

National Marine Fisheries Policy – Regarding

1 message

Ashish Salvi <ashish_salvi@omegafishmeal.com>

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To: jsfy@nic.in

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Kind Attn:

Ms. Neetu Kumari Prasad, IAS
Joint Secretary

Respected Madam,

We, Omega Fishmeal and Oil Private Limited, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, are among India's leading manufacturers and exporters of fishmeal and fish oil. In 2017, we initiated a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) for Indian Oil Sardine and Indian Mackerel along the coasts of Maharashtra and Goa, reaffirming our commitment to responsible fisheries. In 2022, T J Marine Products Pvt. Ltd., another leading fishmeal and fish oil manufacturer-exporter from Ratnagiri, joined this initiative.

Our FIP is guided by the Responsible Sourcing Standards of the International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organization (IFFO RS, now MarinTrust), aligned with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. It is a collaborative effort involving fishermen's associations, industry stakeholders, and government institutions including the Departments of Fisheries (Maharashtra & Goa), College of Fisheries Ratnagiri, CMFRI, CIFT, and MPEDA.

Key objectives of the FIP include:

- Ensuring traceable sourcing from responsible fisheries
- Promoting transparency across the supply chain
- Preventing IUU fishing and overfishing
- Establishing robust monitoring and traceability systems

A detailed Fishery Action Plan (FAP) has been developed based on fishery assessment outcomes. Multiple stakeholder workshops have been conducted in collaboration with government bodies, scientists, and industry representatives to support its implementation.

We understand that the Marine Fisheries Management Plans for all maritime States and Union Territories, prepared by CMFRI Kochi, are nearing completion and will soon be submitted to the Central Government. These plans will be crucial in strengthening fisheries governance and advancing the objectives of the National Fisheries Policy.

As highlighted in the National Fisheries Policy (2017) and the Draft Marine Fisheries Bill (2021), a coordinated and science-based approach is essential to ensure ecological and economic sustainability of marine resources.

However, the success of our FIP—and similar initiatives—depends on a strong and updated policy framework. We respectfully emphasize the need for a new National Marine Fisheries Law or an updated National Fisheries Policy (2020) focused on:

- Sustainable resource management
- Improved governance
- Effective coordination among States/UTs and National agencies

This will also enable the establishment of a robust Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) system with appropriate legal support

We sincerely look forward to your kind consideration and guidance on this matter.

Yours Faithfully
ASHISH SALVI
General Manager

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