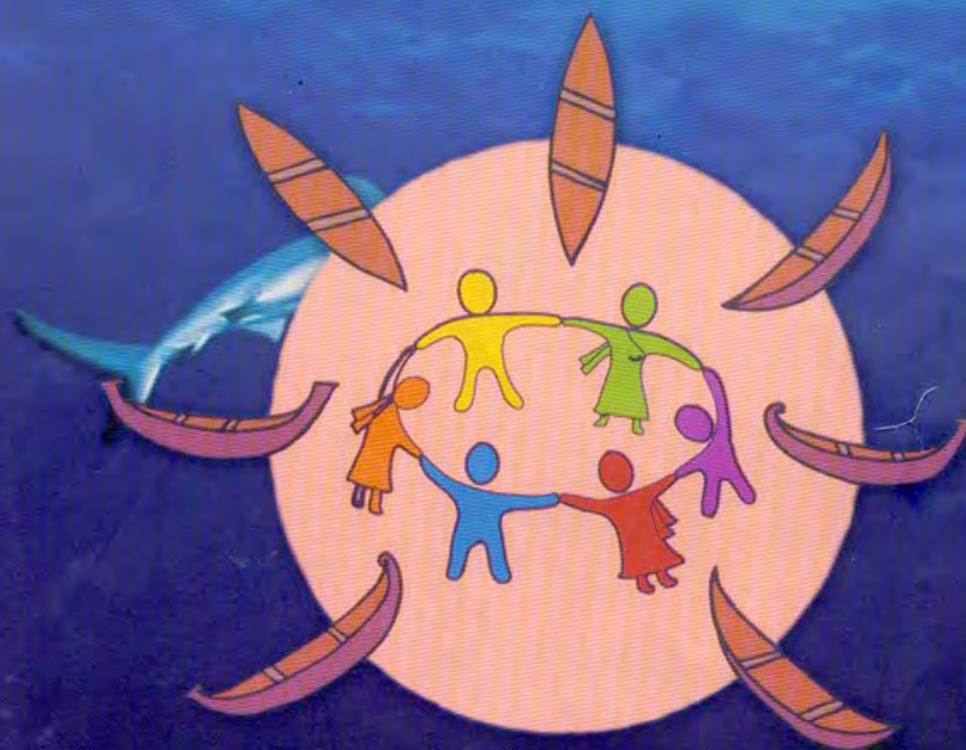


WORLD FISHERIES DAY

November 21, 2004

SOUVENIR



PROTEST AGAINST EVICTION FROM ISLANDS

PROTEST AGAINST BIG AND FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS

WFFP NFF

WORLD FISHERIES DAY (WFD) 21 NOVEMBER 2004 SOUVENIR

National Fishworkers Forum of India (NFF)

World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)

Velankanny Junction, Valiathura, Thiruvananthapuram-695008 India.

Tel/Fax: (91) 471 2501376, Tel-2505216, Email: nff@vsnl.com, fishers@eth.net,
thomas.kocherry@gmail.com, Web- www.wffp.org

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Phone: 2446116

FOREWORD

The National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) of India and the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) are very happy to publish a Souvenir on the occasion of the World Fisheries Day this year. We are also preparing for the General Assembly of the WFFP in KISUMU, Kenya from 21-27, November 2004. We are also preparing for the General Body of the NFF of India from 4-7 December, 2004 in West Bengal, India. It is in this context that we are publishing the reports of both the NFF and the WFFP. These two are valuable historical documents for our reference.

We are going through an exercise to formulate a Global Fisheries Policy (GFP) in the light of the Objectives of the WFFP. A draft Fisheries Policy is included for discussion. World Fisheries Day is the occasion for all of us to reflect, workout a plan and act to bring about a change that we the fisher people are aspiring for. On World Fisheries Day we once again reiterate our stand: that we, the traditional, artisanal and small fisher people are the custodians of the water bodies, fish resources and we have the right for the first sale and distribution of the fish we catch. We are not going to allow our water bodies to be destroyed and our fish resources to be depleted in the name of Globalization, WTO, ITQ, Industrial Fisheries, Destructive and Over fishing gears, Intensive Aquaculture and Pollution at all levels. The life of the planet and the dependent welfare of the whole humanity cannot be sacrificed by the greed of a few.

We take this opportunity to thank each and every one for making this publication possible.

Thanking you,

The Souvenir Committee:

Pauline Tangiora, Dao Gaye, Seremos K., Marie Ademar, Cecily Plathottam, Harekrishna Debnath, N.D. Koli, T. Peter, Sagar Chandrashekar, Purnima Meher, Philomin Mary, Pramod Madavaraj, K. Alaya, T Rehman, Paulswamy, R.K. Patil, and Thomas Kocherry (Convener).

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DOMINIC PRESENTATION
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES & SPORTS

27-10-2004

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the National Fish Workers Forum is publishing a souvenir on the occasion of the World Fisheries Day on 21st November 2004 in association with the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

I hope this endeavour will provide a great opportunity for all concerned in the Fisheries sector to come together to find out new areas of co-operation for addressing various problems facing the sector and to improve the living standards of the fish workers, thereby strengthening the industry in general. I wish the venture all success

Dominic Presentation
Shri. Thomas Kochery
Convener,
National Fish Workers Forum

5th Floor, Secretariat Annexe, Thiruvananthapuram
Tel. (O) 0471-2335166, 2320284 (R) 047102323256, 2323689, 0484-2310925 (Ekm)
Fax: 0471-2328772 Email: ministerdp@yahoo.co.in

JOURNEY

**from Loctudy, France to Kisumu, Kenya
(October 2000 -November 2004)**

Report

To the 3rd General Assembly (WFFP GA3) of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) Kisumu, Kenya, 23-27 November, 2004).

INTRODUCTION

To day on November 23rd 2004, we have gathered together not only to witness a great historic event unfolding before our very eyes, but also, we are here to make this important event to happen. As I attempt to present to you the general report of the WFFP since the second General Assembly on October 6, 2000, at Loctudy in France, my heart takes wings to the scene of another HISTORIC event that took place in 1997. It was in New Delhi, the Capital city of India. The date was November 21st 1997, for the first time in the history of the world the representatives of the fisher people from 32 countries gathered together. After a long period of discussions, study and sharing, they unanimously decided to form a Political Forum for the World's fisher Peoples. And so the World Forum was born. And I have the honour and privilege to salute the Forum's First and founding General Co coordinator **Thomas Kocherry** and many other founding members who are here present at this August Assembly.

It was the first effort we made to create a forum for the small and the artisanal fisher peoples to be heard. The experience of the victory of the fisher people in India against Deep Sea Fishing Policy of importing 2600 foreign fishing vessels made other countries to come together. This gathering realized that the import of foreign fishing vessels was an import of Crisis under the guise of Globalization and not the import of technology. For the first 3 years the forum experienced the severe birth pang but under the committed leadership of Tom as its 'devoted nurse' the Forum grew and took the shape of a strong Global Movement. Though still in its infancy, today it is the mouthpiece of millions of poor, small, traditional and indigenous fisher people that no governments can ignore easily. In October 2000, we had our Second General Assembly and it was the Constituent Assembly as well. This took place in loctudy France when the Forum gave to itself a constitution, which was adopted unanimously by the members present. Thus on October 6th 2000, the world forum was formerly constituted and called itself the WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP).

That was 4 years ago. As a historical necessity, the forum had to go through another painful period of growth process. Consequent upon the inevitable division that took place among the original membership, the WFFP now consists of members mainly from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean and of course the small and traditional fisher people of both America and Europe are part of the WFFP Family as we have some members from France and Spain, Canada, Pacific and Honduras. Hence though financially we are always in need, we are in possession of a deep commitment and determination to get back & uphold our customary rights as custodians of the Marine resources for the future generations. In this gigantic endeavor we are assisted and supported by our well wishers and friends through whose generous financial assistance we carry forward our tireless efforts to

achieve our objectives of making the voice of the Fisher people heard in the local, national and international area.

Now I would like to invite you to accompany me as I try to trace back the path we have travelled so far, sharing with you the main happenings that took place ever since we started our journey from Loctudy on October 6th 2000. You have in your hand "From LOCTUDY, FRANCE TO KISUMU KENYA-the growth process of the Fisher Peoples' Global Movement in shaping our destiny.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR?

The WFFP is a World Movement of the Grass root level traditional, small scale artisanal and indigenous Fisher Peoples in the World. We are one of the World's most exploited and neglected Communities. From time immemorial we live of the natural marine resources while taking good care of the same. Ours is an ongoing struggle for existence and livelihood. Our very basic livelihood is being deprived of by the process of globalization and the WTO, and the forces that snatch away our right to livelihood through multinational companies with their huge and destructive factory ships, which plunder our waters and destroy the marine resources. Through this process, we are left with no way to live. To have our livelihood is our Basic Right. With out this Right to food we cannot live. So when our livelihood is being snatched away from us, our Right to Life and to Live is also taken away from us. This is the pure form of HUMAN RIGHT VIOLATION. Most of us live in subsistent economy. Our fishing is a family and community affair.

THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP) is a Federation of Fisher Peoples' National Organizations from all over the world. It is a network of the Traditional, Small scale and Artisanal Fisher peoples. There are over a 100 million such people in the developing countries of Asia and Africa alone. The WFFP has a member ship of 34 national organizations from 23 countries The WFFP through its various programmes and actions take it upon us to make every traditional indigenous, small, artisanal Fisher people in the world to become aware of their HUMAN RIGHTS, which are very well embodied in the UN charter. In the final analysis ours is a constant struggle to get back & uphold our Human Rights. In 2002 through one of our representatives we have submitted to the Human Right Commission our representations. We have participated at the making of the Voluntary Guidelines for FOOD SOVEREIGNTY in the World as a follow up of the FOOD SUMMIT. We participated at the Commission for Sustainable Development of the UN. Our continuous participation in the World Social Forum reveals who we are and what we stand for. Our fight against Globalization is part and parcel of us.

The PREAMBLE to our Constitution sums up who we are, what we stand for, what our goal and objectives are and how we go about realizing these.

