

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

SI. 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, Udup	oi 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:
 - Safe release techniques.
 - Human safety during release.
 - 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



<u>Discussion with CMFRI Officials on the execution of Awareness Program</u>



<u>Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Belikere</u>





Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Karwar



Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Honnavara





Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Bhatkala



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





Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Kumta



Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Kundapura region





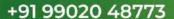
Inviting Fishermen Association leaders to the awareness program-Manki

Ensuring Sustainability...



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















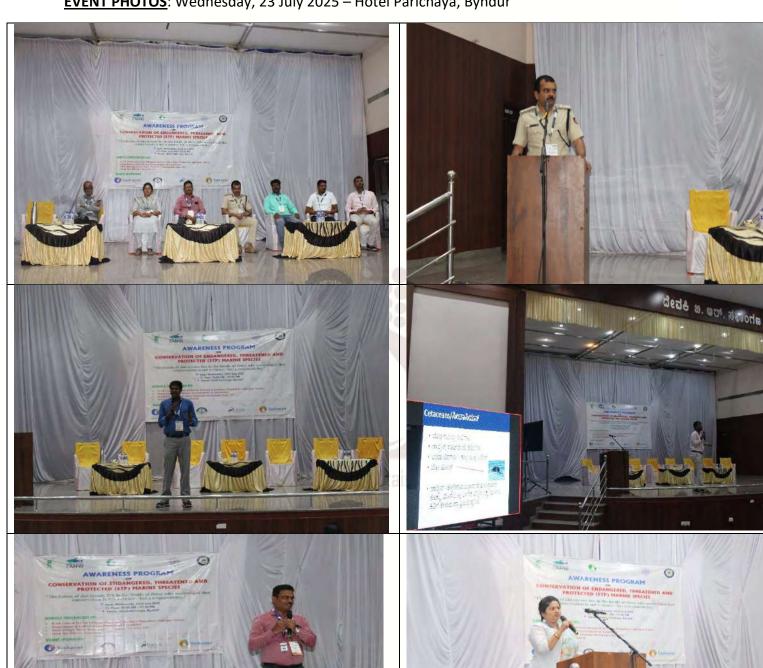


EVENT PHOTOS: Friday, 18 July 2025 – M.M Resort, Bhatkal





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

















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











