capacity
Cold Storage	05	Total capacity of all cold storages is 70 MT

GOAL OF A&N ISLANDS FISHERIES POLICY, 2018

The overarching goal of the A&N Islands Fisheries Policy, 2018 is to ensure the health and ecological integrity of the marine living resources of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Exclusive Economic Zone through sustainable harvest for the benefit of present and future generations. The freshwater Fisheries though small, can also not be ignored particularly, when the growth of fishes in the Islands is much below the National Average. The overall strategy of A&N Policy shall be based on sustainable development, socio-economic upliftment of fishers, principle of subsidiarity, partnership, inter-generational equity, gender justice and precautionary approach. This strategy will guide the actions of various stakeholders in meeting the vision and Mission set for the Policy of A&N Islands.

- The EEZ of A&N Islands is about 30% of the total EEZ of the country, while the coastline constitutes 26.10% of the country's coastline.
- The Continental shelf of the Islands constitutes merely 6.60% of the Country- a negative factor for harvesting the existing exploitable Marine Resources of 1.48 lakhs MT.
- The drawback of limited Continental Shelf, however, is compensated with the presence of enumerable number of bays and creeks. But again substantial area of these bays & creeks is reserved as National Park, sanctuaries and for tribal population.
- With the rescinding of LOP by Govt. of India, the area of operation for exploiting Marine Resources has enhanced substantially upto EEZ limits, but to reach that areas, a fact that we do not have the fleet to exploit the oceanic resources.
- The strategic importance of the Islands, particularly when the mainland of India is far off as compared to several South East Asian Countries, which are quite nearer to our Islands and the fact that the fauna in the sea around the Islands is more close to our neighbouring countries than that of mainland of India will remain in consideration zone.
- The fact can also not be ignored that quite often the fisher community of the neighbouring countries lured with the considerable resources available in the Islands.
- The fact that to look for exploitation of vast area available with us, we need ample number of skilled manpower, right gears and crafts.
- We also need to take into consideration the decision of Govt. of India contemplating opening of direct corridor between the islands and the neighbouring East Asian Countries.
- The fact that the prime profession of large population of the neighbouring countries is fishing based and hence we will have to carefully craft the type and size of infrastructure projects which would be very useful to directly export our products.

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- The rich flora, particularly seaweeds and fauna of Islands is quite suitable to look for coastal as well as open sea Aquaculture particularly cage culture in the Bays and Creeks using traditional materials and integrating it with tourism and to maintain sanctity of Environment.
 - It has to be realised that the availability of considerable faunal resources should not lead to overexploitation which otherwise would lead to loss of bio-diversity and reduced availability of resources for future generations.
 - While moving steadily to achieve the goal to make Fishery as the main source of economic development of the Islands, we may have to keep in our minds that we are not diverted from the commitment of the nation to International agreement for sustainable use of marine living resources.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Fisheries Policy, 2018 is based on the following vision, mission and strategy for the fisheries sector of the country.

VISION

“A healthy and vibrant fisheries sector that meets the needs of the present and future generations.”

MISSION

“The Islands are bestowed with pure and pristine water with very fragile coral eco-system and are very rich in biodiversity. Hence, while keeping sustainability of the resources at the core of all actions, the policy framework will meet the island’s social and economic goals, livelihood sustainability and socio-economic upliftment of the fisher community and is intended to guide the coordination and management of fisheries in the islands during the next twenty years or more.”

STRATEGY

Andaman & Nicobar being a group of Islands in the Andaman Sea, being recognized as one of the major thrust area through Marine Fisheries and accordingly development planning had eyed on it and hence funds required were pumped into. But the fact is that, the development could not take place due to geographical isolation although the research institutions have identified these Islands for its great potential in Aquaculture sector particularly Brackishwater & Mariculture. The exploratory fisheries surveys were also conducted to ascertain the Fisheries Potential available in the Islands. The sector being considered as Securing Food and Nutritional requirement of the population, as also this sector plays an important role in trade and commerce and promotes large scale employment and livelihood of Coastal Communities.

The present scenario in the country with respect to Fish Catch and efforts is that among active fishermen, 33% are employed in Mechanised sector, 62% in motorised sector and 05% in Artisanal Sector. Of the total marine fish production, 75% come from

Mechanised sector, 23% from motorised sector and 02% from Artisanal Sector. It is interesting to note that the Artisanal sector was significant till 60's, but with the popularisation and consequent expansion of Mechanised fishing during subsequent periods, the Artisanal sector declined considerably in contributing the Fish Catch.