*"We, the Fisher Peoples of the world,
United under the banner of
THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP)
With the aim of protecting our livelihood,
Upholding fishing rights, human rights, fundamental rights,
Social justice and community responsibilities,
And preserving and promoting our culture,
Affirming water as the source of all life,
Committing us to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources
for the present and future generations,
Gathered in Loctudy, France,
Solemnly bind ourselves to abide by this Constitution,
We adopt on this day, the sixth of October 2000."*

02. Report of the Second General Assembly, October 6, 2000, Loctudy, France

The second General Assembly of the WFFP took place in Loctudy, France in October 2000. The representatives / delegates of the member organizations met on the cold windy lawn of the Hotel which was the venue of the Constituent Assembly to plan out the future course of action for the following 3 years or till the next General Assembly. There were 21 organizations from 16 countries present.

The following decisions were taken unanimously.

Decision 1

It was unanimously decided to name the Fishers Forum as "THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES". The Short form for the name shall be "WFFP"

The Assembly discussed the draft Constitution of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) article by article. After discussions and changes made to the draft, the following text was adopted unanimously as the CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP). (**WFFP Constitutions Annex 1**)

Decision 2:

It was unanimously decided to adopt the Constitution of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). This was followed by elections. The following persons were unanimously elected:

As Office bearers:

Coordinators	(1) Pauline Tangiora (Aotearoa)
	(2) Dao Gaye (Senegal)
General Secretary:	Harekrishna Debnath (India)
Treasurer	Kamuturaki Seremos (Uganda)

Election of other Members to the Coordination Committee:

Africa:	Andrew Wilfred Johnston & Fatoumata Diarra
Europe:	Robert Alvarez & Marie Adémar
Asia:	Rosario Nazu & Mohamed Ali Shah

From this point, the newly elected Coordinators jointly chaired the Assembly. Pauline Tangiora proposed that Thomas Kocherry be a permanent invitee to the Coordination Committee and the house unanimously accepted the proposition. With this, the Assembly was adjourned and resumed after dinner.

Decision 3:

It was decided that the WFFP should join the International Forum on Globalization and Peoples' Global Action against WTO in their struggles against Globalization.

Decision 4:

It was decided that WFFP should organize large level struggles and actions to celebrate World Fisheries Day on 21st November every year. This is a campaign to establish the right of the fishing communities to own water bodies, fishing implements and to manage the distribution of their catch. It is an on-going struggle against industrial fleets in the world.

Decision 5:

It was decided to have the first WFFP Coordination Committee meeting in India February / March 2001 and the exact date would be announced later.

Decision 6:

It was decided to adopt two resolutions one by Pauline Tangiora to ban toxic and atomic pollutions and the other by Alvarez Robert to ban trawlers. It is very encouraging to see that our resolution to ban trawlers all over the World is bearing fruit. (The two resolutions are given as **annex 2:Ban on atomic pollutions, Annex 3:Ban on trawlers**)

Our journey begins from Loctudy. France to Mumbai. India

WORLD FISHERIES DAY, Nov 21 2000:

One of the major decisions of the General Body was to observe Nov 21 as the World Fisheries day every year to establish the right of the fishing communities to own water bodies, fishing implements and to manage the distribution of their catch. World Fisheries Day was celebrated by many member organizations with a lot of enthusiasm and solidarity. (A report of the happening of the WFD is given as **Annex 4**)

FISHERMEN IN JAILS

The arrest and subsequent detention of innocent fishworkers is a point of contention between India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldives. Coast guards/ Navy often arrest fishworkers in the name of crossing international border. This has led to many suffering to the fishworkers and their families. One face of International Solidarity of fishworkers is the efforts the national organizations take in releasing the jailed fishworkers from other countries. The formation of WFFP has accelerated this solidarity. We also need to find permanent ways of working in this regard. About 60 fishworkers belonging to Sri Lanka who were in Indian Jails were released as an effort of the working of WFFP. The demand to release all fishworkers in Indian jails was also one of the demands of the National Fisheries Agitation by NFF. The letter from Ministry of External Affairs, Govt, of India in this regard is attached as (Annex-5)

WEBSITE FOR WFFP

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) has set up a website to inform its activities to the general public and to increase information flow between the member organizations. The plan is to have a site, which announces the programs, documents and other details of WFFP together with a home page for each organization. The WFFP site is planned to be developed as a unique fisheries site, which will have a fisher people perspective on the important issues facing the fisheries sector. At present the site contains the 1st General Body report, the Press Release of WFFP, Name and addresses of Member organizations and a brief report of the World Fisheries Day Celebrations. We know that our web site is not up to the mark. We need more resource to make it very creative. Please visit our web site: www.wffp.org

IEVOLI SUN OIL SPILLAGE

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) has expressed its protest against the shipment of toxic chemicals through the sea without even proper facilities. WFFP has also demanded that the fishworkers who are affected by the spillage should be properly compensated and the polluter should be made responsible for the cleaning up of the polluted ecosystem also. A detailed press release on the spillage of levoli sun is attached as (Annex 6).

Coordination Committee (CC) meeting. Mumbai. India 2001

As per decision 5 of the Loctudy General Assembly to have the first Coordination Committee meeting in India in the month of February/March 2001, the CC meeting took place in Mumbai from March 4-10, 2001. All the CC, members except Dao Gaye were present. Dao Gaye was not able to attend the meeting due to some unforeseen circumstances and he had informed the house about it.

Some of the Decisions of the Co ordination Committee, MUMBAI were as follows:

- It was decided to register the WFFP in India for practical and functioning reasons.
- **A new definition** was adopted for The World Forum of Fisher Peoples. "*The traditional artisanal /customary Fisher People are those who fish and earn an income to meet the basic needs of life. They work as a community. Sometimes they may employ workers and operate as a collective/ co-operative/group. They participate in the distribution of fish and different activities of fishers that take care of processing, management and conservation of fish resource*"
- That the role of women in fisheries be accepted and be granted equal rights in the exercise of their responsibilities like, management, supervision and administration in fisheries.
- That the catch per fishing vessel is going down in an alarming manner all over the world. This is due to over capacity, destructive fishing gears and pollution. In order to address this crisis the fishing community that depends on fishing for their livelihood should have the right of custodianship of water bodies and manage resources. They own the fishing implements and the rights of sale and distribution of their catch. We must stop all destructive gears and pollution. We must adopt eco friendly fishing gear.
- In order to achieve the above, from now on, we are going to campaign for aquatic reform by which we have the right of custodianship of water bodies and manage our resources In order to achieve this goal to preserve the resource and the community we must put an end to factory fishing ships, destructive gear & pollution. Therefore we campaign and we have to struggle throughout this year particularly 21st November, 2001, world fisheries day. On this day we stop fishing, sale of fish and the consumption of fish, and we organize protests in this regard.
- We will also form an action committee to see that the innocent fishermen from countries like the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia who for reasons beyond their control are held in each others prisons, be treated in accordance with human rights conventions and be released forthwith.
- It was decided that the next CC meeting would be held in Martinique in the year 2002 between 15-25 April, and March 2003 CC meeting would held in Uganda and in March 2004 the General Assembly of the WFFP would be held in South Africa.

On 8th March, Women's Day was celebrated in Gorai, a fishing Village near Mumbai. The entire CC participants were invited to witness the same. There was a crowd of a little more than 2000 people, comprising of many women gathered at an open ground to express and experience the importance of Women's Day. Medha Patkar, an internationally known environmentalist and a Woman leader of the Peoples' Movement in India was the Chief Guest. The involvement and the role of women in fisheries was the point of major discussion. All the CC members addressed the gathering KOLI DANCE (Traditional dance of the local fishing community) was performed with a lot of vigor and enthusiasm so much so many of the invitees could not but join the group of dancers

Finally it was very strongly recommended that all the CC members and the member Organizations must communicate regularly with the Secretariat and Vice-versa.

Secretariat Meeting

On 10th March 2001 at 6.30 P.M the formal meeting of the WFFP CC was closed. On the following day i.e. on 11th March 2001 at 10 am, the Secretariat of the WFFP met informally at Atma Darshan, Mumbai, India. The meeting took place in a very cordial and "at home" atmosphere. Harekrishna Debnath the General Secretary introduced the meeting by stating that this meeting was meant to clarify the day to day functioning of the Secretariat at Thiruvananthapuram and the related matters. It is important to have a general understanding of the Office and what is expected of the office, he said. At this juncture, Pauline Tangiora, the Co-coordinator suggested that:

- It is not just an office but also the International Secretariat of the WFFP.
- It is the clearinghouse for all communications of the WFFP, and among its member organizations.
- It is where all the files and all the communications are kept.
- It is the Archives of information for WFFP.
- It is the Center of Campaign, Co-ordinating all the activities of the various Action Committees.

As one of the decisions of the Secretariat meeting it was made clear that the WFFP Secretariat consists of the 4 office-bearers, namely the 2 Co-coordinators, the General Secretary, and the Treasurer: together with Thomas Kocherry, the Permanent invitee, Cecily Plathottam and Santiago (of the WFFP Secretariat office) as part of the WFFP Secretariat.

We continue our journey: from Mumbai, India to Martinique, French West Indies

As soon as the Mumbai CC was over Maju Varghese left for further studies and Cecily Plathottam took over the charge of the Secretariat office.

A FLASH-BACK of the activities during the period between the CC meeting Mumbai up to the CC meet in Martinique:

Ever since the Coordination Committee meeting at Mumbai was over, we had been kept very busy in the Secretariat Office, with the work of communication, organization and actions. There were plenty of activities that had to be looked into. There were very many contacts and collaborations that called for active involvement of /by the WFFP. A lot of contacts, a lot of appeals, a lot of communications took place for the following actions mentioned below and under taken by the WFFP. Many of us are aware of them and many of us are actively involved in these activities and involvement of the WFFP. However it is good to have it in black and white and to share these with our friends and collaborators far and wide. So let us have a flash back.

WFFP LOGO

At the CC meeting in Mumbai, Andy Johnston had been entrusted with the responsibility to of getting the WFFP Logo done. He did a good job and we have the beautiful Logo that we see on our Flag. This is a gift from the Artisanal Fishers Association of South Africa to the WFFP. Thank you Andy for facilitating the process to its completion and gifting the logo to the WFFP.

