



## **Annex 8: Report on ETP Species Awareness Campaign and Future Reporting System**

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) reported that during fisheries survey and observations conducted by CMFRI staff along the coastal districts of Karnataka, no Endangered, Threatened, or Protected (ETP) species have been observed or recorded in purse seine landings.

Karnataka Department of Fisheries (DoF) reported on ETP Species Restriction that Karnataka has issued notifications restricting the fishing of nine species of sharks and rays. Fishermen are informed about species that must be released if caught accidentally, and there are frequent reports of such releases, especially involving sharks and turtles. Coastal Security Police recently released a turtle back to sea after it was found entangled in an abandoned net.

Currently, there are no existing reward schemes for reporting or releasing ETP species caught accidentally. Future schemes to incentivize fishermen to protect these species may be developed.

In August 2024, the International Whale Shark Day celebration was organized to raise awareness on whale shark conservation and sustainable fishing. Later in October, another event was organized to recognize heroic efforts on releasing whale shark that accidentally caught during purse seine operation. In the same month, a meeting of FIP industry partners and government agencies reached a conclusion that guide next steps in awareness campaign, materials to support and communicate with fishers, as well as future reporting

During the 4<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Meeting in March 2025, Director General of SEA=MC<sup>2</sup> provided species details of key ETP species and their status. Conservation strategies for some of these species were also presented as one of suggestion direction for future implementation.

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## **REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL WHALE SHARK DAY CELEBRATION AND MARINE CONSERVATION AWARENESS EVENT**

### **EVENT OVERVIEW:**

The International Whale Shark Day celebration took place on **Friday, 30th August 2024** at **Meenugarara Samudaya Bhavana, Malpe Fishing Harbour, Udupi**. The event was organized to highlight the importance of **sustainable fishing practices** and **marine biodiversity conservation**, with a particular focus on **Whale Shark conservation**.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT:**

1. **Raising Awareness:** To educate local communities, especially fishermen, about the significance of **marine conservation** and the role they can play in preserving the ecosystem.
2. **Whale Shark Conservation:** Emphasizing the need for **protecting Whale Sharks**, the largest species of fish and a vital part of marine biodiversity.
3. **Sustainable Fishing:** Promoting **sustainable fishing practices** that ensure both livelihood for coastal communities and the preservation of marine life.
4. **Collaboration:** Encouraging dialogue between **fishermen** and **coastal department officials** to foster cooperation on marine conservation strategies.

### **Key Attendees**

- **Fishermen and fishing community leaders** from Udupi and surrounding regions.
- **Officials from Coastal Departments** responsible for marine regulation and conservation efforts.
- **Environmentalists and conservation experts** focused on marine biodiversity.
- **Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company-** FIP Lead- Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery Improvement Project-Karnataka State FIP.



**Key Highlights:**

1. **Inauguration:** The event commenced at **11:30 AM** with a formal welcome to the attendees, followed by introductory speeches from key dignitaries representing both the fishing community and government departments.
2. **Discussion on Sustainable Fishing Practices:**
  - Emphasized the impact of **overfishing** and destructive practices on marine ecosystems.
  - Presentations by marine conservation experts underscored the importance of **sustainable fishing techniques**, which include the use of appropriate gear and seasonal fishing restrictions.
  - A fisherman representative spoke about the need for **educating fishermen** on adopting practices that do not endanger marine species like the Whale Shark.
3. **Whale Shark Conservation:**
  - A detailed presentation was given on the **ecological importance** of Whale Sharks, their migratory patterns, and their role in maintaining ocean health.
  - The need for protecting this vulnerable species under **national and international regulations** was stressed.
  - Officials discussed existing laws and regulations, such as **fishing bans** in protected areas and the **Whale Shark Protection Plan**.
4. **Interactive Session:**
  - An open dialogue between fishermen and officials highlighted the **challenges faced by the fishing community** and possible solutions for balancing livelihoods with conservation.
  - Concerns regarding **economic impact** due to fishing restrictions were addressed, with promises of **government support** through **alternative livelihood options** and **conservation incentives**.