In the Islands too the scenario is not different. Till 80's, the artisanal sector was contributing maximum in Fish Landing, but with the introduction of motorization through Plan Programmes and also by the Fishermen on their own, the artisanal sector was overtaken. The Islands do not have mechanised fishing and still the motorised crafts are contributing a lot as their reach has increased considerably, but within few Kilometres away from the Coast. What is required in the Islands is to increase the reach in the deeper water to exploit oceanic resources like tuna and tuna like fishes and other resources, for that not only suitable boats are required to be introduced but also need to diversify fishing methods so as to target all kind of Fisheries Resources. Suitable infrastructure and Aquaculture particularly Coastal Aquaculture and Mariculture are the other areas need to be targeted.

Hence, through Andaman & Nicobar Islands Fisheries Policy, 2018, the following recommendations are made.

1. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- 1.1 It has been observed that often the scientific community speaking differently over the availability of Fish Stock in the Island's water and have quite often raised question on the current exploitable resources i.e. 1.48 lakh tons. This need to be re-assessed by engaging suitable agencies and may be based on real time fish catch as the islands topography is such that within few Kms from the shore, the depth of the sea runs into several hundred meters and beyond.
- 1.2 It is recommended to continue the existing system of reserving the areas upto 6NM for traditional Fishermen using motorized and non-motorized boats to avoid any conflicts.
- 1.3 Beyond 6NM, we will encourage mechanized fishing using vessels of different classes for different kind of fishing as permissible under rules. Keeping in the view that mechanized fishing in the islands is almost absent for variety of reasons, which inter-alia include the non-competence of Islands fishers to handle the boats, as also their capacity to buy the big boats. To overcome this situation, we will take following steps:-
 - a) Invite Mainland entrepreneurs to deploy their vessels by giving suitable incentives, if required.
 - b) The thrust area for exploitation will be tuna and tuna like fishes,

king fish, barracuda and other oceanic resources apart from Deep Sea Lobster and Prawns.

- c) Exploitation of rock lobster and other Coastal varieties, squids, cuttle fish, reef fishes particularly groupers, snappers and emperors will be encouraged as all these varieties fetch very high price in the International market. Exploitation of above varieties may deteriorate environment, hence a very safe approach will be adopted by taking all precautionary and safety measures.
- d) The islands are proposed to have trade relations with the neighbouring south-east Asian countries; we may enter into joint ventures with the entrepreneurs of these countries to deploy vessels. The condition of such joint ventures may be worked out as suited to us and employment generation centric.

- 1.4 We will follow the principle of management of Fisheries as an integrated approach, blending traditional knowledge and science with business principles and effective engagement of both primary stakeholders and also those engaged in ancillary activities to ensure that Fisheries are ecologically and economically sustainable.
- 1.5 Our approach will be based on knowledge Management to foster quick and easy dissemination and availability of information on key attributes of Marine sector, such as resource abundance and distribution; real-time resource maps; productivity assessments; real-time Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories; and weather forecasts for the benefit of fishers. The use of Information Technology (IT) and Space Technology (ST) will be put to optimum use for harnessing the benefits in support of the fisher community.
- 1.6 Temporal closures have helped in sustaining marine fisheries wealth of the Islands. To ensure that these management measures effectively improve the livelihoods of fishers, periodic reviews will be conducted, taking into account the best scientific information available, including a precautionary approach, and with due engagement of fishers and other concerned stakeholders.
- 1.7 Although the Islands Fishery is under-utilized but it has to be kept in mind that the marine fish resources are not inexhaustible, and uncontrolled harvests will lead to depletion of resources, as experienced in many cases. The Islands Administration will take appropriate steps in consultation with concerned scientific institutions and fishers in optimizing fishing effort and implementing measures that will help in sustaining the resources on as and when required basis. These measures will inter-alia include, input and

output controls such as fleet size, fishing days, area of operation, engine horsepower, gear size, MSY, minimum mesh size, diverting effort to areas which are relatively less harvested, fleet plans etc.

