



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES: A POLICY PERSPECTIVE FOR INDIA

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COLLECTIVE IN
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SDG 14 AND FISHERIES

- By 2025 reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities (SDG Target 14.1)
 - By 2020 sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems (SDG Target 14.2)
 - Minimize the impact of ocean acidification (SDG Target 14.3)
 - By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices, and implement science-based management plans (SDG Target 14.4)
 - By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas (SDG Target 14.5)
 - By 2020, prohibit fisheries subsidies (overcapacity and overfishing, IUU fishing) (SDG Target 14.6)
 - Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets (SDG Target 14.b)
 - Implement intl. law for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources (SDG Target 14.c)
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INDIAN LEGAL AND POLICY INSTRUMENTS AND SDG 14

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (Act no. 6 of 1974) have provisions for coastal states to address pollution of seas and tidal waters (but no legislation yet to prevent marine debris, including floating plastic debris)
 - Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 (to protect endangered or threatened marine spp, etc.); Coastal Regulation Zone Notification under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the conservation of coastal and marine environment; and National Biodiversity Act, 2002
 - ‘Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation; species-specific and zonal/area-specific management plans; conservation of ecologically and biologically significant Areas (EBSAs) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs); protection of iconic and endangered and threatened (ETP) species; creation of fish refugia; optimizing fishing effort; formulating management plans (NPMF 2017, NFP 2020)
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INDIAN LEGAL AND POLICY INSTRUMENTS AND SDG 14 (CONT.)

- Updating the existing rules and regulations for governing fisheries in the MFRA and also aligning them with International Instruments/Arrangements to ensure that they cover all aspects of fisheries management. This will be carried out by the preparation of a Model Bill for consideration of the coastal States/Uts (NFP 2017,2020)
 - India to establish a sound mechanism both at the port and at sea to ensure that the Indian fishing fleet does not engage in any IUU fishing within its own EEZ and the ABNJ (NFP 2017, 2020)
 - Comprehensive legislation for the regulation of fishing by the national fleet in the EEZ and the ABNJ (NFP 2017, 2020)
 - Encourage carbon-efficient practices to improve water quality near coral reefs (Draft Policy Framework: India's Blue Economy 2020)
 - Comply with the rules and regulations set under the international instruments relating to fishing in the EEZ and the ABNJ (NFP 2020)
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SDG 14.B AND INDIAN MARINE FISHERIES POLICIES

- Increase the area presently available to traditional fishers in the territorial waters (NMFP, 2017, NFP 2020)
 - Secure tenure rights of the traditional fishers (NMFP, 2017)
 - Strengthen and implement safety-at-sea measures (NMFP 2017)
 - Support women cooperatives; women-friendly financial support schemes; good working conditions, including safety, security and hygiene and transport facilities for retail marketing (NMFP 2017)
 - Encourage women to take up small-scale fishing, value-addition activities; and facilitate their active engagement in fisheries management (NMFP 2017)
 - Implement provisions of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), promoting a human rights-based approach (NMFP 2017)
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SDG 14.B AND INDIAN MARINE FISHERIES POLICIES (CONT.)

- Promote product diversification, improve value addition and product branding and enhance the reach to new markets in different parts of the world (NMFP 2017)
 - Promote eco-labelling of key Indian fisheries products (NMFP 2017)
 - Reduce dependency of fishers on middlemen and private financiers (NMFP 2017)
 - Strengthen marketing through fishermen-run and/or state-run harbour-based co-operatives (NMFP 2017)
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SDG 14B AND INDIA'S BLUE ECONOMY POLICY FRAMEWORK (DRAFT)

- Introduce a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in marine fisheries to insulate fishers and fish vendors against extreme price fluctuations (Draft Policy Framework: India's Blue Economy, 2020)
 - Earmark 10% of the total priority sector lending for fishers. The funding needs of the fish processing industry should be addressed outside the purview of the priority sector lending (Draft Policy Framework: India's Blue Economy, 2020)
 - Evaluate interest subvention and credit subsidy programmes to encourage sustainable fishing and fish marketing practices (Draft Policy Framework: India's Blue Economy, 2020)
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OBSERVATIONS

- Centre-state relations within the framework of cooperative federalism pertinent for managing fisheries and the marine ecosystem (need to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions in marine fisheries management)
 - Apply an EAF through coordination and cooperation across sectors—governance approach
 - Need to look into how SDG14 contributes to other SDGs and vice versa towards integrating the three pillars of sustainable development (building national statistical capacity)
 - Recognize the strategic importance of small-scale fisheries for food security, poverty reduction, economic and social development, disaster preparedness including for pathogen induced disasters like Covid 19, and sustainable use of marine and inland living resources (applying human rights-based approach and securing tenure rights to common property regimes)
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THANK YOU