MANGROVE DAY 5Th JUNE:

Mr. Mohammed AN Shah of Pakistan was not able to be present at the CC meeting due to non-availability of Visa in time. Mr. Shah could arrive only on the 10th evening. Therefore on the 11th

there was an informal meeting where Mr. Shah was apprised of the happenings at the CC. Those at the meeting were: (Pauline Tangiora of New Zealand, Harekrishna Debnath of India, Mohammed AN Shah of Pakistan, Thomas Kocherry of India, Kamuthuraki Seremos of Uganda, Herman kumara of Sri Lanka, Marie Ademar of Martinique, Robert Alvarez of France, Maju Varghese and Cecily Plathottam of the Secretariat)

Since the deteriorating situation of Mangrove all over the world was a very important concern for the Traditional Fisher peoples, Mr. M.A Shah of Pakistan was able to share in depth regarding the Mangrove Ecology and suggested that WFFP takes it up very seriously and should do something significant. Further it was felt that those responsible, especially the National Governments, the MNCs and corporations be made aware of the disaster that might befall on our Ecosystem as well as on many fish species, if timely warning was not taken seriously to protect the Mangrove System in the world. Hence it was suggested that the WFFP would give a call to observe June 5th, 2001 as Mangrove Day through out the world. All present at that meeting strongly felt the importance of such a political Action and unanimously agreed to take this proposal to the whole forum for it's whole hearted consent, co operation and concrete Action to make MANGROVE DAY ON 5Th JUNE, 2001 a success.

In many places Mangrove Day was celebrated in a wide range of actions like asking students to write articles and making posters on mangrove day, planting mangrove seedlings, having cultural programs, public meetings, mangrove pooja (worship), regaining lost mangrove area, using mass media, etc. Some of our member organizations have reported the way they have celebrated it

Contacting SAARC

NAFSO, Sri Lanka organized a meeting with Hon. High Commissioner of India at Colombo on 4th April and submitted a letter to the Indian High Commissioner with the request to intervene to the release of all foreign fishermen in the Indian Jails.

1st BIRTHDAY OF THE WFFP

On 6th October 2001 we proudly remembered the 1st Birth Anniversary of the WFFP. On this occasion Herman from National Fisheries Solidarity, Sri Lanka wrote a beautiful message of solidarity, in which he reminded all of us to consider and reflect on the **why** and the **how** of the WFFP.

This was an occasion for all of us to reflect on the meaning behind our march forward together to achieve the objectives of the Forum. There had been some successful events like the very formation of the WFFP itself and the CC meetings at Loctudy and Mumbai respectively. But we need to continue looking ahead. We need to reflect together how we can make WFFP as the small fisher people's instrument of power at the service of the neglected Fishing Peoples and communities through out the world... We need to think and act collectively, then only the Forum serve as a strong and powerful political instrument of the fisher peoples. We need to strengthen our unity as one-fisher peoples' movement. In our unity lies our power.

"Let us be united under the banner of WFFP and march ever forward".

GLOBAL FISHERIES' STRIKE (GFS)

One of the major decisions of the General Assembly was, to observe Nov 21 as the World Fisheries Day every year, to establish the right of the fishing communities, to own water bodies, fishing implements and to manage the distribution of their catch

The CC meeting at Mumbai from March 5-11, 2001 took a stride when it decided to celebrate the World Fisheries Day as **Global Fisheries Strike** (GFS) in the current Financial Year. Accordingly a 'clarion call' to this effect was sent out through out the world through E-mails, Fax and ordinary

mail. Thousands of Posters were printed and distributed nationally and internationally. It was also put on the WFFP web site. GFS was celebrated by all the member organizations with interest and enthusiasm. We also realized the limitations of declaring such Global Strike. However it was remarkable to note that the Pakistan Fisher Folks Strike was total while in other countries it was partial.

Symposium " On the Social Agenda|"

(A Stakeholder Dialogue that took place at Johannesburg's Castle outside Stockholm, Sweden from June 20-21 2001.)

The main purpose of the symposium was to increase knowledge about the most burning social issues, by engaging in a Stakeholder Dialogue. The challenge was to understand how the social agenda influences corporate business and society today, as well as trends and developments of the future.

On behalf of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP & National Fish workers Forum, India (NFF) **Thomas Kocherry** was invited to talk on "The effect of the Globalization on the Poor, what can we expect from the private sector" In his speech he stressed the need for the Victims of Globalization coming together. The communities that depend on Natural resources for their livelihood should own and manage the natural resources all over the world. This is going to be the struggle of the 21st Century."...Being the only one who represented the Traditional /Small scale / artisanal people, it was a novel experience to listen & exchanging ideas with those representing the big Corporations. At least one could gather knowledge as to how the Corporations think and in what terms", said Thomas Kocherry

WFFP represented at the National Congress of FAWU (South Africa)

The WFFP was invited by the Food & Allied Workers Union (FAWU) along with the Artisanal Fishers Association of South Africa, to participate in the National Congress of FAWU on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of their founding. **Harekrishna Debnath** the General secretary did attend the congress representing the WFFP. In his address to the CONGRESS he congratulated FAWU for the glorious role they played as a vanguard of struggles in South Africa and hoped that Food and Allied Workers Union would continue to take pioneering role in all future movements. "I wish you all success in your struggle, which is a common struggle for all of us. LET US FIGHT TOGETHER all aimed at one and only goal to protect our planet and the dependent health and welfare of humanity from the greed of the few... AND THE VICTORY WILL BE OURS ", he concluded

INDIA TO DOHA MARCH !!!!!

WFFP is an accredited member to WTO. "INDIA TO DOHA MARCH" by the Fisher Peoples' preparations were on full swing as this was one of the CC decisions at Mumbai that the WFFP would join with like-minded people for action against WTO Ministerial meeting at DOHA. For the Doha March, the intense preparations started since July. We had been in contact with various organizations and peoples at both national and international level. Intense preparations went on for the WFFP to join the Rainbow Warrior of the Green Peace in Doha... But due to the sudden event of September 11th and the American War against Afghanistan the plan had to be abandoned and this we had to do against our will. Finally responding to a special invitation from the Greenpeace **Thomas Kocherry** managed to be present at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in DOHA, Thanks to the Rainbow Warrior that accommodated him.

WFFP JOINS WITH THE 'QUBEC TO QATAR' CARAVAN CAMPAIGN

WFFP did join with the Canadian Caravan against Globalization & the WTO. At the request &

the invitation of the COMMON FRONT against Globalization & the WTO, 3 names were proposed but finally only Cecily Plathottam was able to make it. She took part in a 4 weeks' campaign called 'Quebec to Qatar', from October 18th to November 15th Starting from the signal Hill at Newfoundland and ending at Niagara Fall, the caravan covered over 10,000 km halting in 32 communities meeting with the local people as well as the students from the Universities. The message of the Caravan was:" A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE NOT THROUGH 'FREE TRADE' BUT THROUGH FAIR TRADE'. Cecily was the only one representing the fisher peoples. She gave a number of Radio Interviews and almost at every place participated in the Press Conference well focusing on the Southerners concern against globalization and the WTO. And in a very special way represented the Traditional Fisher People and their concerns especially those of the Southern countries." The message she gave to the Americans and the Canadians, the story from the South was well received as is evident from what the Organizers wrote.

"From the Council of Canadians & Canadian Union of Postal workers (CUPW)

*Dear Thomas, Sister Cecily will be returning home soon. Her visit was inspiring. Thank you for your work. I will reflect more on Cecily's comments tonight but they are particularly helpful, especially where you identify the imbalances on the tour. I must report to WFFP that many communities involved expressed their admiration for WFFP and your representation of the Organization. I do not believe that such a Caravan could work without such perspectives from the majority - (i.e. the south). For us it is a learning curve so our many errors are something we can only address by having your input. Thank you and thank you WFFP for your inspiring contribution. In solidarity,
Dave for the Common front "*

WFFP MEMBERS AT THE SEMINAR ON THE INDIAN OCEAN:

It was encouraging that unintentionally though, a great many number of WFFP Organizations were present and attended the 4 day International Seminar workshop on the Indian Ocean organized by the ICSF in Chennai, South India from 9-13 October 2001 with the following objectives:

- to create an awareness among the participants about the bio-geographical and cultural unity of the riparian communities of the Indian Ocean region;
- to highlight the importance of sustaining the livelihoods of the artisanal and small-scale fishing communities dependent on marine fisheries in the emerging context of new developments in fisheries in the Indian Ocean region;
- to forge greater unity between communities to:
- advocate for participatory regional and bilateral arrangements among the riparian nations of the Indian Ocean for access to, and responsible management of, fisheries resources, consistent with the UNCLOS;
- discuss mechanisms for conflict resolution and conflict reduction in the Indian Ocean region and for humane treatment of fishworkers; and develop a shared vision statement for responsible utilization of fishery and coastal resources in the Indian Ocean Region.

WFFP AT THE 'Asian Workshop on Fisheries and Globalization'

Again unintentionally though, a number of WFFP persons attended 'Asian Workshop on Fisheries and Globalization' held in Thailand in January 2002. It was being jointly organized by the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), FSA (Thailand), the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the Fishermen's Federation of Thailand and fishworker organizations from Philippines.

Members present were: **Pauline Tangiora** from PET & Star Associates, New Zealand, **Harekrishna Debnath and Thomas Kocherry**, National Fishworkers Forum (NFF), India, **Andy Johnston** Artisanal Fishers Association South Africa, **Herman Kumara** NAFSO Sri Lanka, **Balan PIFWA**, Malaysia, **Mohammad AM Shah** APFF, Pakistan.

Thomas Kocherry was practical and creative as usual and did not allow the occasion to slip by without achieving something 'useful'. So he took advantage of the situation and conducted an 'on the spot interview' with the members present. So below we have the tit-bits he collected. They are valuable information that we may have missed otherwise.

Malaysia

We are a small organization. Conflict between Trawlers and traditional fisher people are going on. Inshore people are affected. It is an ongoing struggle for the traditional fisher people. We lost the mangrove. We are fighting against this as well.