- 1.8 The Islands Administration have reserved areas for traditional fishers, aboriginal tribes, tribals, sanctuaries, national park. It is recommended to continue such arrangement.
- 1.9 The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) will be implemented with due consideration to the well-being of all living and non-living constituents of the marine ecosystem and the social attributes of stakeholders. In the same vein, participatory management or co-management in fisheries, which is recognized globally as one of the successful management systems for multi-stakeholder, multi-species and multi-fleet fisheries, will be promoted. The norms for introducing these management measures will be worked out in consultation with the fisheries research institutions and stakeholders.
- 1.10 The Islands Fishery is Coastal in nature with very limited Continental Shelf and a steep Continental Slope. This results in sudden depth running into several 100 meters. The Islands lack full fledged Mechanized Fishing Operation as we do not have craft and gears to operate in deeper waters. Our responsibility has increased with the rescindment of LOP. In the absence of Infrastructure, manpower and technology to operate in deeper water, the Islands Administration will take support of all stakeholders, technologically rich institutions/ organizations and if required overseas technology for the development of Fisheries in these areas. A single window system approach integrating all the stakeholders will be adopted to enable Capacity Building of Islands fishing fleet for Deep Sea Fishing/ Mariculture and other areas. Entrepreneurship development, private investment, Public Private Partnership (PPP) and better leveraging of institutional finance for marine fisheries sector will be encouraged. Besides, modalities will be worked out for integration of sea food processing and export sector with the deep sea oceanic fishing industry for holistic development of the sector.
- 1.11 The Islands Administration will introduce new scheme(s) for enhancing the skills and capabilities of the traditional fishermen to undertake and popularize deep sea fishing.
- 1.12 The Islands Administration in line with Govt. of India will develop a holistic resource utilization plan for the EEZ, taking into consideration, the requirements of the islands.

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- 1.13 We also have considerable scope to harvest fishery resources of the high seas or in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), particularly in Bay of Bengal and South of Islands in the Indian Ocean. The Islands Administration will promote utilization of fishery resources in the ABNJ by Islands fishing vessels, subject to compliance of International Agreements.
- 1.14 The structure of the Department is very small. This will be re-looked by adding manpower at all levels considering the future vast prospects of development, large scale introduction of boats and other related activities. Since the Department lack experience and expertise in Management of large scale fleet and other management practices, it would not be out of place to engage some eminent experienced person/ agency of Indian and Foreign origin for guidance for specific period. Department will also look for pyramidal structure for the Department not only at the Head Quarter level but also island wise for better management of the activities

2. MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS)

- 2.1 The existing mechanisms in place for a sound and effective MCS regime for marine fisheries sector need further strengthening. At present the Islands Administration has an online uniform registration and licensing system (ReAL Craft) to register all fishing vessels operating in the marine sector. While monitoring of fish catch and efforts and control of fishing through registration and licensing is in place, MCS activities will be further strengthened through greater engagement of the Department of Fisheries, Police Marine Force and the Indian Coast Guard. Strengthening and improvements in MCS will be carried out in a phased manner by introducing chip-based smart registration cards that would include data on registration, licensing, and other routine information on base port, voyages, etc.

The MCS functions will also be strengthened by the mandatory use of Vessel Management System and Vessel Automatic Identification System. Apart from this, use of log books, movement tokens, colour coding of fishing vessels, biometric cards to fishers for their identity shall also be introduced/ further strengthened.

- 2.2 The marine fisheries sector is characterized by a range of fishing vessels varying in design, construction material, size, engines and gear and area of operation. The rules relating to registration, survey and certification, mandatory carriage of identification documents and tracking equipments, penalties for violations of the aforesaid provisions, sea-safety and manning

norms of fishing vessels are required to be updated to cater to the needs of fisheries sector and also to meet the international standards and norms prescribed by concerned agencies such as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), etc.

- 2.3 The establishment of vessel building yards and construction of fishing vessels has been an unregulated activity in the country, leading to construction of poor quality vessels that compromise with key attributes such as stability, optimum space for fish holds, crew accommodation and provisions for kitchen and toilets. With the increased usage of Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP), the chances of building poor quality boats by such yards have amplified. The Islands Administration will consider enlarging the scope of the A&N Marine Fishing Regulation and Rules to include registration of vessel building yards, annual survey of fishing vessels for seaworthiness, routine inspection of communication & safety appliances through IRS/similar Technical Organizations, standard design specifications for fishing vessels, construction material and procedures for continuous monitoring and control of vessels and to incorporate other provisions on as and when required basis.
- 2.4 India being a party to several International Agreements/Arrangements to deter, prevent and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, the Islands Administration in line with the Govt. of India will establish a sound mechanism both at the port and at sea to ensure that the Islands fishing fleet does not engage in any IUU fishing within its own EEZ & high seas.
- 2.5 The Convention 188 of ILO has been a landmark international instrument providing necessary provisions for best labour conditions on fishing vessels. The Islands Administration will consider making such provisions in our Rules.
- 2.6 In order to avoid death of fishermen at Sea, the adequate measures will be included/ strengthen to include the provisions of life-saving appliances (such as Distress Alerting Transmitter/Automatic Identification System) and communication equipments on the vessels and developing adequate skills and capacity building of fishers and other concerned stakeholders.

