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## Arabian Sea Fisheries Management Coordination Committee (Sea=MC<sup>2</sup>) The Quarterly News Letter

### Message from the Director General

As part of our ongoing efforts to expand the SeaMC<sup>2</sup> network, I had the opportunity to attend **World Aquaculture India 2025** held in Hyderabad from 12–14 November 2025. The event brought together a diverse spectrum of participants—private industries, government agencies, research institutions, and various stakeholders from across the aquaculture sector.

During my interactions, I introduced the vision and objectives of SeaMC<sup>2</sup> and expressed our keen interest in building meaningful collaborations. To my pleasant surprise, many delegates were both impressed and encouraged to learn that such an organisation had been established with a dedicated focus on fisheries coordination and fisher welfare. Several of them appreciated the uniqueness of our mission and acknowledged the importance of the work we have undertaken.

This response reaffirmed our belief that SeaMC<sup>2</sup> fills a much-needed gap in the sector and that our efforts are being recognised by the wider professional community.

### Network is networth..

The *Arabian Sea Fisheries Management Coordination Committee*—popularly known as **SeaMC<sup>2</sup>**—is a newly formed consortium of fisheries professionals and key stakeholders from countries surrounding the Arabian Sea namely Iran, Yamen, Oman, Pakistan, Somalia, Maldives and India.

Headquartered in Mangalore, India, the society was established with a clear mission: to safeguard the livelihoods and wellbeing of fishers while promoting sustainable and responsible fisheries management across the region.

The core objectives of SeaMC<sup>2</sup> closely align with the global agenda of sustainable fisheries. Our focus areas include educating fishers on sustainable fishing practices, advocating for extended fishing-ban periods where necessary, discouraging destructive gears and methods, supporting alternative livelihoods during fishing closures, addressing the growing problem of marine plastics and ghost fishing, resolving transboundary conflicts, protecting sensitive fishing and breeding grounds, and ensuring participatory involvement in policy formulation with accountability from all stakeholders.

Central to our mission is the recognition that **fishers' health is the foundation of fisheries sustainability**. Despite their resilient appearance, fishers and shore-based women workers face numerous health challenges. Women, in particular, endure long hours of labour—sitting for extended periods, cutting fish on wet floors, and constant exposure to water—leading to chronic back pain, skin diseases, and menstrual and menopausal complications.

SeaMC<sup>2</sup> has therefore prioritised a series of health camps and awareness programmes, including promoting life insurance, which is still uncommon among fishing communities.

SeaMC<sup>2</sup> look for collaborations to learn from global best practices, build network, and amplify the voices of Arabian Sea fishers. This will strengthen our efforts to create healthier communities, sustainable fisheries, and a more resilient future for all who depend on the sea.



Dr Magada participated in the Regional Inception Workshop on National Plan of Action for Small Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) during 20-22 November 2025 at Colombo, Sri Lanka



Dr. Magada showcases his authored work, the "Blue Book of India," to FAO officials



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## The Chairman's Voice

Our oceans are undergoing unprecedented changes. Across the Arabian coast, the impacts of climate change, rising sea temperatures, and shifting weather patterns are felt most intensely by our coastal communities. Cyclones have become more frequent and severe, unpredictable rainfall is altering breeding cycles, and vital marine habitats are under increasing stress. These environmental disruptions directly affect capture fisheries, leading to reduced fish catches and uncertainty for thousands of families who depend on the sea for their livelihood.

At the same time, the growing challenges of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing continue to deplete fish stocks and undermine fair and responsible fishing practices. The use of destructive methods such as light fishing and bull trawling further accelerates ecological damage, affecting not only target species but the entire marine food web. These practices threaten the sustainability of our fisheries and the long-term nutritional security of our coastal population.

In this context, small-scale fisheries assume even greater importance. They are the backbone of coastal economies, providing employment, supporting traditional knowledge systems, and supplying affordable nutrition to millions. Their role in ensuring responsible harvesting and community stewardship of marine resources is invaluable. Among the catches landed by small-scale fishers, small and tiny fish species—often overlooked—play a critical role in the marine food chain and in human nutrition. These species are rich in essential proteins, micronutrients, and omega fatty acids, forming a vital source of nutrition for low-income populations.

Scientific evidence consistently highlights the importance of adequate protein intake during the first 1,000 days of a child's life—from conception to two years of age. This period determines cognitive development, immunity, and long-term health. Small indigenous fish varieties can significantly contribute to fulfilling this

nutritional requirement. They are affordable, nutrient-dense, and widely accessible, making them an ideal solution for combating hidden hunger and malnutrition.

At Sea = MC<sup>2</sup>, we are committed to addressing these interconnected challenges through research, innovation, and community partnerships. Our work along the Arabian coast focuses on promoting sustainable fisheries, advocating responsible fishing practices, empowering small-scale fishers, protecting marine ecosystems, and enhancing the availability of nutrient-rich small fish for human consumption. Through science-driven initiatives and grassroots engagement, we strive to create a resilient and equitable fisheries sector that benefits both people and the planet.

Together, we can ensure that our oceans continue to nourish communities, support livelihoods, and sustain future generations.



