
Points to be discuss during meeting to appraise the progress of Fishery Improvement Project

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To: Commissioner Fisheries <commfishmaha@gmail.com>

Cc: Omega Fishmeal <omegafishmeal@gmail.com>, Antony Joseph <antonyjoseph1958@gmail.com>, Kamlesh Parab <krparab78@gmail.com>, "QC ." <qc@tjmarine.in>

Dear Sir,

This is in continuation of our email dt. 06/06/2025 on the subject. While thanking you for giving us an appointment on 23/06/2025 at 11.00 am, we furnish below some of the important points to be discussed during the meeting.

1. How the proposed development of Marine Fisheries Management Plan (MFMP) for the small pelagic purse seine fishery (and, in the future the trawl fisheries) will be progressed. You will recall that we ran a workshop in February of 2024 and, subsequently, the CMFRI has agreed to prepare management advice. This scientific information will be a key part of any fishery plan. Fishery management plans commonly include key components such as

- a. Objectives
- b. Monitoring requirements (including stock assessments)
- c. Target and limit reference points
- d. Harvest control rules
- e. Research needs
- f. Review requirements

There are a number of existing management rules already in place such as limits on licenses, time and area closures and gear controls. MFMP provides an opportunity to bring all these elements together in a way that enables stakeholders and government to develop a share understanding of the sustainability needs of the fishery.

We are keen to understand what process will be put in place to develop the plan, consult with stakeholders and ensure that the plan can be implemented under State law.

2. We are keen to gain a better understanding of how the fishery management process is currently undertaken. For example:

- a. Are there regular consultations with fishermen or are meetings driven by issues arising? Are there formal fishery management advisory committees?
- b. What happens with the stock assessment advice provided by CMFRI? Are there internal committees that review and provide recommendations?
- c. How are research needs for the fishery (purse seine) identified and prioritized?
- d. Are there formal reviews of how the fishery is performing conducted and, if so, on what time cycle (annual, biannual, five yearly, other??)

Please be assured that we don't have a particular view on these arrangements, we simply need to document them for our project and the audits we are subject to.

3. We would like to seek an update on the enforcement data you have kindly supplied in the past. We need to provide information specific to the small pelagic purse seine fishery and will need to do the same for the trawl

fisheries in the future should our project be approved.

4. Linked to 3 we are seeking to develop an understanding of where purse seining and trawling activities are undertaken. We note that a number of vessels carry AIS and there is also some use of VMS/transponders. We have seen research undertaken by the CMFRI on the location of fishing activities and we are seeking information on what may be available at the state level, with respect to the purse seine and trawl sectors.

5. We are seeking some detail on the degree of interaction between purse seining (and trawling) and threatened/protected species. We are aware that there is a financial compensation scheme in place for encouraging fishermen to cut threatened species free or nets (or otherwise release them) but we are keen to get some more detail on what species and what gear types are involved. We have found some information relating to turtles but keen to find any additional information relating to marine mammals. We are aware of the National Plan Of Action (NPOA) for sharks in India and keen to gain a better understanding of how this is being implemented in the purse seine and trawl fisheries.

We realize that the above requests may appear to be onerous and we are happy to make any clarifications and to work with you on receiving the requested information over a suitable time period.

We look forward to have a productive meeting with you and your staff on 23/6/2025.

Regards

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