Thailand

Thailand Fisher Folk's Federation is a recent origin. There is lake fishing and marine fishing as well. There are small and traditional fisheries. On the other side there are Industrial Fisheries and Mono Aquaculture. The Government supports these two. All these are displacing the fisher people and the environment. Globalization has destroyed cultures and ecology.

South Africa

Market forces are running the World today. From Political Freedom to Economic Colonialism is what is happening in South Africa. Small and artisanal people are not wanted. The Government wants only the Industrial Fleets and ITQ, Are we going to win the battle against the MNCs and Corporations?

Pauline Tangiora

I am here in Thailand as a representative of the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP). Every day the Industrial fleets and ITQ displace the small and artisanal fisher people. The USA publicly violates Kyoto agreement. Tourism is displacing fisher people. Dumping atomic waste by the Imperialist countries is affecting fish and fisher people. Peaceful Protest against war should take place all over the World. We the people of the World in UN charter now turned into we the governments in the World. Pauline toured different parts of the World and campaigned for the WFFP. She went to Algeria to attend the Fifteenth Triennial Conference of students and human rights. She distributed both the posters and WFFP folders to the participants. She attended World conference on Racism. In Durban, South Africa. She distributed WFFP leaflets to the participants. Then She went to Costa Rica to attend the indigenous peoples meet. She went to Mexico to attend the aboriginal meet. She represented these meetings as representative of WFFP. She went to England to attend women's meet against Atomic Waste. She also went to Cook Island Women's meet, where they found high metal content in fish. She was a guest speaker in Santiago against waste dumping. She went to Holland to attend the Mass Media. She spoke on WFFP. Then she went to Germany to attend the EXPO, where 30 indigenous groups met. On the Global Fisheries strike on November 21st she had two radio programmes.

Andy Johnson, South Africa.

He attended Farmers' meet in Amsterdam. He spoke on WFFP. South African Commercial Fishermen took him to the court but the case was dismissed. He also attended Wilton Park conference. He spoke against ITQ system. He also attended the WORLD Citizen's meet in France.

There was a very big demonstration in Cape Town demanding ACCESS TO FISHING AND FISH RESOURCE. They are very much involved in the preparation of WORLD SUMMIT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD). On the Global Fisheries Strike there was a TV programme on WFFP. There was a prayer meeting as well.

Mohamed Ali Shah-Pakistan.

We first met communicated all the decisions of WFFP CC meeting in Mumbai. On June 8th Mangrove Day there was a Mangrove planting in Karachi. Global Fisheries strike was total. They distributed leaflets all over the coast. Black flags were raised on each boat. There was a Mass Rally in Karachi.

Sri Lanka-Herman Kumara

We protested against fishermen in Jail in front of the Indian High Commission. There was a big campaign on 8th June as Mangrove Day. We covered 42 schools. 135 persons were released through our collective efforts. Under the banner of SRILANKA the Global Fisheries strike was total.

Seremos Kamuturaki-Uganda(at Brazil)

We had a public meeting on the Global Fisheries Strike Day. Fisheries Minister and other Ministers also attended the programme. They Distributed 1500 Tee Shirts to the Fisher People. They work with Women's group as well.

During the meeting the WFFP members attending it prepared a statement to be presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

Sri Lankan Fishworkers in the Indian jails.... Released

About 60 fishworkers belonging to Sri Lanka who were in Indian Jails were released as an effort of the working of WFFP. The demand to release all fishworkers in Indian jails was also a demand of the National Fisheries Agitation by NFF. The letter from Ministry of External Affairs, Govt, of India to NFF in this regard is attached (ANNEX.5)

Brussels Meet:

In the person of **Herman Kumara of Sri Lanka and Kamuturaki Seremos of Uganda** WFFP was well represented at the Doha Follow up meet in Brussels. According to what they communicated they seem to have enjoyed the experience. It helped them to widen their mental horizon. They both came back to their day-to-day life full of enthusiasm and determination to struggle on for the worthy cause to which they have committed themselves.

World Social Forum (WSF) in Brazil.

Harekrishna Debnath, Thomas Kocherry, Kamuturaki Seremos

took part in the World Social Forum (WSF) in Brazil. It was, no doubt, an enriching Experience.

Co-ordination Committee (CC) Meeting Fort de France, Martinique April 15 -21 2002

At this CC meet there was a feeling of gratitude, wonder, thrill & challenge. **Gratitude** to all those who made it possible for the CC Martinique to happen to Marie Ademar and her team of supporters who did a wonderful job in organizing this international meeting of the CC of WFFP. And **Gratitude** to all those who helped with their financial assistance. **Wonder** because, Who would have ever thought that hardly 2 years after the historic divide and the Consequent birth of the WFFP in the French territory on October 6, 2000, the 2nd CC of the WFFP would be hosted again in another French Territory! **Thrill** because, this CC meet has witnessed the growth of WFFP in number as 4 new Organizations have been inducted into the WFFP family, making its presence in the French West Indies stronger than it ever was in that region. (**List of WFFP member organizations Annex 8**)

Some of the decisions of the CC Martinique are:

- That it was decided to authorize Robert Alvarez to enquire into the possibilities of opening a bank account for WFFP either in France or in Spain.
- It was decided to authorize the WFFP Secretariat to close the bank account in UK and open one either in France or in Spain, when Robert Alvarez comes up with a suitable alternative bank. It was decided to register the WFFP in India under the Charitable Societies Act.
- It was decided to hold the next WFFP CC meeting in Uganda between 2-12 April 2003.
- It was decided that at the WFFP CC meeting in Uganda, we must come up with a WFFP Fisheries Policy including Community based Resource Management. The Task Committee and the Action Committee will take the responsibility for preparing a working document. Preparing this policy statement should be a one-year process and every member should be involved in it. Concrete ways and means of Community Resource Management should be worked out for each country

The second last day of the meeting, WFFP CC was invited to have breakfast with the President of the Regional Council of Martinique.

COMMUNICATION

The need for communication between member organisations and among the organisations themselves was stressed. Communication is not limited to official matters but also sharing of news and views. It was suggested that anything and everything of interest should be circulated, even by ordinary post. We should also acknowledge and encourage each other by responding to messages sent. This will also build us up as an international community committed to a cause. The secretariat pointed out that in this area we have still to go a long way.

- It was decided to send a joint appeal, signed by all the members of the WFFP CC, to the Governments of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives for the release of the fishermen held in each other's jails and pressing for a permanent solution to this problem.

The letter was drafted and sent to the Governments of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives, signed by all the members of the WFFP CC. (**Annexure 7 Letter**). With this final act and followed by a formal vote of thanks the CC meet was declared closed. Then we moved to Marie

Ademar's house where we enjoyed a sumptuous dinner prepared by no one else other than Thomas Kocherry and his team from the Secretariat who also did the washing up of the utensils and the crockery.

We resume our journey from Martinique to Sri Lanka

One of the decisions of CC Martinique was to open the WFFP Account in France. And for that it was necessary to register the Forum in France as a non-profitable organization. The process is now completed. Three Cheers to Robert, Michel, Xabier, Beatrice and the team for their efforts and generosity. The details regarding the Account and the mode of transferring money to this account have already been circulated to all the WFFP member organizations both in English and French. This account is in operation since then. Below we have the details of the bank account:

Name of the Bank: Credit Mutual

Address:CCM Saint Jean De Luz,
2 Boulevard thiers
64500 St. Jean De Luz, France.

Phone Number: (33) 559 51 87 87

SWIFT /BIC Code: CREDIT MUTUAL, BANQUE 15999

Account owner: World Forum of Fisher peoples

Address: 40, rue ignace Francois Bibal, 64500 St.Jean de luz, France

Important International involvement of the WFFP since Martinique CC, 2002

WFFP has been very much active in various other spheres as well. Ours is a movement of continuous struggle because we belong to Mother Earth with all her resources of water, land and forest. As long as there is water flowing in our seas & rivers and inland bodies, we will also be on the move and we are a moving people in constant struggle. We struggle to protect our marine life & resources, to preserve and conserve it for the future generations while at the same time we depend on these for our livelihood. Consequent upon we being on the move our presence was sought after by a number of international groups and I am happy and proud to say that some of our members have attended a number of the international seminars & workshops as resource persons cum participants. They had been able to articulate the values for which the WFFP stands. Our strong stand against Globalization and the WTO is clearly put forward both in the national & international level by our members during several of these events. I report some of these events below chronologically

Straight after the CC meeting on 21 April, 2002, all the participants dispersed to their respective places carrying with them the message of the CC, no doubt.

Cecily in Geneva, Switzerland, May 20-June 1, 2002

On behalf of WFFP, Cecily was invited, to participate in a Training Programme organized by the United Nations' Minority Rights Group (MRG) in Geneva Switzerland. From May 20 -June 1. The first part of the Programme (May 20-25) was an in depth study of Minority Rights of the Traditional & indigenous People. They were given intense training in how to make intelligent interventions at the UN and its various meetings on the protection of Minority Rights. It contained both theory and practice.

The latter part of the programme (May 26-June 1) was actual participation at the meeting of the Working Group on Minorities & Human Rights (WGM). What was most striking for Cecily was the

fact that out of the 350 participants at this august meet there was one and only one single person who was present for and on behalf of the Fisher people of the world. WFFP's presence was well appreciated and Cecily was given the chance to make 2 interventions on behalf of the WFFP. One on Agenda item: 3a dealing with General issues of the Human Rights of the traditional & indigenous Fisher people and the second one on Agenda item: 3b 2 dealing with the Developmental programmes and its adverse effects on the human rights of the Traditional and Indigenous fisher people.

N.D.Koli at the UN along with Helen Garland. The NFF of India is registered as ECOSOC member at the UN. For the first time the WFFP and the NFF were represented at the UN. We made use of this opportunity to campaign for our resolutions. Thanks to the efforts by the long-standing experience by Helen Garland.

Thomas Kocherry in Bali, Indonesia For the Prep Comm IV, 27th May - 7th June 2002

The Indonesian People's Forum has invited **Tom** to actively participate in People's Forum, the parallel event to ministerial meeting during Prep Comm IV, 27th May - 7th June 2002, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia. Through participation in these activities all participants had a chance to share their speciality and the opportunity to gain their comprehension on the issues.

