

## **Introduction - NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES POLICY 2015 - Questionnaire**

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The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India has constituted an expert committee to prepare a revised National Marine Fisheries Policy for India. In order to draft the policy, the Committee has decided to elicit opinions and views of all stakeholders on key issues affecting marine fisheries through a questionnaire. There are 85 questions which can be answered in Yes/No format. It would take about 30 minutes to fill in the answers. Only those questions relevant to respondents need to be answered. The questionnaire can be filled online in English. In regional languages and Hindi, the PDF form can be printed and your preference can be ticked in appropriate column. The printed sheets can be posted to the DIRECTOR CMFRI PO BOX 1603, KOCHI 682018, KERALA. The cover may be superscribed with NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES POLICY. The last date for submission of your views is 10th December 2015.

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Respondents opting for online filling need to key in their email id and mobile phone number after which you will receive a one time password (OTP) on your mobile phone which has to be used to gain access.

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Your views will be used only for analysis in preparing the draft policy and will be kept confidential.

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**MFP:** Marine Fisheries Policy – India. The marine fisheries policy is a broad framework for managing fisheries of India in a sustainable manner and for conserving fish stocks.

**EAFM:** Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management or Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM). A risk based management and planning process developed by FAO that covers the principles of sustainable development including the ecological, environmental, human and social elements of sustainability.

**FAO-CCRF:** A voluntary Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries developed by FAO which would help countries to manage their fisheries and environment in a sustainable manner.

**Fisheries Councils:** A fisheries management body consisting of all stakeholders and concerned scientific bodies making informed decisions on management of fisheries applying the co-management principle.

**FSSAI:** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. The agency under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.

**LOP:** Letter of Permission. The scheme of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Govt. of India giving permit to Indian fishing companies to import foreign vessels for fishing in Indian EEZ

**MFRA:** Marine Fisheries Regulation Act. The set of rules and regulations for governing fisheries made by state governments

**MLS:** Minimum Legal Size. The minimum size scientifically fixed for harvesting fish so as to protect the spawning biomass and give sufficient chance for most of the animals for spawning.

**MSY:** Maximum Sustainable Yield. The maximum level at which a fish resource can be routinely harvested sustainably on long-term basis.

**NGO:** Non-Governmental Organizations working in the fisheries sector

**Nmi:** nautical mile (1nmi=1.8 km)

**RFMO:** Regional Fisheries Management Organization. International body made up of countries that share a practical and/or financial interest in managing and conserving shared fish stocks in a particular region.

**VMS:** Vessel Monitoring System. System used to track and monitor the activities of fishing vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone

## Questionnaire on Marine Fisheries Policy for India

Identify your category and then fill in your answers with a X at Yes or No column.  
 questions not relevant to your field need not be answered

