



**WORK REPORT ON "SAVING THE OCEAN'S GIANTS: FISHERMEN'S HEROIC ACT
RESCUES WHALE SHARK" PROGRAM**

Malpe Fishing Harbour, Udupi – October 5, 2024

In an inspiring display of environmental responsibility and quick action, local fishermen were honored for their remarkable efforts in saving a Whale Shark, one of the ocean's gentle giants. The program, titled **"Saving the Ocean's Giants: Fishermen's Heroism Rescues a Whale Shark"**, was organized by the **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** in collaboration with the, **Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries - Karnataka State Fisheries Improvement Program (KSFIP)**, the **Department of Fisheries - Government of Karnataka**, and the **College of Fisheries - Mangalore**.

Event Overview:

The event was held at **Meenugarara Samudaya Bhavana, Malpe Fishing Harbour, Udupi**, where the captain and crew of the fishing vessel **"Sri Durgambika" (Registration Number: IND-KA-02MM-4961)** were felicitated for their heroic efforts. On **September 20, 2024**, the crew rescued a Whale Shark that had accidentally been caught in their fishing nets. Demonstrating their commitment to marine conservation, the fishermen carefully released the endangered species back into the ocean, ensuring its safe return to its natural habitat.

Distinguished Guests and Felicitations:

The event was graced by several distinguished guests who acknowledged and appreciated the fishermen's conservation efforts:

- **Dr. Sujitha Thomas**, Principal Scientist and Head, CMFRI Mangalore
- **Mr. Dayananda Suvarna**, President of Malpe Fishermen's Association



- **Mr. Nagaraja Suvarna**, President of Purse Seine Fishermen's Association, Malpe & Partner - Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company
- **Mr. Raviraj Suvarna**, President of Deep-Sea Trawl Boat Drivers' Association
- **Mr. Vivek R**, Joint Director, Fisheries Department, Udupi
- **Mrs. Anjanadevi**, Assistant Director, Fisheries Department, Udupi
- **Dr. Mridula Rajesh**, Head of Department, College of Fisheries, Mangalore
- **Mrs. Savitha Khadri**, Assistant Director, Fisheries Department, Udupi
- **Mr. Sadashiva S. Mendon**, Captain of "Sri Durgambika," who was felicitated for his crew's extraordinary efforts

Significance of the Initiative:

This initiative underscores the **vital role that local fishermen play in marine conservation**. By rescuing the **Whale Shark**, a species classified as **endangered**, the fishermen have not only exhibited their dedication to sustainable fishing but have also set a remarkable precedent for the entire fishing community. Their actions align with the broader goals of marine conservation and responsible fishing practices.

The **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** in collaboration with the **Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries - Karnataka State Fisheries Improvement Program**, and **state fisheries departments**, continues to emphasize the significance of preserving marine biodiversity. The success of this event highlights the **collective responsibility required to protect marine ecosystems and safeguard the future of endangered species** like the Whale Shark.

Conclusion:

The felicitation of the **crew of Sri Durgambika** serves as a **testament to the importance of ethical fishing practices and marine conservation**. By recognizing their **heroic efforts**, the program aims to inspire more **fishermen to adopt conservation-friendly approaches**. Events like these reinforce the necessity of **collaborative efforts** between **fishermen, scientific institutions, and government**

bodies to ensure a sustainable and thriving marine environment for future generations.



Press report on the event



Karnataka State FIP
Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries

+91 99020 48773



Mr. Vivek-Joint Director, Addressing the event



Dr. Sujitha Thomas -Principal Scientist and Head, CMFRI Mangalore, Addressing the event

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.



Karnataka State FIP
Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries

+91 99020 48773



Felicitation to the Captain of Fishing Vessel



Fishermen Crews along with Officials and association leaders

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.



**WORK REPORT ON THE DISCUSSION ON FURTHER PLANS ON THE
CONSERVATION OF ETP SPECIES**

After the felicitation program, the officials of Department of Fisheries, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and Faculties of college of Fisheries, met the Members of Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries-Karnataka state FIP at the office of Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil company and discussed on the further actions that needed for the conservation of ETP species.

Minutes of Meeting

Date: October 5, 2024

Venue: Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company's Office, Udupi

Attendees:

- Dr. Sujitha Thomas, Principal Scientist and Head, CMFRI Mangalore
- Mr. Vivek R, Joint Director, Fisheries Department, Udupi
- Mrs. Anjanadevi, Assistant Director, Fisheries Department, Udupi
- Dr. Mridula Rajesh, Head of Department, College of Fisheries, Mangalore
- Mrs. Savitha Khadri, Assistant Director, Fisheries Department, Udupi
- Members of Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries - Karnataka State Fisheries Improvement Program (Mr. Udaya Kumar Salian, Mr. Pradeep Moger, Mr. Arun Kumar)

Agenda:

- Discussion on further needs for the conservation of Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) species.
- Review of the heroic rescue of the Whale Shark by local fishermen.
- Planning awareness initiatives and conservation strategies.

Key Discussion Points and Outcomes:



1. Awareness Program on ETP Species

- CMFRI will prepare a calendar for conducting awareness programs on ETP species in all fishing harbours.
- **Deadline for Calendar Preparation:** End of April 2025.

2. Awareness Materials in Fishing Harbors

- The Department of Fisheries will install posters and banners in each fishing harbour to create awareness about ETP species.
- The posters will also include contact details for reporting the catch of ETP species.
- **Deadline for Implementation:** End of 2025.

3. Financial Assistance

- The financial support for the above actions will be provided by the Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries - Karnataka State Fisheries Improvement Program.

Conclusion:

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to enhancing conservation efforts for ETP species, particularly in recognition of the fishermen's heroic act of rescuing the Whale Shark. The participants agreed to work collaboratively to implement the discussed action plans within the specified deadlines.

Ensuring Sustainability...



Karnataka State FIP
Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries

+91 99020 48773



END OF REPORT

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.