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Arabian Sea Fisheries Management Coordination Committee (Sea=MC²) The Quarterly News Letter

Message from the Director General

As SeaMC² enters its **second year**, it is an appropriate moment to pause, reflect, and recalibrate our collective responsibilities towards fisheries and aquatic resources—both at the national level and across the global seascape. Fisheries today stand at a critical crossroads, shaped by climate variability, intensifying fishing pressure, ecological degradation, market volatility, and policy gaps that demand urgent, coordinated responses.

Across India, fisheries continue to support millions of livelihoods and contribute significantly to food and nutritional security. Yet, the sector is increasingly challenged by **overfishing, declining catch per unit effort, habitat destruction, pollution, ghost fishing, indiscriminate gear use, and climate-induced shifts in fish distribution**. Small-scale fishers, who form the backbone of the sector, remain the most vulnerable—often caught between ecological stress and economic uncertainty.

Globally, the situation is no different. World fisheries are grappling with **stock depletion, warming oceans, ocean acidification, plastic pollution, and governance failures**. While technology and capital are expanding fishing capacity, management systems are struggling to keep pace. The result is a growing imbalance between exploitation and conservation—an imbalance that threatens not only ecosystems but also social stability in coastal communities.

SeaMC² was conceived precisely to address this complexity. Our vision is not limited to conservation alone, nor confined to regulation. We

believe that sustainability must be built through coordination—between science and policy, fishers and managers, institutions and communities. During the past year, SeaMC² has focused on dialogue, awareness, and stakeholder engagement, recognizing that meaningful fisheries management cannot be imposed; it must be collectively owned.

The Arabian Sea, which sustains multiple nations and millions of livelihoods, is under unprecedented stress. Pollution loads, unregulated fishing practices, coastal development, and climate impacts are no longer future threats—they are present realities. Addressing them requires **regional thinking, evidence-based decision-making, and ethical responsibility**, transcending administrative and political boundaries.

At SeaMC², we strongly believe that **solutions do not lie only in laws and policies, but in mindset, behaviour, and collective will**. Fishers must be partners, not subjects. Youth must be innovators, not passive observers. Institutions must move beyond silos and work in convergence. Above all, science must inform action, and action must respect ecological limits.

As we move into our second year, SeaMC² will continue to strengthen its role as a **neutral coordination platform**, fostering collaboration among researchers, fishers, policymakers, civil society, and industry. Our focus will remain on responsible fisheries, pollution management, capacity building, stakeholder consultations, and science-based advocacy.



I am happy to note that our team member Dr Magada involved in the release of the Olive Ridley babies at Shasihithlu along with Sri Sudhir Kumar Reddy, IPS, Commissioner of Police and other Forest Officers like Mr Shashikanth S Vibhute, ACF and RFO Mr Manoj Sona 15.03.26



Warm regards,

Ramesh M.R

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

General Call by the “Secretary General”

When I visited the fish landing centre at Mangalore on 11.03.26 along with my colleagues, I was surprised to see the critically endangered ray and vulnerable sharks in the market. It demands for the creation of awareness and continuous monitoring. Me as fishery biologist I would initiate the awareness program on ETP species



The critically endangered bowmouth guitarfish (*Rhina ancylostomus*) is a shark-like ray found at Bunder, Mangalore on 11.03.26

Another increasingly alarming issue is the rising proportion of by-catch in trawl fisheries, which in some instances has reached as high as 70–80% of the total catch. This indicates that a substantial portion of what is being landed consists of juvenile fish and non-target species, many of which have not yet reached reproductive maturity. Such practices pose a serious threat to fish stock sustainability, biodiversity, and long-term livelihoods of fishing communities.

To address this, regulatory frameworks such as the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) guidelines have been put in place. As per these norms, if more than 50% of the catch comprises individuals below the prescribed MLS, the fishing vessel is liable for confiscation and legal action. However, the challenge lies not in the absence of

regulation, but in its practical enforcement. When non-compliance becomes widespread and a majority of operators engage in similar practices, enforcement agencies face operational, social, and administrative constraints, leading to ineffective implementation of the rules.

This situation highlights a critical gap between policy and practice, where top-down enforcement alone is insufficient. Therefore, there is an urgent need to shift towards a voluntary and participatory approach, involving fishers as active stakeholders rather than passive subjects of regulation. Awareness campaigns, community-led monitoring, peer accountability, and incentive-based compliance mechanisms can play a vital role in fostering responsible fishing practices.



Ultimately, sustainable fisheries management can only be achieved when regulations are complemented by collective responsibility, where fishers themselves recognize the long-

term consequences of juvenile fishing and actively contribute to conservation efforts.



Dr S R Somashekar
Secretary General, SeaMC², India

Health Camps Continued

The society is continued to organize health camps at Kodi Kanyana, Udupi District where more than 150 beneficiaries attended. Mrs Anitha Shetty, Senior Manager, Canara Bank inaugurated the program. Dr Michel Fernandes, Dermatologist, Fr Mullers Medical College, Mangalore, Dr Narendra Kumar H S, Orthopedician, Udupi and Dr Spoorthi, Physician, Mangalore were part of the health camp.



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...

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Photo Gallery



Blood Donation Camp was organised at Malpe on 05.02.2026. about 96 people donated the blood



KYC details of blood donors



Dr Magada donating a blood for a 6th time



Mr Md. Asif, Vice President of IFB Feeds, Chhattisgarh donated the blood



Skin Health Camp on 01.03.26 at Mangalore



Dr. Somashekar and Mr Ramesh interacting the fishers at State Bank Fish Market on 11.03.26



Dr Narendra Kumar H S, Orthopedic at his service



Dr Michel Fernandes witnessed highest number of patients



General Physician at Work

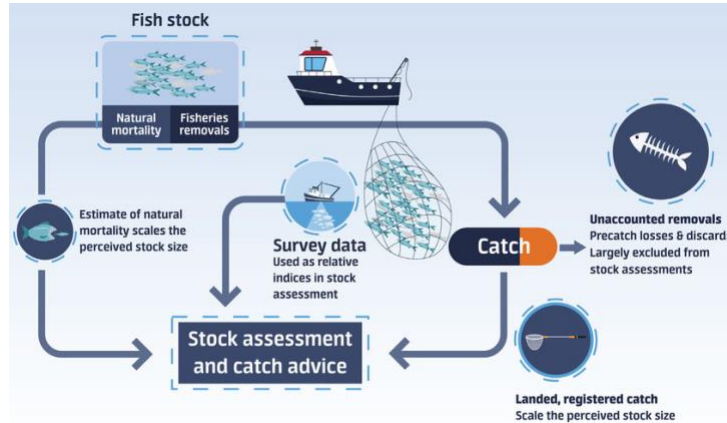


Members of "Udupi Kinara FFPO"



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