The Integrated Rural Development Foundation [IRDF], in coordination with eight [8]-peasant network and NGOs in Indonesia, organized a workshop in Bali during the same period. 4th Prep Comm. of the UN WSSD.

The workshop theme was: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY: DEVELOPING A REGIONAL [Asia Pacific] PEOPLE'S AGENDA FOR THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT.

They too invited **Tom** and it was a good chance for Tom to contribute his mite on behalf of the WFFP. A very important document called Bali Declaration on Climate change was prepared and the contribution of WFFP in its preparation was much appreciated. While in Bali Tom was able to contact SERVILLANO LUNA JR the **Deputy** Secretary General, PAMALAKAYA, Philippines, who is with us today participating the meeting as a delegate. **Tom's** presence also helped to facilitate 47 persons to go to JOHANNESBURG to participate at the WSSD and INTERNATIONAL FISHER PEOPLES FORUM.

WFFP's Action at the WSSD Johannesburg, South Africa: 26 August - 4 September 2002

Andrew Johnston and team, Patiline Tangiora, Thomas Kocherry, Seremos, Herman Kumara, Razafindraf Ahatra Zoé and Harekrishna Debnath, and 27 others, raising their own money participated in the **World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa:** At the invitation of Andy and MASIFUNDISE, Thomas Kocherry had gone much ahead of the scheduled time to help with the organization of The Fisher peoples' Action. This was indeed a hit and WFFP's presence was something that no one could ignore.

We are happy that during this event we came in contact with Jackie Sunde and the group from Massifundise who have done a lot to arrange and organize the Fisher peoples' Action. That led to the joining of Massifundise to WFFP later. I am happy that the Secretary General of the Massifundise is present here as one of the delegates.

It was a historic event that about 500 fisherpeople from all over the World gathered there to make our presence felt. It was very encouraging to see our leader; aboriginal leader **Pauline Tangiora's** Bill Board was put up in Johannesburg by the UN as the PROTECTOR OF THE OCEANS.

Harekrishna Debnath in New Delhi, Oct. 23-Nov.1, 2002.

Johannesburg was followed very closely by New Delhi Workshop on Climate Justice change from October 23-November 1, 2002. At this meeting more than 400 fisher people from India led by **Harekrishna Debnath**, Chairperson of the NFF, N.D. Koli (General Secretary) and T Peter (Secretary) have participated. The Bali declaration on Climate change was well discussed. Fisher communities will bear a disproportionate burden of the negative effects of global climate change. These effects include loss of land to the sea (sea-level rise), changes in fish migration patterns, changes in species diversity and quantity, increased frequency of major natural disasters cyclones, floods etc. Hence **NFF-Ind.a**, actively participated in the Climate Justice Summit The campaign against Shark Ban led by Vincent Jain and his team took place during that time.

Pauline Tangiora and Thomas Kocherry in Canada, Nov.6-10

From November 6-10 two of them took part in a Programme on Community Based Resource Management (CBRM) in St. Francis Xavier University of Canada The presentation by these 2 were well received & appreciated. A good amount of spadework for this meeting was done from last year onwards when John Kearney had visited WFFP secretariat and had invited Tom to Coady for taking some Classes. Thomas Kocherry's visit produced another big breakthrough in Canada He has managed to have a meeting with some leaders of the First Nation Fisher Peoples' Organization from Nova Scotia who expressed their desire to collaborate with the WFFP. This is a welcome development indeed when we look at it against the events of October 2000 in Loctudy. **N.D Koli** from India also attended the same programme and he stayed on to complete a one-month's training programme on the same (CBRM). As a follow up of the programme, John Kearney and N.D.koli conducted a series of framing programmes in Arnala, Diamond Harbour and Thiruvananthapuram, in India. This complimented WFFP's Campaigns on World Fisheries Day.

Tom in Cancun, Mexico. Nov.15-16, 2002

Tom was invited by a group of several organizations from the North and south to participate in the Strategy Session to Prepare for the 5th Ministerial of the WTO/Cancun Mexico-2003 This meeting, was an initial encounter of viewpoints and interests of diverse organizations and movements which would get us started on the collective construction of a common strategic framework toward Cancun 2003. It was arranged in such a way that from Canada Tom was able to proceed to Mexico to participate in the said meeting from November 15-16. The out come of the meeting was fantastic in the sense that not only fisher Peoples Voice was heard and the international attention was caught, Tom as usual used this opportunity to meet with the following friends who expressed wish to join with the WFFP.

Sid'Ahmed Ould ABEID

of Federaion Nationale de peche (FNP) **MAURITANIA**

Jorge Varela Marquez of CODDEFFAGOLF **Honduras**,

and **Agamar Salvador Lago** of The Association Galega de Uartscadaras **SANTIAGO COMPOSTELA SPAIN.**

All the 3 organizations are WFFP Members now and their delegates are here to-day

Andy Johnston in Germany

WFFP received an Invitation to participate in an International Civil Society Workshop to develop "Guidelines for the implementation of the right to adequate food" from November 20-22, 2002 in Mülheim / Ruhr in Germany.

The invitation was sent out in the name of all four inviting organisations, which are FIAN-International, the International Institute Jacques Maritain (IJM), WANHR (World Alliance on Nutrition and Human Rights) and the "eed" the protestant development service of Germany, which has helped in finding the location and has co-hosted the conference.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the strategy with which we can influence the process. The organizers even planned to gather and collect ideas of elements and for the structure of the planned guidelines with the final objective to present a condensed CSO / NGO paper to the first meeting of the IGWG in March 2003. Such a text or list of ideas was to be started in Mulheim and additionally be discussed in the coming weeks in December - February. The purpose also was to integrate the workshop in the overall work of CSOs and NGOs who co-ordinate their work in the form of the International Planning Committee based in Rome, which organized the Parallel CSO / NGO forum in June 2002.

Tom in Oslo:

Tom was invited by the Norwegian committee "Another World is Possible", which is the Norwegian section of World Social Forum to go to Oslo, Norway for the meeting in the facilitating group of "Our World is not for Sale" and to be one of the speakers at the Oslo Conference "Another World is Possible". Tom was one of the speakers at the inaugural session. He also concluded it by singing a freedom song in Hindi. The conference took place from November 28. - December 3. It was a strategy meeting in Oslo, and dealt with:

"Strategies against corporate globalization!

The fight against the WTO, FTAA and The Road to Cancun"

Hosted by the "Our World Is Not For Sale" Network

This meeting was intended to provide the space for leaders and activists within the globalization movement to sit down face to face, to discuss strategies in the fight against the current corporate globalization model. The next WTO ministerial in coming up in Cancun, Mexico in September 2003, and there are ongoing negotiations of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) which would include 34 countries in the hemisphere. The challenge is on us to make the linkages between these negotiations and institutions and develop strategies for how we defeat them.

Months before the actual meeting, Tom was selected to be one of the 12 who consisted the Organizing committee of this meet to represent the Fisher Folks. In that capacity he was able to secure 2 more seats for the WFFP. Accordingly **Mohammad Ali Shah** of Pakistan Fisher folks Forum and **Dao Gaye** of Senegakwere contacted and everything including the Airfare and other expenses were offered. But unfortunate it was that neither Mohammad Ali Shah nor Dao Gaye participated due to unforeseen events.

However there was PEDRE AVANGANO from the WFF. **Victor Menotti** facilitated with **Thierry Kesteloot** to have a preparatory meeting with WFF and WFFP to have a common ANTI-WTO-CONCUN Protest by the fisher people from 10-14 September 2003.

The Our World is not for sale OWNFS network had a meeting. This is to link Social Movements NGOS and Activists in the fight against Corporate Globalization and the World Trade Organization. WFFP is a member of this network. This was ratified by the CC SRI Lanka.

Andy Johnston, Y Solomon & Torn in Port Alegre, Brazil:

At the request & invitation of via compasina Tom & Andy Johnston participated in it. This was a last minute arrangement as there was no fund available till the last 4 days. Tom was invited by a number of organizations to speak at their particular workshops.

3rd CC meeting in Sri Lanka April 2003

It was the decision of the CC meeting in Mumbai, 2001 to hold the 3rd CC meeting in Uganda Again this decision was reconfirmed by the CC Meeting in Martinique, 2002. However due to most unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, the Secretariat was forced to shift both the venue and the date of the CC meeting. So the 3- Co ordination Committee meeting of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) took place in Sri Lanka from June 24th-30th 2003. NAFSO was very generous to fill the gap. All the CC and secretariat members attended it, along with the invited participants and some other invited guests hailing from different walks of life. It was very interesting to bring together 6 new would be WFFP Member organizations to be present at the CC meeting. An update List of WFFP Member ship is given as (**Annex 8**)

I am very glad to inform you that the CC meeting in Sri Lanka was a very pleasant experience in the sense that though there was a considerable amount of tensed moments for sometime the end result was very positive and constructive. This was the first time that we have had 100 % attendance, something that happens very rarely even in the most sophisticated organizations WFFP can be proud of this achievement, which could be attributed to WFFP's own way of functioning. All the 27 participants were present from the first to the last sessions. WFFP Sri Lanka lead by Herman Kumara deserves a very special word of appreciation for the dynamic way of organizing the CC meeting given the fact that they had only a short period of time to do it. THANK YOU Herman and the Team. I also thank all the WFFP members in Sri Lanka who in some way or other did contribute for the success of the CC.

Some very important decisions were taken by the CC that has direct effect on the day-to-day functioning of the Secretariat. Following are some of them:

WFFP Bank account

It was decided that WFFP stop utilizing the services of the bank account of Ramesh Fonseca in UK and to start operating our bank account in France with immediate effect.

It was decided that when WFFP funds are disbursed from our bank account in France, a minimum of 3 out of 4 office bearers should send a joint request to the operators of WFFP bank (Credit Mutual Saint De Luz) account.

It was decided that Robert Alvarez and Michel Jauregui will be responsible for all the WFFP transactions in the bank in France in accordance with the directives of the WFFP CC as found in decision No -3.