3. FISHERIES DATA AND RESEARCH

- 3.1 In line with the National Marine fisheries Policy, 2017, the islands Administration will strengthen the science-policy interface. Further, as

sound policy decisions will necessitate timely, reliable, and comprehensive database covering various facets of the Fisheries sector of the Islands. Institutional assistance, if required, will be obtained to project true and real time data base in all segments of fishery related activities.

4. MARICULTURE/ COASTAL AQUACULTURE

- 4.1 The islands topography and geographical location offers immense potential for Mariculture activities. The Islands Administration will encourage to set up Mariculture farms, setting up of hatcheries for supply of seeds to develop the sector. Innumerable number of bays and creeks in the islands offer big scope for cage culture using traditional construction material/ low cost technology as well as high ended materials like HDPE for entrepreneurs who would be interested to develop cage culture with tourism integration. Islands are quite suitable for open sea cage culture, pearl culture, hence the activities will be promoted.
- 4.2 Coastal Aquaculture too have good potential especially by utilizing the areas that were inundated during 2004-Earthquake followed by Tsunami. The liberal and time bond approach will be adopted so as to avoid inconvenience to the entrepreneurs.

5. FRESHWATER FISHERIES

- 5.1 Considering the fact that the islands have very limited land mass, this area do not offer much scope but the fact remains that though small but the islands have large number of ponds constructed under minor irrigation. These ponds have a total area of 185.19 Ha. Apart from this we have 367 Ha. area of reservoirs. The islands Administration will continue to support freshwater fisheries, encourage fish farmers to adopt feed based aquaculture, marketing of the produce in an organised manner and any other support that would be required.

6. POST HARVEST AND PROMOTING ISLAND BASED FISHING

- 6.1 Geographically the islands are spread over 700 km from North to South. The Island Administration in the past, following the recommendations in Master Plan and other committees suggestions have taken steps to create Cold Chain between the islands and acquired even reefer containers. As a result we have cold storages and Ice plants in northern most part of the Islands as well as in the Southern most parts of the Islands, apart from the other islands. These infrastructure projects are quite old and based on outdated technology suited only to the island based fishery and not fit even

to export the products to mainland. These projects will be replaced with most modern technology available in the world. The capacity will also be increased supported with Blast freezers of - 60°C, ice plants with RO water and Cold ware. If these projects are in place, the islands Administration will have some infrastructure for the entrepreneurs who are interested to set up their projects in a particular Island.

- 6.2 The projects so modernized and brought to the International level could be leased out to the entrepreneurs who make the particular island as their base for fishing and intend to export the products from that island, or else the Department could itself manage these projects and levy the charges at par with National/ International market. However, the rates for local fishers could be subsidized.
- 6.3 Similarly, the Fish landing Centers constructed and being constructed will be re-looked and modernized to keep the hygienity at Par with the International Standards. Suitable Infrastructure will also put in place in the Fish Landing Centers that would be required for transiting Catch/ product.
- 6.4 The Islands Administration will consider establishing Fisheries Industrial Park to encourage export based projects to facilitate export of fish/ fishes in such standard and condition that will be acceptable in both US/ European and other markets of the World.
- 6.5 As of now, the required agencies which award clearances for export are not available in the Islands. The Islands Administration will take up with the concerned Ministry to put in place all the agencies that are essentially required to award Clearances for export of fish and fish products.
- 6.6 Apart from the above Infrastructure, the Islands Administration will promote need-based Infrastructure projects by the private entrepreneurs, under PPP Mode and Joint ventures with foreign countries. The Islands Administration would incentivize these projects by introducing suitable schemes.
- 6.7 The Infrastructure development is a big work particularly in the Islands Scenario. We do not have enough and suitable staff structure to handle such works. Hence, Islands Administration will consider engaging qualified suitable person/ agency having vast experience in handling such works. If necessary, foreign experts/ agency would also be engaged for such Infrastructural projects.

