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## Request for Meeting to appraise the progress of Fishery Improvement Project

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Ashish Salvi <ashish\_salvi@omegafishmeal.com>

17 June 2025 at 16:31

To: mandar@nio.res.in

Cc: Omega Fishmeal <omegafishmeal@gmail.com>, Kamlesh Parab <krparab78@gmail.com>, Antony Joseph <antonyjoseph1958@gmail.com>, Quality Control <qc@omegafishmeal.com>

Dear Sir,

We refer to our previous correspondences regarding the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) on Indian oil sardine and Indian mackerel along the coastal waters of Goa and Maharashtra, which commenced in 2018 in collaboration with stakeholders from the fishing industry, government agencies, and research institutes.

This FIP is the first in India to adopt the latest version of the MarinTrust Standard, an internationally recognized framework designed to ensure responsible fisheries in accordance with UN FAO guidelines. Thanks to the collective efforts of all stakeholders, the project is progressing well and is approaching completion.

Recognizing the growing overseas market demand for certified fisheries as raw material sources, we expanded our scope in 2023 to include trawl bycatch from the coastal waters of Maharashtra and Goa. Subsequently, we applied for approval of a new FIP for trawl bycatch, which is currently under review by Marin Trust UK.

The manager of both FIPs, Mr. Duncan Leadbitter, Director of Fish Matter Ltd, Australia, is a distinguished fisheries expert with over 30 years of experience in fisheries management across the Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asian seas.

We deeply appreciate the continued support from your office, which has been instrumental in reaching this stage. To ensure the successful completion of our ongoing FIP and the effective initiation of the new project, we respectfully seek your continued cooperation.

In this regard, we, along with Mr. Duncan Leadbitter, would like to visit your office on 27/06/2025 to provide an update on the progress made and discuss the next steps. Additionally, we would like to explore aspects related to the distribution of critical habitats—such as seagrasses and corals—in the coastal waters of Goa and Maharashtra, and their interactions with fishing gear.

At present, we are engaging with various agencies to gather information on the location of fishing activities. However, we also require insights into the distribution of habitats. In this regard, we recognize the valuable research conducted by NIO and believe your expertise would be instrumental in advancing our understanding.

We kindly request an appointment at a time that is convenient for you. Your consideration and support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Regards

**ASHISH SALVI**

General Manager

**OMEGA FISHMEAL AND OIL PRIVATE LIMITED**

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