Membership fee /Annual subscription

After prolonged discussion and reflection it was unanimously agreed that the matter of the membership fee and annual subscription should be taken seriously by member organizations and the CC members. Each member organization should give a schedule for paying outstanding fees in accordance with the provisions in our Constitutions (Art.6&7)

It was decided that member organizations that appeal for the payment of concessional fees must do so with a formal letter of request from the Executive committee of the said organization along with the minutes of the meeting where a decision to apply for the concession was taken and it should be signed by all those present at the meeting.

The general feeling was that, this point has to be taken up during the GA and some feasible solution should be arrived at and once the solution is arrived at, every member Organization of the WFFP is bound to honour it because it is our own decision.

Fisheries Policy: was another important matter discussed. In the light of the way the discussion took place Harekrishna Debnath, summarized as follows:

"We are here to create a fisheries policy that will benefit all fishers. If we do not stick to the basics of our principles we will play into the hands of our enemies".

The task force - **Thomas Kocherry & Andy Johnston** - will present a new draft to the General Assembly 2004.

Need to communicate with the WFFP secretariat and vice versa

Then there was a side discussion on the need to communicate speedily to the correspondence to and from the secretariat. "This would expedite matters and make it easy for the secretariat", it was pointed out. This point was stressed both in the CC meetings of Mumbai and Martinique. This is possible only if we have translations into French and Spanish, but unfortunately we do not have resources for such. So we have to depend on the service of free work done by our generous friends Patricia Barre, Pascal bergret.

WSF Bombay

It was decided that the WFFP members would collaborate with the NFF, India in making the fisher peoples voice heard at the 4th World Social Forum in Mumbai from 16-21 January 2004. About 500 fisher people gathered in a fishing village called GORAI. About 50,000 fisher people gathered at the Azad Maidan to have a RAIL ROKO in protest against Foreign Fishing Vessels.

Collaboration with ICSF

The house unanimously agreed to collaborate with ICSF provided ICSF keeps in touch with the WFFP Secretariat and work together with the WFFP members with mutual compliment.

It was decided that for solidarity and mutual support member organizations of the WFFP would inform the WFFP secretariat of their relationships and collaboration with international organizations, regarding activities relating to fishing communities and fisheries.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)

Already back in 2001 at the CC meeting in Mumbai, it was decided that the 3rd General Assembly of the WFFP would be held in South Africa hosted by the Artisanal Fishers Association (AFA), one of the member Organizations of the WFFP, lead by Andy Johnston. This decision was reconfirmed at the CC meeting Martinique. However things changed by the time the CC met in Sri Lanka from June 24th -30th 2003.

After long and detailed discussion and reflection finally Andrew **Johnston** expressed the opinion that having the General Assembly in South Africa later than March 2004 will not suit the artisanal fishers there, and that if it cannot be held in March, a venue other than South Africa should be enquired into.

This meant we had to start anew finding another venue and all the work associated with this change. Considering this change and all the factors that were discussed, the CC felt that it was difficult to complete the preparatory work by March 2004 .We needed time to raise funds as well. So the CC took the following decisions:

- It was decided that taking into account the present political uncertainties in South Africa the General Assembly which was scheduled to take place there in March 2004 be postponed to November 2004.

Various pros and cons were considered such as:

- The availability of visas for the participants,
- Climatic conditions
- The capability of the prospective host to raise the funds for the boarding and lodging of the delegates and making all other arrangements,
- Whether the WFFP CC or GA was held in the venue before
- The suitability of the time (November 2004) to the prospective host

With all these considerations and with the very positive emphatic insistence of the invitee (now member) from Kenya, BUHEDE, the following decision was made.

- It was decided that the next General Assembly would be held in Kenya from November 23rd -27' 2004. Participants' arrival is on November 22nd and departure is on 28th November 2004. This was later advanced by 2 days in view of the Seminar on ILO labour standards. It was also said that in case if there is any unforeseen events, the Philippines, and Pakistan should be considered respectively.

Fast by Michel Fontaine

It is very interesting to note that we have member organization, whose members catch electric eels with their hands. They are not considered as professionals by the French Fisheries Department. So Michel went on a fast to force the government to accept them as professionals so that they can sell their catch with better price. Eels is most costly fish in the World. Michel please keep it up we are with you.

We resume our journey from Sri Lanka to Kenya

So after the successful conclusion of the CC in Sri Lanka on 30th June 2003 we started off towards Kenya. Forever fixing our eyes on the EVENT OF WFFP GA3, we kept journeying forward. I am not keeping a secret that the path we trod was not strewn with roses. The Secretariat walked through fire, thorns and stones before we were able to find shelter with our Friends in Kenya namely the WFFP GA WORKING COMMITTEE under the committed leadership of Dr **Peter** Stanley Otiato and Dr. **Francis Owakha**

NAFSO's Fisheries policy:

In the month of November 2003, NAFSO had an important meeting where they had invited many people to have an extended consultation on the National Fisheries Policy of Sri Lanka and the end of the session was devoted to its finalization. From the WFFP Secretariat Thomas Kocherry and Cecily Plathottam had the privilege to be present and to witness this beautiful effort that NAFSO was making towards the realization of making their National Fisheries Policy. Recently we are informed that they have succeeded in presenting it to the Sri Lankan Government for consideration. We have already circulated the copy of this to all our member Organizations both by E mail and ordinary post requesting each of them to study it and make the Fisheries Policy of each one's country and to send the copy to the Secretariat. I am sorry to mention that except 2-3 Organizations, others have not even acknowledged having received the same.

Congratulations to Herman and the NAFSO Team for the good work you did. Keep it up.

COMMISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE UN.

As a follow up of WSSD in Johannesburg, Thomas Kocherry, Harekrishna Debnath, Marie Ademar Herman Kumara, Jackie Sunde, Helen Garland and Manu Vimalasserry, all representing the WFFP

participated in the CSD. We made many interventions particularly the intervention by Marie Ademar was historic.

Letter from ICSF inviting WFFP to participate at a common programme.

ICSF has invited WFFP to participate at a common programme in setting up labour standard for fisher people all over the World by ILO. This was discussed and took a decision to collaborate with ICSF. We conducted two sessions on ILO labour standards in Thiruvananthapuram and Delhi. We also conducted another session on Fisheries Policy in Collaboration with ICSF and South Indian Federation of Fishermen's Societies (SIFFS). As a follow up of this we are going to have two days workshop on ILO Labour standards on 21-22 November in KISUMU.

Strategy Planning Session of OWINFS in BANKOK

Our Co-ordinators, Pauline Tangiora and Dao Gaye participated this meet. WFFP is very active in the our World is not for Sale Network.

Food Summit, Follow up Voluntary Guidelines for Food Sovereignty.

Thomas Kocherry and Andy Johnson regularly attended the preparation of Voluntary Guidelines in Rome. It was really a break through that the FAO was able to make the final guidelines for all the governments in the World.

FAO Fisheries Committee discussed on illegal fishing and subsidies in Fisheries. Thomas Kocherry participated in these two meetings in Rome.

WFFP members in Turin, Terra Madre Slowfood Conference 20-24 Oct, 2004

It was through ICSF and IPC that we were invited to participate in a large gathering of SLOW FOOD MOVEMENT in the World. WFFP Secretariat was so busy with the preparation of the General Assembly that it was nearly impossible to get involved with its organizational and facilitation work. However WFFP agreed to participate in that with the understanding that ICSF would facilitate the whole process. With this understanding WFFP has given the list to the ICSF. After sometime we were told that the ICSF had withdrawn. That put us into untold difficulties. We were not able to respond to it in the way we wanted. Unfortunately, though I got the Air Tickets and Visa at the last moment I was not able to attend it due to the sudden death of my father. Pauline was not able to respond to it due to an accident and she made an apology to the organizers. The PAMALAKAYA of Philippines and PFF from Pakistan are the only 2 who participated finally. We are really sorry that we were not able to respond and participate in the event in a constructive manner. I take this opportunity to apologize to the organizers and the WFFP participants for all the untoward happenings.

In a statement to the Conference Our Co-coordinator Pauline Tangiora after making the apology for not participating in the Conference made the following points:

"WFFP is very conscious that very many coastal fisher peoples are being encroached upon when it comes to MNCS building hotels, oils refineries, and such like on fish shores. This destroys the food basket of the inshore fisher peoples who are already at a risk of losing their access to their food."

National Fisheworkers' Forum (NFF) India struggles for Jambudwip Transient fisher People.

As this report is being prepared we have the information that NFF in India is fighting against all odds to save the life and the lively hood of 10,000 fisher people and their families from the cruel hands of the Ministry of Environment and forestry. These are transient fisher people who use some portion of the Jambudwip Island for drying fish for their livelihood. For the past 50 years they had been doing it. Now, in the name of protecting the environment the concerned ministry is forcing the poor fishers to evacuate the place. NFF is engaged in this struggle for the past 3 years. Now the case is in the Supreme Court of India (SCI). The SCI has asked the Ministry of Environment & Forests Government of India (GOI) to file its stand on the issue. So this going to be decisive.

Appeal for Solidarity from Pakistan Fisher folks Forum

The Rangers, the paramilitary force installed at the coastal borders of district Badin, Sindh, is consistently victimizing the local fisherfolk community by the means of physical torture and occupancy of lively hood resources since last few years. Such a ruthless action was made on Wednesday noon by the forces when two armed personal of above mentioned force rushed in Kandhri, a coastal village of Badin and started beating innocent villagers and humiliating women. The community, in reaction, caught the violent personal and informed the Kadhan Police Station of the situation, pledging for the registration of case against the assaulters. Police after taking these ruthless cops in the custody, alleged villagers for making the forces personal hostage and lodged an FIR against them. The assaulting copse was released, in spite four villagers Nabi Bux Mallah, Bakhar Mallah, Ali Mohammad Mallah and Janu Mallah were arrested. The fisherfolk community of Sindh took to' the roads in reaction of the event protesting for the justice. No step has been taken yet by the state of Islamic Republic of Pakistan; however, peaceful struggle of fisherfolk under way comprises on demonstration, rallies and protest marches. The PFF is spearheading this struggle.