7. TRADE

- 7.1 The A&N Islands are strategically located with good environment and particularly known for pollution free zone. Utilizing this status, the Islands Administration would use “Andaman” as brand for export purpose. Certain parts of the islands would be allowed for inspection of designated International Agencies for declaring product of that particular area for “Eco-labeling”. The eco-labeled products fetch much higher prices, several times higher than the ordinary products in the International Market.
- 7.2 Apart from above, the Islands Administration will promote product diversification, improve value addition and enhance the reach of the product to new markets in different parts of the world.

8. MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND POLLUTION

- 8.1 While promoting development of sustainable fisheries, the Islands Administration will place emphasis on maintenance of the ecological integrity of marine environment, so as to ensure that there are no adverse effects on the endangered, threatened or protected marine species. Mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs are integral part of the coastal marine eco-systems and provide a range of eco-system services, including habitation for many fish species and marine mammals (e.g. dugong etc.).

9. CLIMATE CHANGE (ADAPTATION AND NEW INITIATIVES)

- 9.1 Climate change is one of the biggest challenges that the fisheries sector is facing and time-bound adaptation and management plans are necessary. The impacts of climate change on marine fisheries are amply visible in the Indian EEZ and surrounding high seas. Such impacts have brought perceptible changes in the fishery of some species, forcing fishers to make changes in fishing operations. Climate change is also one of the reasons for changes in abundance of vulnerable fish stocks. The Islands Administration will encourage focused studies on climate change impacts on fish stocks and fishing communities, besides implementation of adaptation options in a time-bound manner by engaging suitable agencies. As part of India’s International commitments on climate change, the concept of green fisheries by reducing Green House Gases (GHG) emissions from fishing and fishing related activities will also be encouraged.

10. FISHER WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY NETS

- 10.1 The Islands Administration will continue the current welfare measures and further strengthen these to provide adequate safety nets to fisher community in the Islands through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme (DBTS). Such measures will also include community welfare, housing and other amenities to fishers.

11. GENDER EQUITY

- 11.1 Like in the Country, women in the Islands also play a vital and important role in retailing fish, fish drying and other value addition activities either individually or in groups. The Islands Administration will continue to support to women fishers involved in Fishery related activities individually as well as through cooperatives and will also ensure financial support through Plan and other Central Sector Schemes.

12. ADDITIONAL/ ALTERNATE LIVELIHOOD

- 12.1 Keeping in mind the dwindling marine fisheries resources, the Islands Administration will support Fisher community to adopt Mariculture, Eco-tourism, Sports Fishing which has good potential in the islands and any other areas related with Fisheries for the Islands Fisher Community.

13. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS/ ARRANGEMENTS

- 13.1 The Indian Fisheries is now set in a globalized world and the global agenda on fisheries is guided by a set of binding and non-binding instruments that concern both fisheries and environmental aspects. India being a signatory to such instruments and agreements need to implement the provisions and agreements to meet its international obligations and make fisheries sustainable, which otherwise could impact the sector and in turn affect the livelihoods of fishers. The Islands Administration will fully comply with the provisions of the International Agreements, Arrangements and also active participation in the activities of the Regional and International bodies as and when required. The Islands Administration would strictly follow the direction of Govt of India on FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF or Code).

14. REGIONAL AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COOPERATION

- 14.1 The Islands Administration will continuously work with the Island based research Institutes in the field of Fisheries and the Coastal States of mainland and would exchange the ideas for the development of Fisheries

in the Islands. The Islands Administration will also have regional cooperation for development of Fisheries in the Islands strictly in line with the Far-east policy of Govt. of India. The Regional Cooperation with the Far-east countries in the field of Fisheries would also considerably reduce the Poaching and illegal fishing in our waters.

15. WAY FORWARD

- 15.1 The A&N Islands Fisheries Policy, 2018 is expected to meet the multi-dimensional and growing needs of the Marine Fisheries, Mariculture activities, Coastal Aquaculture and Freshwater for 02-03 decades. The Policy is holistic and adequately addresses the needs of all the segments of this diverse economic activity. This Policy will have an 'Implementation Plan' that will specify the action points under each recommendation contained in the Policy. It is expected that through the implementation of this Policy, the entire fisheries sector in the Islands will become a sustainable and well-managed entity, ensuring enhanced utilization of the harvest for human consumption; employment, gender equity and livelihoods; equity and equality; provision of food security and nutrition; and creation of wealth and prosperity in the sector. This policy will also meet the target set for Fish Production and other components in our Vision Document.
