



WORK REPORT

On

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT FISHING RECORDING SYSTEM FOR PURSE SEINERS AND ESTABLISH STAKEHOLDER MONITORING GROUP FOR MCS REVIEW

1. Introduction

As part of the **Fishery Action Plan (FAP)** under the **Karnataka Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery Improvement Project (FIP)**, two key improvement actions have been identified under the **Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)** component:

- **Action M2(7): Develop and implement a fishing recording system for purse seiners.**
- **Action M2(8): Establish a stakeholder monitoring group for MCS review.**

To plan the implementation of these actions, **two stakeholder consultation meetings were conducted with relevant fisheries management authorities and research institutions** along with FIP stakeholders. These consultations aimed to discuss the feasibility, structure, and implementation strategy for introducing a fishing activity recording system for purse seine vessels and for establishing a stakeholder monitoring platform to review fisheries monitoring and compliance.

2. Consultation Meetings Conducted

2.1 Meeting with Department of Fisheries

Date: 14 January 2026

Participants:

- Officials from **Karnataka Department of Fisheries (DoF)**

- Representatives from **FIP Team**
- Representatives from **Purse Seine Boat Owners Associations**
- Representatives from **Fishmeal and Fish Oil Industry / FIP stakeholders**



Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting was organized to discuss the role of the **Department of Fisheries in supporting the development and implementation of a fishing recording system for purse seine vessels**, and to obtain guidance on establishing a **Stakeholder Monitoring Group for MCS review**.

Key Discussions

- The Department of Fisheries acknowledged the importance of improving **monitoring and documentation of fishing activities** in the purse seine fishery.
- Officials emphasized that a **simple and practical recording system** should be designed so that vessel operators can maintain records without operational difficulty.
- It was suggested that the system could be implemented initially as a **logbook-based fishing activity recording system** for purse seine vessels.
- The system should capture basic operational information including:
 - Date of fishing
 - Fishing location



- Gear type
- Number of fishing operations (sets)
- Catch composition
- Approximate catch quantity
- The Department also highlighted the importance of including provisions to record **interactions with Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species.**

Outcome

The Department of Fisheries expressed support for the initiative and recommended **conducting awareness and training programs for vessel operators before implementing the fishing recording system.**

2.2 Meeting with ICAR – CMFRI

Date: 17 February 2026

Participants:

- Scientists from **ICAR – Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)**
- Representatives from **FIP Team**
- Representatives from **Purse Seine Boat Owners Associations**
- Representatives from **Fishmeal Industry / FIP stakeholders**

Purpose of the Meeting

This consultation meeting was organized to seek **scientific and technical guidance from CMFRI** on the design and implementation of the fishing recording system and on the formation of a **Stakeholder Monitoring Group for MCS review.**

Key Discussions

CMFRI scientists emphasized the importance of **improving fisheries data collection mechanisms** to support sustainable fisheries management.

Discussions included:

- Designing a **structured fishing activity recording logbook** that can be maintained by purse seine vessel operators.
- Ensuring that the recording format captures **relevant operational data useful for fisheries monitoring and stock assessment studies**.
- Incorporating sections to record:
 - Fishing grounds
 - Fishing effort
 - Catch composition
 - Estimated catch volume
- Including a reporting section for **incidental interactions with ETP species**, which will support conservation monitoring efforts.



Stakeholder Monitoring Group for MCS Review

CMFRI representatives also discussed the establishment of a **multi-stakeholder monitoring group** that would periodically review fisheries monitoring systems and compliance.

It was suggested that the monitoring group should include representatives from:

- Department of Fisheries
- CMFRI
- Purse Seine Boat Owners Associations



- Fishmeal Industry stakeholders
- FIP Coordination Team

The monitoring group would review:

- Implementation of the **fishing recording system for purse seiners**
- Compliance with fisheries regulations
- Effectiveness of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms
- Participation of fishers in recording and reporting activities

3. Implementation Plan

Participants from both consultation meetings agreed that the **annual fishing ban period (June–July)** would be the most appropriate time to conduct training programs for vessel operators.

During the fishing ban period:

- Fishing vessels remain inactive.
- Vessel operators and crew members are available to attend awareness and capacity-building programs.
- Training sessions can be organized at major landing centres along the Karnataka coast.

The training programs will include:

- Introduction to the **Fishing Recording System for Purse Seiners**
- Demonstration of the **logbook format and recording procedures**
- Awareness on **ETP species identification and reporting**
- Introduction to the **Stakeholder Monitoring Group for MCS Review**

4. Agreed Actions

Based on the consultations with the **Department of Fisheries and CMFRI**, the following actions were agreed:

1. Development of a **Fishing Activity Recording Logbook Template for purse seine vessels**.



2. Organization of **training workshops during the fishing ban period (June–July)** for vessel operators.
3. Initiation of a **pilot implementation of the fishing recording system**.
4. Preparation of **Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Stakeholder Monitoring Group for MCS Review**.
5. Identification of representatives from key stakeholder institutions to participate in the monitoring group.
6. Scheduling the **first Stakeholder Monitoring Group meeting following the training period**.

5. Conclusion

The consultations conducted with the **Karnataka Department of Fisheries and ICAR–CMFRI** provided important guidance for the implementation of the **Fishing Recording System for Purse Seiners** and the establishment of a **Stakeholder Monitoring Group for MCS Review**.

These initiatives will strengthen fisheries monitoring mechanisms, improve transparency in fishing operations, and support the long-term sustainability of the **Karnataka small pelagic purse seine fishery**.

The next phase will involve **developing the recording formats, conducting training programs, and initiating pilot implementation of the fishing recording system** in selected landing centres.

Ensuring Sustainability...
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