THE END OF THE ROAD

We have reached Kenya. It was a difficult Journey. And yet we are very happy to day to work with our friends in Kenya namely the WFFP GA WORKING COMMITTEE under the committed leadership of Peter and Francis. We have met several times for planning this GA. We have had extensive consultations through E-mails, fax, ordinary post and telephonic conversion. We wholeheartedly admire the quality of the commitment with which our friends in Kenya took up the responsibility of organizing this historic Event to happen here in the KENYAN soil. Dear friends, your commitment is SUPER.

Conclusion

As we all struggle to withstand the Trauma caused by the process of GLOBALIZATION and the WTO let us not forget to REMAIN SANE ourselves. We would all fall into a "well-laid-trap" if feelings of sadness, hurt, frustration & disappointments, dejection and depression (with the state of politics, labour, environment & development and our own apparent helplessness before this situation....) take over our energy and motivation to be pro-active. Instead, let us look forward to a future of extending solidarity and support to one another in movements of spirit and intellect, in action and protest, in legal support and petitioning, in focusing and re-focusing our visions, in hope and celebrations, in holding hands and building bonds stronger and forever.

We are now faced with challenges more than ever before because of the happenings that is taking place in the world. The Multinationals through their extended tentacles of WTO, GLOBALIZATION, World Bank are crushing and draining out the last drop of blood of the poor people and nations through their so called Developmental programs. Our Traditional Fisher people are the worse hit. To find the ways and means of making our voice heard in the world through the World Bodies is a challenge we have to face immediately. Hence the need for a Global Fisheries Policy (GFP) that will ensure a sustainable Fisheries Policy with participatory Management of the Marine wealth in the world. More than ever it is time for us to wake up to the new awareness of our new Role in the world and in society, to contribute our share in the making of a BETTER WORLD believing that the creation of Other World Is Possible and that we march with the motto that Our World Is not For Sale. We will protect and preserve our natural resources of LAND, WATER and FOREST, till the last breath.

So we do have a full-fledged Agenda on the card. As individual Groups, country and continent we need to work towards the follow up actions. As we do it, let us be strengthened by the realization

that we are not alone, and that we are part of a WORLD FORUM that is political and entirely by and for the Fisher peoples. Lets us celebrate this ONENESS by keeping up a channel of Communication between each member organization and the International Secretariat and among the Member Organizations as well.

In the light of the above report may I ask you to discuss on the following questions:

- **Do we need to continue WFFP?**
- **Is there any purpose to continue WFFP?**
- **If we want to continue how are we going to have organic and sustainable communication among us?**
- **If we want to continue how are we going to raise funds needed for the day-to-day running of the WFFP Secretariat and managing CC meetings and the General Assembly?**
- **If we want to continue what are our plans for the next three years?**

PART-11 A SELF EVALUATION

Our strength

Today there are 34 member organizations in WFFP hailing from 23 countries and majority of us are small, traditional and artisanal fisher peoples. Ours is a body consisting of traditional, artisanal, small, indigenous and aboriginal Communities and peoples who are determined to struggle for their existence. United we stand as one mighty fort and work and struggle for a SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT the center of which is PEOPLE. We realize that development is meant for ALL and if in the process some are left behind because of the Greed of others, it is not development but deprivation. This we will resist with all our might.

To mention some of our achievements: we participated in the anti-globalization-WTO campaign all over the World. We participated at the Protest in Seattle, DOHA and Mexico during the Ministerial meetings. We protested against Factory Trawlers and Foreign Fishing vessels. We participated at the preparatory meeting in BALI, Indbnesia. We participated at the Preparatory meeting of WSSD in NY. At the Summit in JOHANNESBURG we were able to organize the INTERNATIONAL FISHER FORUM together with Artisanal Fishers Association and MASIFUNDISE. Hundreds of Fisher people across the Globe participated in this historic event. We organize World Fisheries Day every year campaigning for the LEGISLATIVE CHANGES THAT THE COMMUNITIES THAT DEPEND ON NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUR LIVELIHOOD SHOULD OWN AND MANAGE THESE RESOURCES. This is the only way we can stop GLOBALIZATION-THE RULE OF THE MNCS AND PRIVATIZATION. We participated at the WORLD SOCIAL FORUM actively. We continue our struggles to guarantee the basic needs to every human being on earth. We participated at the FAO fisheries committee meetings. We participated in all the FOOD SUMMITS.

All our organizations have been actively participating in the struggles against import of huge factory Fishing Vessels by the MNCs and their national counterparts. We have been fighting against intensive aquaculture. We have been fighting against overcapacity. We have been trying to conserve

mangroves. We have been fighting against all evictions from work places. Our fight against JAMFUDWIP in INDIA is historic. The recent struggle of PFF in Pakistan against the Rangers in Badin is praise worthy. The struggle of Association des Pecheurs Traditionnels a Pied d' Estrain 17 (APTPE) for their recognition as professional Fishers by the French Government is note worthy. The resolution of ITSAS GEROA demanding a ban on bottom trawling is bearing fruit. The artisanal fisher people in SOUTH AFRICA continue fight for the basic right to access to fishing. We are determined to fight for the rights of the innocent fisher people, jailed in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India. We callorate with UN, FAO, Via Campasina, ICSF, ILO and other Bodies for a common cause. As in Bhopal, corporations around the world are today getting away with crimes against humanity and the environment, and dictating policies that affect all life on earth. Communities everywhere everywhere have learnt that he only way they will regain control of their lives and health is by fighting corporate crime directly. Let us take this as a challenge before us to day. We have made a real break through in bringing about Gender Balance in organizational structure at all levels. Last but not least I think one of the greatest strength of WFFP is free service of committed, devoted and well-qualified people with their sustained presence in the International Secretariat.

Our limitations

WFFP consists of traditional, small scale, artisanal, indigenous and aboriginal fisher people who are one of the most exploited people in the world. Our limitation lies in the fact that the majority of us are from the Southern countries that had been plundered by the Colonial powers in the past. To day in the name of Globalization and WTO, our Natural Resources are all being sold out to the Multinational Companies by our national Governments. The worst hit people are the traditional and indigenous fisher people, farmers and artisans who depend on Natural Resources of land, water and forests for our Livelihood. As a result we are faced with lack of finance. This affects our way forward. We have been struggling with a subsistent economy, lack of resources, illiteracy, and unorganized sector. Though we have come together as a body, we have been lacking organic and sustainable communication. Some of us are lacking an international out look that enables each national organization rises to the occasion to help each other. We are lacking a creative contribution to make WFFP a DYNAMIC Movement in the world. Every WFFP member Organization is lacking the effort to sustain WFFP both financially and through creative contribution. Some of the member organizations lack mass based organizational structure, with a collective democratic process. Some remain as an NGO run by a few individuals. We are really sorry that we do not have enough resources to bring about timely tranlations in French and Spanish to have better communication with all the member organizations. We are really sorry that we do not have enough resources to have better facilities, sufficient infra structure and staff.

LOOKING AHEAD

Yet we are full of hope for the future. Our hope is kept alive because more and more we realize that ours is a POLITICAL MOVEMENT that knows no boundary. There are people of good will in the North and the South who accompany us on our JOURNEY towards building a BETTER WORLD where Destructive plundering of the greedy gives way to Sustainable Development respecting, herself. This Solidarity increases our courage and determination, which in turn, consolidates our efforts and renews our commitment enkindling in us new faith in ourselves. We are thus energized. With this renewed hope and courage and a sense of Global Solidarity we look forward to this GREAT EVENT the 3rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the WFFP.

OUR APPRECIATION

Before I conclude this report, I would like to express our appreciation to our friends and collaborators / supporters:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. DEVELOPMENT & PEACE, | 2. CCFD, |
| 3. ENTRAIDE et FRATERNITE, | 4. Thierry Kesteloot |
| 5. Global Green grants Fund | 6. CSSR GENERAL |
| 7. Niaz Dorry | 8. Helen Garland |
| 9. Maharaja Kaul | 10. Ramesh Fonseca |
| 11. SCIC Sisters. | 12. Dr. Joseph Scaria |

Dear friends with out your support, we would not have been able to conduct our CC meetings, the General Assembly and the day today running of the International Secretariat. Some of you have helped us to participate in a number of International Meetings that are very vital as far as the Fisher people are concerned. Your constant help gives us the message that YOU ARE whole heartedly supporting and participating in the traditional, small artisanal and Indigenous fisher peoples struggle for their livelihood, in their struggle for survival in a world where a small minority are holding 80 % of worlds wealth. Against the existing Global scenario, the present General Assembly of the WFFP is very important and crucial one. Friends, while we express our sentiments of appreciation and gratitude for all your help in the past, we look forward to your continuous support and collaboration in future. Thank you for journeying with us.

Finally I think it will not be fair on my part if I do not have it on record that Thomas Kocherry deserves a big word of appreciation from all of us for the untiring effort he makes to make the WFFP really grow and remain alive. As it stands now I cannot imagine WFFP without Tom. Of course this could be taken as either strength or a weakness of WFFP. If we do not take up the responsibility, this will continue as a dependency forever. Let us rise up to the occasion by taking up the individual as well as collective responsibility in building up the WFFP into a strong and sustainable Global Movement.

Conclusion

We like to highlight the fact that our objectives are always spearheading towards the realization of our Goal:

"To protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on fishing for their livelihood and to create an understanding that the Marine Resource like all other natural resources are a common heritage of humanity and, through sustainable fishing practices, conservation, and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, to ensure that it is passed on to future generations. The fishing community that depends on fishing for their livelihood to have the right of custodianship of water bodies and manages resources. They own the fishing implements and the rights of sale and distribution of their catch"

Harekrishna Debnath
General secretary

24/11/2004

PART- 3
ANNEXURE

Annex 1

Constitution of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples

PREAMBLE

*We, the Fisher Peoples of the world,
United under the banner of
THE WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP)
With the aim of protecting our livelihood,
Upholding fishing rights, human rights, fundamental rights,
Social justice and community responsibilities,
And preserving and promoting our culture,
Affirming water as the source of all life,
Committing us to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources
For the present and for future generations,
Gathered in Loctudy, France,
Solemnly bind ourselves to abide by this Constitution,
We adopt on this day, the sixth of October 2000.*

OBJECTIVES

Article 1: Objectives

The objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) are:

To protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihood
To assist member organizations to secure and improve upon the economic viability and quality of life of Fisher Peoples and their communities.