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Respondent Category	Yes	No
1 Fishers/ fish worker		
2 Fish auctioneers/ transporters		
3 Fishermen Association/ leaders/ union		
4 Fishing boat owner		
5 NGOs/ Civil Society groups		
6 Seafood processor/ exporter		
7 Academicians/ Researchers		
8 General public		
9 Government officials		
10 Fisheries Cooperatives		
11 Others		
<b>A General Questions</b>		
1 Do you think that the 2004 marine fisheries policy (MFP) to guide and control fisheries and allied activities needs revision		
2 If yes, do you think that there should be a permanent mechanism for periodic review of MFP		
3 Do you think that marine fisheries resources are inexhaustible?		
4 Do you feel that uncontrolled harvest will result in depletion of resources		
5 Do you agree that regulations and management are necessary for sustainable harvests		
6 Do you agree that additional regulations to the existing are required to manage and conserve fishery resources		
7 Are you experiencing reduction in catches of major resources over the years		
8 What in your opinion are the reasons for decline in catches (multiple choices are possible)		
a) There are too many number of boats targetting same resources		
b) There is marine pollution harming the resources and their breeding grounds		
c) There is too much exploitation of young ones of fishes		
d) There is too much exploitation of spawners during spawning season		
e) Climate change is affecting the abundance of fish stocks in the sea		
f) All of the above		
g) None of the above		
9 What in your opinion are the risks associated with marine fishing		
a) Uncertainty about catch		
b) No knowledge of where abundant resources are available		
c) Rough seas and associated loss in catch, property and life		
d) Lack of insurance compensation		
e) No income during off season and fishing ban period		
f) All of the above		
g) None of the above		
10 Are you getting sufficient catch of high value fish, such as...		
a) Shrimps		
b) Hilsa		
c) Seerfishes		
d) Pomfrets		
e) Cephalopods		
f) Perches		
g) Others		
11 Is the proportion of low value bycatch increasing over time		
12 Are you agreeable for implementing devices which can reduce low value bycatch		
13 Do you agree that discarding low value bycatch in the sea is detrimental to sustenance of the fisheries		
14 Do you agree to closing of fishing in areas where more juveniles are occurring		
15 Are you experiencing reduction in catch of some reources over the years		
16 Are you experiencing reduction in catch of all reources over the years		
17 Do you think that fish breeding grounds are deleteriously affected by fishing/ pollution		
18 Do you agree to protecting known fish breeding grounds by declaring them as no-fishing zones permanently		
<b>B Conflicts &amp; Conflict Resolution</b>		
1 Do you agree that there are conflicts between groups practicing different fishing methods		
2 Do you think that conflicts are due to differing economic returns		
3 Do you think that conflicts are due to competition for same resources		
4 Do you think that forming local and regional fisheries councils is an effective way for resolving conflicts		
5 Do you think that Government of India should take a proactive stance in curbing fishing in other countries waters		
6 Do you consider it necessary to have RFMOs for the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal to address shared stocks and manage conflicts?		
<b>C Vessel Registration &amp; Licensing</b>		
1 Do you agree to registration of all fishing crafts (traditional, motorized, mechanised) irrespective of size and sector		
2 Do you agree to inspection of registration by enforcement agencies at sea and at port		
3 Do you think that all gears used must follow MFRA and should be licensed individually		
4 Do you agree to prescribing vessel size limits for each type of fishing method		
5 Do you agree to restricting vessel engine capacity for each type of fishing method		
6 Do you think that a separate fishing vessel act should be made to address the above and also to address sea safety		
7 Do you think that multiday vessels in the fleet should have basic human living amenities on board		
8 Are you aware of the advantages of having vessel monitoring system (VMS) on board fishing vessels		
9 Do you agree to fitting of VMS transponders on board fishing vessels with government subsidy		

#### **D Fishermen Welfare**

- 1 Are you satisfied with the existing welfare measures provided by the government to fishers
- 2 Do you think that the present government scheme to monetarily compensate fishers during the fishing ban period is adequate
- 3 Do you think that the insurance coverage provided by the government for life/property of fishers is sufficient
- 4 Do you think that there is need for development of cooperatives for marketing/ storage facilities
  - a) Marketing
  - b) Preservation/ Storage of fish
  - c) Processing and value addition
  - d) Investments in vessel and gear
- 5 Do you agree to a minimum cess on fish catch to support welfare/research activities in the sector
- 6 Do you agree to link monetary support as above with compliance to fishing laws and good fishing practices

#### **E Fisheries Regulations & Management**

- 1 Do you think that existing rules and regulations governing fisheries are adequate to ensure sustainability
- 2 Is there need to amend the existing MFRA in order to cover all aspects of fish and fisheries management
- 3 Do you think that there should be separate rules and regulations for 12 to 200 nmi fishing area
- 4 In your opinion who should enforce regulations in 12 to 200 nmi
  - a) State government marine enforcement/ police
  - b) Central government/ coast guard
- 5 Do you agree that coastal security related issues are to be dealt by central government and fishing issues by state
- 6 Are you satisfied with the LOP scheme of the central government
- 7 Do you consider the following as an alternate option for LOP
  - a) Modernization of existing indigenous deep-sea going vessels and fleets
  - b) Introducing state owned processing mother vessels
  - c) Introducing financial schemes to support modernization
  - d) Providing skill enhancement support
- 8 Has the fishing ban helped in sustaining the fish wealth of the country
- 9 Do you agree to periodic revisions of the fishing ban period and season based on new scientific information
- 10 Do you think that FAOs CCRF should be implemented fully in the country to sustain fish production
- 11 Do you feel that a participatory or co-management system would be helpful to manage and sustain the fisheries
- 12 Should India implement the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM)
- 13 Do you agree that the following components of EAFM should be addressed
  - a) Consider all the living and non-living components in the ecosystem
  - b) Consider the well being of fishers
  - c) Consider the well being of the environment
  - d) Consider the social setup
  - e) Consider co-management in governance
- 14 Do you think that ecolabelling of fisheries in India would benefit fish stocks, fishing industry and fishers
- 15 Do you consider the territorial user rights to traditional fishers are
  - a) Sufficient in its present form
  - b) Not enforced properly
  - c) Should be greatly improved
- 16 Do you feel it is necessary to collect detailed information on fish catch and effort
- 17 Do you agree that there should only be a single national agency to collect and publish fish catch and effort data