**Ramesh M.R**

Chairman, Arabian Sea Fisheries Management Coordination Committee (SEA=MC<sup>2</sup>)

## General Call by the “Secretary General”

As you are aware, every new institution faces its share of challenges during the formative years, and SeaMC<sup>2</sup> is no exception. Building a society with a bold vision requires patience, perseverance, and unwavering conviction. One of our earliest tasks has been to reach out to stakeholders, explain who we are, convey the objectives of SeaMC<sup>2</sup>, and help them understand the magnitude of the mission we have

undertaken. Convincing people to join hands in such a mammoth initiative is never simple—but it is essential.

As a part of extension of our activities, we are involved in organising “Fish Festival” at Goa during 9-11, January 2026 and also we are part of Great Indian Angling Competition to be held at Penambur on 23 January 2026

The Society is planning to hold a “Stakeholders’ Workshop” on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Mangalore with a theme “Stepping Stone Towards a Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy of India” I request all the professionals who are into fisheries and aquaculture to join hands and share your thoughts on sustaining our marine resources.



**Dr S R Somashekar**

Secretary General, SeaMC<sup>2</sup>, India

## New Initiatives

The society has initiated many branches to tackle the various issues such as ‘teamMangrove’ ‘Weghat Fish’ for studying Western Ghats fishes, Turtle Conservation Group and Migratory Fish Conservation Group. 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, SeaMC<sup>2</sup>, College of Fisheries, Mangalore 575002, India/seamc2india@gmail.co

## Photo Gallery



Dr. Magada participate in "Walkathon 2025" to create an awareness on overfishing organised by NITTE, NUCSER and Rotary Club at Tannerbavi Beach on 28.12.2025



Mr Ramesh and Dr Somashekhar interacting with the primary stakeholders at Malpe and Someshwara of Karnataka Coast

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" Value Addition in Agri & Fish Products "

CA S.S.Nayak      Dr Shrivakumar Magada      Mr Sathish Maben

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# INDIA'S BIGGEST

## 24-25 JAN 2026

International Salt Water  
Catch & Release  
Angling Competition

3RD EDITION  
2026

LIMITED  
ENTRIES ONLY  
LAST DATE FOR  
REGISTRATION  
31 DEC 2025

anglingcarnival



Categories	Prize	★
Total Highest weight (All catches)	1st - ₹50,000 2nd - ₹25,000	
Total Catches	1st - ₹15,000 2nd - ₹10,000	

100000 total worth Goodies  
Trophy, Certificates for Winners

**ENTRY FEES:** ₹3500  
**INFO:** +91 6360987196

► Free Goodies  
for all anglers

VENUE  
NORTHERN  
BREAKWATER  
New Mangalore  
Port Authority  
Karnataka

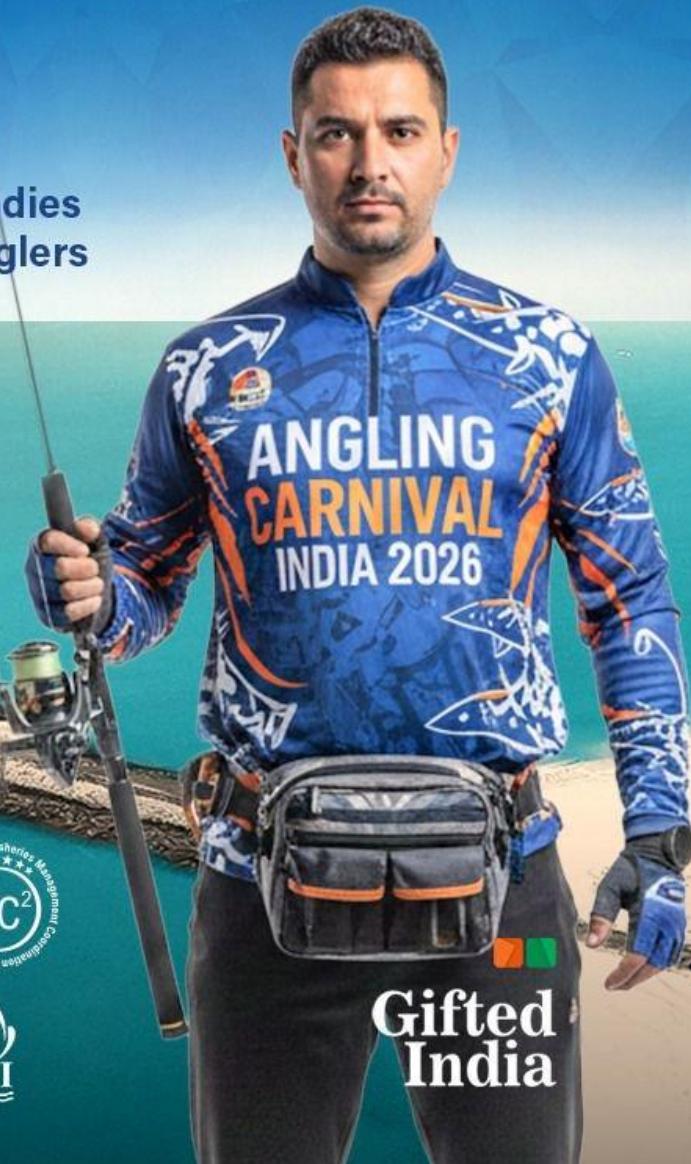
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9th Edition

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GOA STATE GOVERNMENT  
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# AQUA GO

Mega Fish Festival



2026

CELEBRATING GOA'S RICH FISHING CULTURE



Date : 9th to 11th January 2026

Timing : 10.00 a.m to 10.00 p.m

Venue : D.B Bandodkar Ground,  
Campal Panaji - Goa

