



WORK REPORT ON AWARENESS PROGRAM ON CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND PROTECTED (ETP) MARINE SPECIES

Organized by: Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries – Karnataka State FIP

In association with: ICAR-CMFRI, Department of Fisheries, Karnataka Forest Department, and Fishermen Associations

1. Background and Objective

The protection of Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) marine species is mandated under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** which prohibits the hunting, capture, or trade of species listed in Schedules I–IV. However, incidental bycatch during fishing operations continues to be a major threat.

Recognizing this, the **Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries – Karnataka State FIP**, along with partner agencies, organized an **Awareness Program** in July–August 2025. The aim was to:

- Build awareness on the ecological and legal importance of conserving ETP marine species.
- Train fishers in the **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for handling stranded or accidentally entangled ETP species.
- Introduce monitoring tools such as the **ETP Species Release Log Sheet** and **Training Registers**.
- Promote adoption of the **Voluntary Compliance Declaration** among vessel owners,

2. Pre-Program Outreach

- FIP representatives **visited all fishing vessel drivers' associations** from Kumta to Mangalore.
- Association leaders and vessel captains were formally invited.
- These pre-visits ensured participation and emphasized the importance of voluntary compliance.



3. Training Schedule and Participation

Sl. No.	Date & Venue	Participants
1	17 July 2025 – Hotel Mandara Elite, Kumta	182
2	18 July 2025 – M.M Resort, Bhatkal	314
3	23 July 2025 – Hotel Parichaya, Byndur	158
4	08 August 2025 – Hotel Essential Manipal Inn, Udupi 90	

Total Participants: 744 (Vessel owners, captains, crew leaders).

4. Partner Institutions and Associations

1. **ICAR-CMFRI – Mangalore Regional Centre** (scientific expertise)
2. **Department of Fisheries – Govt. of Karnataka** (legal enforcement and compliance)
3. **Karnataka Forest Department** (implementation of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972)
4. **Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries – Karnataka State FIP** (organizer and community link)
5. **Deep Sea Drivers' Association – Karnataka**
6. **Purse Seine Association – Karnataka**
7. **Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company-Sponsor**

5. Training Content & Highlights

(a) Legal Framework

- Overview of **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**: prohibition of hunting, penalties for violations, and schedules covering protected marine fauna.



- Case studies of shark and ray species brought under Schedule I & II in 2022.

(b) Marine Resource Conservation

- **Elasmobranchs (Sharks, Rays, Guitarfish):** Current status, extinction risks, and conservation priorities.
- **Other ETP species (turtles, dolphins, sea cows, whales):** ecological role and legal protections.

(c) Handling SOPs

- Standard Operating Procedures for handling stranded or entangled ETP species:
 - o Safe release techniques.
 - o Human safety during release.
 - o Documentation and reporting to authorities.

(d) Voluntary Compliance & Monitoring Tools

- **Voluntary Compliance Declaration:** Fishermen pledge to follow laws, avoid IUU fishing, and ensure crew compliance.
- **ETP Release Log Sheet:** Standardized format for recording bycatch/release (species, location, alive/dead, action taken).
- **Training Register:** Captains trained to record onboard crew awareness and follow-up training.

6. Training Kits Distributed

Each participant received:

- **ETP Poster** (species identification).
- **Manual on ETP species & Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**
- **SOP Handbook**
- **ETP Release Log Book**



- **Crew Training Register**
- **Voluntary Compliance Declaration Letter**

7. Outcomes and Impact

- **Community Reach:** 744 direct participants across Kumta, Bhatkal, Byndur, Mangalore and Udupi.
- **Legal Awareness:** Improved understanding of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 among fishers.
- **Skill Development:** Fishers trained in handling techniques and safe release of ETP species.
- **Monitoring Initiated:** Logbooks and registers empower crews to document encounters.
- **Self-Regulation:** Adoption of voluntary compliance strengthens community-driven enforcement.
- **Collaboration:** Multiple agencies and associations worked together, enhancing credibility.

8. Conclusion

The **ETP Awareness Program (July–August 2025)** successfully combined **law, science, and community engagement** to promote sustainable fishing practices in Karnataka. With structured training, distribution of standardized tools, and voluntary compliance commitments, the program has laid the groundwork for **long-term protection of endangered marine species** and improved accountability in the state's purse seine fisheries.

The **integration of legal mandates (Wildlife Act), scientific knowledge (CMFRI research), and community ownership (FIP & associations)** ensures that the initiative will have a lasting positive impact on marine biodiversity conservation.

EVENT PHOTOS: Pre-Program Outreach



Discussion with CMFRI Officials on the execution of Awareness Program



Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Belikere

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.



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Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Karwar



Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Honnavaara

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Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Bhatkala



Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Alvekodi & Tenginagundi

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Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Kumta



Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Kundapura region

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Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Manki

Ensuring Sustainability...

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EVENT PHOTOS: Thursday, 17th July 2025 at Hotel Mandara Elite, Kumta



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EVENT PHOTOS: Friday, 18 July 2025 – M.M Resort, Bhatkal



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EVENT PHOTOS: Wednesday, 23 July 2025 – Hotel Parichaya, Byndur



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EVENT PHOTOS: Friday, 8th August 2025 at Hotel essential Manipal Inn, Udupi



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