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Arabian Sea Fisheries Management Coordination Committee (Sea=MC²)

The Quarterly News Letter

Message from the Director General

We have passed 180-200 days after establishing the society and struggling to connect the dots. However, the response from the stakeholders is promising. Many states have come forward to organise health camps as well as stakeholders meeting. We going slow because of the monsoon. We have second EC meeting on 25.07.25 where we are finalizing the establishment of working groups as follows:

- **TCG:** Turtle Conservation Group
- **MFCG:** Migratory Fish Conservation Group
- **WeGhat Fish:** Western Ghat Fish Conservation Group
- **Mathsyaratha Award Committee**

The Office of SeaMC²

The College of Fisheries, Mangalore is generous to provide us a space in the college and it is almost ready for occupation. In principle the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor has agreed to provide the same. It will be officiated as per the university norms. However, the Vice Chancellor and the Dean are the patrons of this society and all the activities of the society will be carried out in collaboration with the college and all the identified activities are well within the objectives of the institute.

Future Course of Action

Immediately, after the monsoon, may in the second week of August 2025, another health camp will be organized at Malpe, Udupi, India and in September 2025 at Goa and Ratnagiri. We are also planning to have one international conference on "Fish as Healthy Food" during November 2025 in

collaboration with NFDB, Department of Fisheries, Government of India and Karnataka, KFDC and other stakeholders. Talks are on with private players and other institutes.



Dr Shivakumar Magada

Director General, SeaMC², India
seamc2india@gmail.com
[www.http://seamc2.com](http://seamc2.com)

Matters that matter....

Series of manuals on various activities of aquaculture are published under the banner of SeaMC². All the soft copies are uploaded in the website for the information of the stakeholders. We are planning to write success stories on mariculture, cage culture backwaters, mussel farming, Oyster farming and Seaweed Farming.

Mrs Latha Kurup, Deputy General Manager, Canara Bank, Mangalore, Director of Fisheries, Government of Karnataka Sri Dinesh Kumar Kaller and Mr Mahesh Kumar, U., General Manager, Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation visited the Sea=MC² (Arabian Sea Fisheries Management Coordination Committee) office and expressed their happiness about the progress made so far.





Mrs Latha Kurup, DGM Canara Bank visited the society



Conflict Management and stakeholder's meeting at Kodi-Kanyana

The Chairman's Voice

Dear Esteemed Members and Stakeholders,

In this edition of our monthly bulletin, I address the pressing challenges posed by reciprocal and penalty tariffs imposed by the United States, which have escalated from 25% to 50% on India's seafood exports. These measures, rooted in global trade tensions, significantly impact our shrimp farming and marine capture fisheries sectors. Yet, with strategic interventions led by the Arabian Sea Fisheries Management Coordination Committee (SEA=MC²),

we can mitigate these challenges and transform them into opportunities for growth.

The shrimp farming sector, a vital pillar of India's aquaculture economy, faces severe disruptions. As the world's leading exporter of frozen shrimp, India supplied USD 2.8 billion to the U.S. market last year. The tariffs have reduced our competitiveness by 30-35% against rivals like Ecuador and Vietnam, leading to halted shipments, renegotiated contracts, and plummeting farm-gate prices. In states like Andhra Pradesh, where shrimp farming sustains millions, farmers face declining incomes, rising input costs, and potential job losses exceeding 100,000. This threatens hatcheries, processing units, and supply chain stability.

The marine capture fisheries sector is equally affected. Wild-caught species such as tuna, squid, and cuttlefish, contributing over USD 1 billion annually, face eroded market access. Coastal communities along the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal report declining procurement prices and underutilized vessels, with marine export revenues projected to drop by 20-25% by year-end. These challenges exacerbate existing pressures from overfishing and climate variability.