#### **F Input & Output Control of Harvest**

- 1 Do you agree that harvest control of all fish stocks at MSY level is necessary for sustainable fisheries management
- 2 Which among the following input control measures are necessary for sustainable exploitation
  - a) Fleet size regulation
  - b) Control on number of fishing days
  - c) Control on area of operation
  - d) Control on season
  - e) Limiting engine horse power
  - f) Limiting duration of fishing per day
  - g) Limiting number of gears per boat
  - h) Restriction on gear size
  - i) Restriction on mesh size and number of hooks
  - j) Ban on fishing practices declared as destructive in MFRA
- 3 Which among the following output control measures are necessary for sustainable exploitation
  - a) Harvest at MSY level
  - b) Enforcement of minimum legal size (MLS) for major stocks
  - c) Introduction of fleet quota system on selected resources

## **G Post-harvest & Processing**

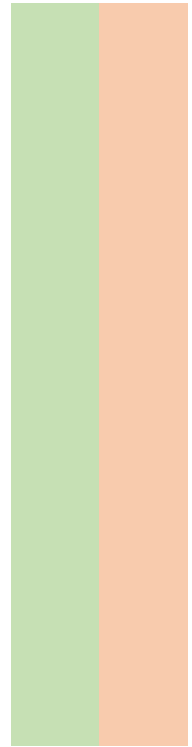
- 1 Are you satisfied with the present hygienic condition of fishing harbours
- 2 Are you satisfied with the present hygienic condition of fish markets
- 3 Do you consider the infrastructure for fish processing and marketing as sufficient
- 4 Do you consider that there is excess capacity in the seafood processing industry
- 5 Is the seafood processing industry getting sufficient raw material throughout the year
- 6 Do the exported Indian fishery products get maximum value abroad
- 7 Is there scope to diversify fishery products on par with international standards
- 8 Should the Indian fish and fish products be integrated with FSSAI benchmarks
- 9 Is there a need to improve the fish marketing value chain
- 10 Will it be beneficial to develop traceability and chain of custody standards for Indian marine fish and fish products
- 11 Do you think that adequate care is taken to reduce post-harvest losses
- 12 Are the wastes generated from fish processing properly utilized
- 13 Do you think that there is excessive use of low value fish such as sardine in fish feed/ poultry feed/ manure industry
- 14 If so, do you think that this should be regulated

## **H Marine Environment & Pollution**

- 1 Is the state of the marine environment in India healthy
- 2 Do you consider pollution as a reason for depletion of certain marine fish stocks
- 3 Do you think that there is no adequate waste processing on land leading waste dumping in the estuaries and seas
- 4 Is the level of plastics in the sea at a very high level
- 5 Do you think that discarding old nets in the sea will harm marine life
- 6 Do you consider climate change impacts as a reason for change in fish stock abundance
- 7 Is the unscientific port development along the coast of India a cause for erosion and accretion along the beaches

## **I Mariculture**

- 1 Do you consider mariculture as a method by which fish production in the country can be increased
- 2 Should the government formulate policies to help setting up of mariculture farms in the country
- 3 Is there sufficient seed production centers to cater to the mariculture activity
- 4 Should the government consider setting up hatcheries and mariculture parks for development of the sector



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

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