#### 5. Awareness Campaign and Training:

- A special training session for fishermen on **marine conservation practices** was conducted. The participants were provided with educational materials and demonstrations on how to identify and report Whale Shark sightings.
- The campaign aims to involve the community in **citizen science**, where they can report Whale Shark sightings for further study and protection.

#### CONCLUSION:

The event concluded with a commitment from both **fishermen and coastal authorities** to work collaboratively for the long-term **sustainability of the fishing industry** and the **conservation of marine biodiversity**, with special emphasis on protecting the endangered Whale Shark species. The success of the event is a promising step towards **building a stronger relationship between local communities** and the **conservation efforts of government and environmental groups**, ensuring a balanced approach to marine ecosystem preservation.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS:

1. **Continued Education and Training Programs:** Regular workshops and educational programs should be organized to keep the fishing community updated on best practices and new regulations.
2. **Incentives on Reporting and release of ETP species:** Provide financial support or incentives to encourage fishermen to report and release of ETP species if caught.

The **International Whale Shark Day** celebration successfully created momentum for further action on **marine conservation** and left the local fishing community motivated to protect their marine heritage.





*Fishermen Leaders, Fisheries officials and CMFRI Scientists on stage*



*Release of Pamphlet which contains the information of IUU and ETP species*





**Karnataka State FIP**  
*Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries*

+91 99020 48773



*Fishermen people, Government officials, and other attendees of the event*



*Presentation on Whale Shark and shark Conservation. By Dr. Sujitha Thomas*

**YASHASWI FISH MEAL AND OIL COMPANY**

No. 9 - 184B, Post Pithrody, Udyavara,  
Udupi District & Taluk, Karnataka, India - 574 118.

**Branch 2**

Plot No. IP-25A, Mangalore SEZ, Permude Village,  
Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, India - 574 509.





*Presentation on Management of Marine Litter, by Dr. Bindu Sulochanan*



*Presentation on Jelly Fish Sting Management, by Dr. Divya Viswambharan*



*Q & A and Vote of thanks, by Dr. Purushottama G B*

Ensuring Sustainability...

**Enclosures:**

1. Request letter sent to CMFRI to conduct awareness program on ETP species
2. Invitation of the event.



**END OF REPORT**







**Karnataka State FIP**  
*Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries*

+91 99020 48773

DATE: 06-08-2024

To,

Dr. Sujitha Thomas, ARS  
Head & Principal Scientist ,  
Mangalore Regional Centre  
ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute  
P.B. 244, Hoige Bazar, Karnataka 575 001 India

Respected Madam,

**Subject: Request for Awareness Program on ETP Species at Malpe Harbour, Udupi on International Whale Shark Day**

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of Small Pelagic Fisheries Improvement Project-Karnataka State FIP to kindly request the esteemed Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) to organize an awareness program on ETP Species at Malpe Harbour, Udupi, in celebration of International Whale Shark Day on 30-08-2024.

As you are aware, whale sharks are a critically important species in marine ecosystems, yet they face numerous challenges due to human activities, including accidental capture and habitat degradation. Educating local communities, especially those directly involved in fishing and coastal activities, about the importance of whale shark conservation is crucial in ensuring the long-term protection of these gentle giants.

Malpe Harbour is a vital fishing hub, and holding an awareness program here would provide an excellent opportunity to engage with fishermen, local authorities, and the general public to foster a greater understanding of the need for whale shark protection, sustainable fishing practices, and marine conservation as a whole.

Your esteemed institute's expertise and leadership in marine conservation would significantly contribute to raising awareness and promoting active participation from the community in safeguarding this endangered species.

We would be honored to collaborate with CMFRI in organizing this event and would be happy to assist in any logistical arrangements required for the program at Malpe Harbour.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to your positive response and the opportunity to work together for the conservation of whale sharks.

For Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company

For Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company

Authorized Signatory

Udaya Kumar Salian  
(Partner)

**YASHASWI FISH MEAL AND OIL COMPANY**

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# **INVITATION**



**ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute  
Mangalore Regional Centre & Karwar Research Station**



Cordially invites you to the International Whale Shark Day Celebration and Awareness on Marine conservation

This event aims to bring together fishermen and officials from the coastal departments to discuss and promote sustainable fishing practices and marine biodiversity conservation, with special emphasis on Whale Shark conservation.

***International Whale Shark Day Celebration and Awareness  
on Marine Conservation***

***on Friday, 30th August 2024 11:30 AM onwards  
at Meenugarara Samudaya Bhavana,  
Malpe Fishing Harbour, Udupi***

We look forward to your active participation in this important initiative to protect our marine ecosystems.







# PROGRAMME



<b>11:30-11:40 am</b>	<b>ICAR and CMFRI Theme songs</b>
<b>11:40-11:45 am</b>	<b>Welcome Dr. Sujitha Thomas, Head, ICAR-CMFRI, Mangalore RC</b>
<b>11:45-11:55 am</b>	<b>Inauguration and inaugural address Sri. Harish Kumar, Addl. Director of Fisheries (Harbour) Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of Karnataka</b>
<b>11:55-12:00 noon</b>	<b>Release of Conservation Posters Shri Vivek R Joint Director Fisheries, Udupi</b>
<b>12:00-12:10 pm</b>	<b>Whaleshark and shark Conservation Dr Sujitha Thomas</b>
<b>12:10-12:20 pm</b>	<b>CMFRI and Marine Fisheries Management Dr Rajesh K. M.</b>
<b>12:20-12:30 pm</b>	<b>Mariculture Activities of CMFRI Dr Kalidas. C., Scientist-in-Charge, KRS</b>
<b>12:30-12:40 pm</b>	<b>Management of Marine Litter Dr Bindu Sulochanan</b>
<b>12:40-12:50 pm</b>	<b>Jellyfish Sting Management Dr Divya Viswambharan</b>
<b>12:50-12:55 pm</b>	<b>Vote of Thanks Dr Purushottama G B</b>
<b>12:55-01:00 pm</b>	<b>National Anthem</b>





**Date:** 30-09-2024

**To,**

Dr. Sujitha Thomas  
Principal Scientist & Head, Mangalore Regional Centre  
ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

**Subject: Recognition of Fishermen Crew for Whale Shark Rescue & Invitation to Felicitation Program**

Respected Madam,

The Karnataka State Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) is committed to promoting sustainable and responsible fishing practices among the fishing community. We wish to bring to your kind attention an exemplary act of marine conservation demonstrated by the crew of the fishing vessel "Sri Durgambika" (Registration Number: IND-KA-02MM-4961).

On September 20, 2024, while conducting their fishing operations, the crew of Sri Durgambika encountered a Whale Shark that had been accidentally caught in their fishing nets. Understanding the ecological importance and protected status of this species, the crew promptly and safely rescued and released the Whale Shark back into the ocean, ensuring no harm was caused to the animal.

To recognize and appreciate the efforts of the fishermen crew for their commendable act of marine conservation, Karnataka FIP is organizing a Felicitation Program on October 5, 2024, at Meenugarara Samudaya Bhavana, Malpe Fishing Harbour, Udupi. The event will also serve as a platform to encourage responsible fishing practices among the larger fishing community.

We are pleased to invite CMFRI to join this occasion and extend its support in promoting ethical and sustainable fishing practices. We are also inviting leaders from fishermen associations, officials from the Department of Fisheries, and representatives from the College of Fisheries, Mangalore.

Your esteemed presence and recognition will serve as a significant motivation for the fishing community, encouraging them to continue adopting conservation-friendly approaches and contributing to the sustainability of our marine resources.

We look forward to your participation in this meaningful initiative. Please let us know if any further details are required.

Sincerely,

For Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company

Authorized Signatory

Udaya Kumar Salian  
Director  
Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company

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