To counter these impacts, SEA=MC² advocates a multi-pronged strategy. Diversifying export markets to the European Union, United Kingdom, Middle East, and East Asia, alongside value addition through ready-to-eat products and sustainable certifications, is critical. Diplomatic efforts must focus on tariff negotiations, while domestic measures—such as subsidized credit, simplified licensing, and reduced non-tax fees—can enhance liquidity. For marine fisheries, modernizing fleets and adopting traceability systems will ensure compliance with global standards. A pivotal mitigation strategy is increasing domestic consumption to stabilize prices and reduce reliance on volatile export markets. By promoting seafood as a healthy, sustainable protein source, we can cultivate a robust internal market, absorbing surplus production and supporting farmers and fishers.

SEA=MC² is spearheading initiatives to boost domestic consumption, including awareness campaigns highlighting the nutritional benefits of shrimp and marine products. To catalyze this effort, we are thrilled to announce plans for a Shrimp Fest in Bangalore by December 2025, organized with active participation from the Department of Fisheries (Government of Karnataka), MPEDA, NFDB, processors, exporters, farmers, and consumers. This landmark event will showcase innovative shrimp-based products, foster direct farmer-consumer linkages, and promote sustainable practices through workshops and culinary demonstrations. SEA=MC² will collaborate with stakeholders to ensure the festival drives demand, strengthens supply chains, and positions shrimp as a staple in Indian households.

These challenges also present transformative opportunities. The tariffs push us to develop high-value, eco-labeled products for premium markets and explore trade partnerships with nations like China. By leveraging technology—such as biofloc systems for cost-efficient shrimp farming and ecosystem-based management for marine fisheries—we can enhance resilience. The Shrimp Fest and similar initiatives will not only mitigate tariff impacts but also establish India's seafood sector as a global leader in sustainability and innovation.

SEA=MC² remains steadfast in its commitment to guide our industry through these turbulent times. Together, with unified resolve, we will turn adversity into opportunity, ensuring prosperity for all stakeholders.



Warm regards,

Ramesh M.R

Chairman, Arabian Sea Fisheries
Management Coordination
Committee (SEA=MC²)

The Ocean is Becoming Empty

Sir Josiah Stamp once aptly stated, *"We can escape responsibility, but we cannot escape the consequences of escaping responsibility."* These words resonate profoundly today, as we begin to witness the very consequences of decades of mismanagement and neglect in how we handle our natural resources—particularly in the fisheries sector.

India, blessed with vast aquatic wealth and a coastline stretching over 8,200 kilo meters, currently has approximately 4,28,350 fishing boats operating in its marine waters. This translates to an astonishing 52.23 boats per kilo meter of coastline—an overwhelming fishing pressure that is equivalent to virtually sweeping clean the marine ecosystem on a daily basis. This intense and often unregulated fishing effort has disrupted the natural balance, leaving many marine species and habitats under severe stress.

The situation inland is no better. Rivers, which once carried life-sustaining nutrients to estuaries and the sea, are now choked. Waterways and tributaries are blocked by infrastructure and pollution, while rampant sand mining in the lower stretches of rivers has destroyed sediment habitats that once supported rich biodiversity. Instead of nutrients, rivers now deliver silt and pollutants to the ocean, weakening the base of the marine food web.

The pressure is compounded by destructive fishing practices such as light fishing, bull trawling, and bottom trawling—all of which disturb marine habitats and drastically increase bycatch, often killing juvenile and non-target species. Added to this is the impact of climate change, including erratic monsoons and warming oceans, which further destabilize fish populations and their migration patterns. As a result, more than 80% of fishing vessels in India are reportedly operating at a loss, threatening the livelihoods of millions of coastal families.

These changes did not happen overnight. They were slow, creeping shifts that many chose to ignore—believing nature would endlessly absorb our abuse. But nature has its limits, and we are fast approaching them.

The time to act is now.

We must treat this moment as a wake-up call. All stakeholders—fisherfolk, scientists, policymakers, NGOs, traders, and consumers—must come together to take shared responsibility. We must formulate and implement science-based, community-supported, and ecologically sound management strategies. These must include better enforcement of fishing regulations, adoption of sustainable fishing practices, river restoration, seasonal fishing bans, fleet rationalization, and fair resource allocation.

Only through collective will and coordinated effort can we ensure that our water bodies continue to provide food, livelihoods, and ecological services—not just for today, but for generations to come.

General Call by the “Secretary General”

It is a well-acknowledged reality that the fisheries sector faces a multitude of complex and interwoven challenges. These issues span across various dimensions—ecological, technological, economic, and social—and attempting to address all of them simultaneously is neither practical nor sustainable. Recognizing this, we have embarked on a structured and strategic approach: to categorize the problems based on their nature into distinct domains such as management, policy, technology, environmental concerns, and non-technical/social issues.

This categorization allows us to bring clarity and focus, helping us prioritize and systematically

address the most pressing concerns. By identifying critical factors that significantly impact the sustainability and profitability of the fisheries sector, we aim to develop targeted interventions. These interventions are not designed in isolation—they are rooted in the principle of **collaborative governance**, where the voices and insights of all stakeholders—fishers, scientists, administrators, technocrats, traders, and community leaders—are brought to the table. Our efforts have already gained momentum. A dedicated team has been actively traveling along the west coast of India, engaging with local fishing communities, listening to their concerns, and seeding the importance of collaborative action for sustainable fisheries management. These grassroots interactions are laying the foundation for building a network of cooperation, shared understanding, and mutual accountability. The road ahead requires coordinated action plans, driven by data, supported by technology, and grounded in community wisdom. With consistent effort and inclusive participation, we are confident that this approach will pave the way toward resilient, equitable, and sustainable fisheries in India.



Dr S R Somashekar
Secretary General, SeaMC2, India

Meeting the Stakeholders

The society is meeting all the stakeholders along the west coast to collect the gross root information and planning to initiate issue based strategies to solve such problems. Interested stakeholders may join the society and work with us. Please visit the website at [www.http://seamc2.com](http://seamc2.com) and be a part of the noble cause of serving the community and the environment. Write to us...

Dr Manjulesh Pai, Organising Secretary,
SeaMC2, College of Fisheries, Mangalore
575002, India/seamc2india@gmail.co

Photo Gallery



Mr Maheshkumar U., General Manager, KFDC joined the society



DG, SeaMC2 participated in the Fish Festival at Pilikula, Mangalore



Endemic fish species *Barbados carnicus* were released to Hesaraghatta reservoir on 10.07.25

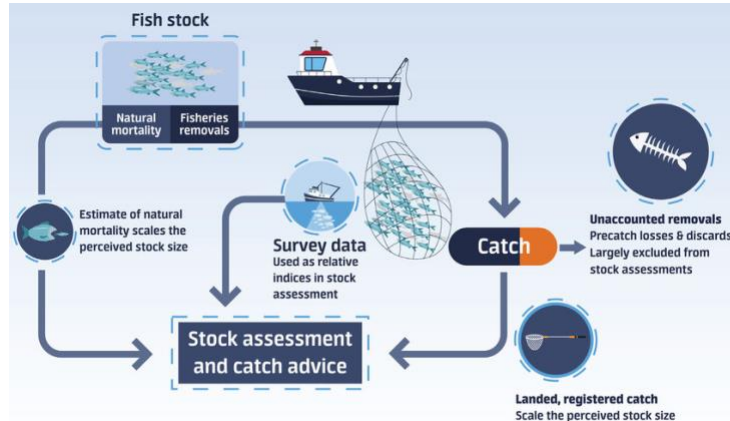


Dr Shivakumar Magada, DG, SeaMC2 visited FRIC, Hesaraghatta, Bangalore



The advantages of working with Sea=MC² are

Stock Assessment



Supply Chain



Branding



Institutional Network



Micro Financing



ERP Solutions



Digitization



Community Service



Blue Bank: for Inclusive Economic Growth



Knowledge Support



Boat Certification