To recognize, support and enhance the role of women in the social, economic, political and cultural life of the fishing community.

To create an understanding of the resources as a common heritage of humanity and, through sustainable fishing practices, conservation, and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, to ensure that it is passed on to future generations.

To protect fishing communities, fish resources and fish habitats, such as coastal zones, watersheds and mangroves, from land-based, sea-based and air-based threats. These include displacement by tourism, pollution (including the use of the sea as a dumping ground for toxic waste), destructive industrial aquaculture, over-fishing and destructive fishing practices.

To establish and assert the rights of fishing communities to their customary territories in the coastal zone under their national jurisdiction for fishing and habitation.

To promote a legal regime that will ensure the traditional and customary rights of fishing communities to the fishery under their national jurisdiction.

To promote the primary role of fisher-peoples' organizations in managing fisheries and oceans, nationally and internationally.

To protect food security, both locally and worldwide, by sustaining fish stocks for the future, and by preserving fish for human consumption.

To promote equitable representation of fisher-peoples' organizations in all relevant regional and international fora and advocate their recognition.

To play an active role to ensure that states and transnational corporations comply with relevant international agreements and to oppose any trade agreements that threaten the livelihood of fishers.

To prevent the export of resource collapse crises and of technologies and practices that lead to these crises.

To provide support for national and international struggles that are consistent with the objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

To encourage, assist and support Fisher Peoples to organize themselves where they have not already done so.

To promote the right of Fisher Peoples to social security, safe working conditions, fair income and safety at sea, as well as their recognition as seafarers.

To improve the communication between Fisher Peoples and the scientific community through the exchange of knowledge and science.

To acknowledge and enhance the unique culture of fishing communities.

To restore our access to the rights and powers originally granted to us in the charter of the United Nations.

MEMBERSHIP

Article 2: Member organizations

Organizations which comply with the objectives set out in Article 1 of this Constitution may be members of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). Subject to article 3, only one national organization per country may be a member. Such organizations must be democratically constituted and may include, but not be limited to, trade unions, associations, federations of cooperatives and aboriginal nations dependent on the fishery for their livelihood. They must represent one of the groups set out below:

Fish harvesters, i.e. any person directly engaged in fishing, known in different countries as:

Subsistence fishers;

Artisanal fishers;

Aboriginal or indigenous peoples who are customary fish harvesters;

Traditional coastal and inland fishers;

Independent small-scale owner-operators;

Crewmembers in this sector.

Crew members of fishing units other than those mentioned above and

Who are presently members of organizations listed under subsection a) above.

Broadly based (mass-based) organizations of fishing communities and women engaged in work in support of the fishery.

Fish workers who are engaged in activities related to the processing, direct sale (excluding merchants) or transport of fish.

Corporations, transnational companies and allied affiliates owning fishing Vessels and engaged in harvesting, processing and distribution of fish and those carrying out destructive fishing or industrial aquaculture cannot be members of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

Article 3: Admission of Members

Only the Coordination Committee may admit member organizations. In exceptional cases the Coordinate Committee may, while respecting the objectives set out in Article 1 of this Constitution, admit as an member organization more than one national group per country if the organization represents a significant proportion of the groups or one of the groups listed in subsections 1) to 4) of Article 2 of this Constitution.

Article 4: Commitment

Every member organization of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) must formally accept and abide by this Constitution.

Article 5: Withdrawal of Members

Any member may withdraw from the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) by giving three (3) months notice to the Coordination Committee.

Article 6: Fees

The fee schedule as well as the method of payment shall be fixed by the Coordination Committee. In very exceptional circumstances, the Coordination Committee may waive the payment of fees by a particular member for a period of time.

Article 7: Suspension of Membership

The Coordination Committee may, after two reminders, suspend a member for non-payment of fees. Such suspension will be removed upon payment of the outstanding fees.

The Coordination Committee may suspend a member for actions detrimental to the objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), provided that the Coordination Committee allows the member reasonable opportunity for a hearing before any decision concerning a suspension is made. No suspended member may take part in the work of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) or vote at the General Assembly.

Any suspension may be appealed to the General Assembly

Article 8: Expulsion

The General Assembly may expel a member organization for cause provided that:

Expulsion has been recommended by the appropriate Continental Council.

The Co-ordination Committee has given the member reasonable opportunity for a hearing into the actions giving rise to a consideration of expulsion.

STRUCTURE

Article 9: Forum Composition

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall consist of:

A General Assembly

A Coordination Committee

Five Continental Fora

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 10: General Assembly

The General Assembly constitutes the highest authority of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

The General Assembly shall be composed of all of the delegates representing member organizations who attend that meeting. The Coordination Committee may permit organizations that are not members to send observers to the General Assembly.

Article 11: Functions of the General Assembly

The functions of the General Assembly are:

To officially interpret and to amend the Constitution of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

To discuss issues of common interest and adopt resolutions on subjects on the agenda, and to do so in a spirit of cooperation and exchange of ideas.

To decide on the action required to implement decisions and fulfill the objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

To assign tasks or duties to the Coordination Committee.

To conduct elections as per the provisions of this Constitution

To ratify, annul or sanate actions and decisions made by the Coordination Committee and the Continental Councils.

Article 12: Member Representation at the General Assembly

Each country with at least one member organization shall be entitled to representation at the General Assembly by two delegates, one of whom shall be male and the other female.

Each member organization shall be entitled to nominate observers / alternate delegates to participate at the General Assembly with the right to speak.

The nomination of auditors, observers and alternative delegates must be approved by the Coordination Committee.

The out-going members of the Coordination Committee shall be delegates to the General Assembly in which the new officials take charge

Article 13: Designation of Delegates

Member organizations shall name their delegates in writing to the Coordination Committee not less than 90 days before the General Assembly takes place.

In the case of a country with more than one member organization, the organizations in the respective country shall try to agree on the delegate's representation. In the event that the member organizations in the respective country are unable to agree on the delegate's representation, they may refer the matter to the Coordination Committee for a binding decision.

Article 14: Decision Making Process

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall seek to make all decisions through consensus.

Article 15: Location of the General Assembly

Subject to any decision taken at a previous General Assembly, the General Assembly shall take place at a location to be fixed by the Coordination Committee.

Article 16: Frequency of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall take place at least once every 3 years.

COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Article 17: Composition of the Coordination Committee

The Coordination Committee shall be composed of two Coordinators, one of whom shall be a woman and the other a man, the General Secretary, the Treasurer and Continental representatives as per the provisions of Article 18.

Article 18: Designation of Continental representatives

The Continental representatives of the Coordination Committee shall be designated in the following manner:

Two representatives (one female and one male) from each of the following Continents: Africa America, Asia, Europe and South Pacific.

Article 19: Functions of the Coordination Committee

The Coordination Committee acts under the authority of the General Assembly and represents the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

Other than the duties that may be delegated by the General Assembly, the functions of the Coordination Committee are as follows:

Facilitate the creation of Continental Fora.

Plan and manage the activities of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). Organize the General Assembly.

Propose recommendations to be put to the General Assembly. Implement measures decided upon by the General Assembly.

Represent the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) in dealings with other organizations. Admit members in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. Report on its activities to the General Assembly.

Maintain close links among members of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) during periods when the General Assembly is not in session.

Take care of preparing a budget and managing finances of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) in accordance with Article 29 of this Constitution.

Generally, take any measures deemed necessary to attain the objectives set out in this Constitution.

Article 20: Term of Office of Coordination Committee Members

The mandate of Coordination Committee members shall be for the period until the next General Assembly. Normally the mandate will be for a term of three (3) years.

Article 21: Vacancies in the Coordination Committee.

If an member organization notifies the Coordination Committee that a member of the

Coordination Committee no longer holds the position that provided the political base for his or her election to the Coordination Committee, this matter will be referred to the appropriate Continental Council. If the Continental Council determines that this notification is valid, the Continental Council shall be authorized to declare this position vacant.

If the circumstances described in a) or b) above involve a Coordinator, the General Secretary or the Treasurer, the Coordination Committee is authorized to take appropriate action.

The Coordination Committee is authorized to fill a vacancy in the position of Coordinator, General Secretary or Treasurer.

In the event of a vacancy in the position of Continental representative in the Coordination Committee, the appropriate Continental Council is authorized to fill the vacancy.

Article 22: Procedures

The Coordination Committee shall establish its own rules, decide on its own procedures and determine how often to meet. The Coordinators shall convene a special meeting any time when a two thirds of the Coordination Committee so request in writing.

Article 23: Functions of the Coordinators

To make all decisions jointly.

To convene the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee. To preside over the General assembly and the Coordination Committee.

To coordinate the activities of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) according to this Constitution, the decisions of the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee.

To facilitate new membership to the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

To represent the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) at other national and international fora and to delegate others to do so.

Generally, to take any measures deemed necessary to attain the objectives set out in this Constitution, to be reported to and to be ratified by the Coordination Committee.

Article 24: Functions of the Treasurer

To handle all financial matters of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

To act according to the decision of the Coordination Committee.

To spend money as per decisions of the Coordination Committee on written instructions from the Coordinators collectively.

To have the accounts of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) independently audited every year.

Article 25: Duties of the General Secretary

To work under the direction of the Coordinators

To maintain an office of communication, animation and documentation

To keep official records of the WFFP

To carry out tasks assigned by the Coordination Committee

Article 26: Term of office

The term of office for the Coordinators, Treasurer and General Secretary shall be for a period of three years unless the timing of the next General Assembly dictates otherwise. No individual may be elected for more than two consecutive terms to any of these offices.

CONTINENTAL FORA

Article 27: Establishment of Continental Fora

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) recognizes five Continental Fora in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 of this Constitution.

Member organizations of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) in each of the continents mentioned in Article 18 form the respective Continental Forum.

Each Continental Forum shall decide upon its own structures and mode of operation respecting the Objectives contained in Article 1, and in accordance with other directives and spirit of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). Such statutes are subject to the approval of the WFFP Coordination Committee.

The Continental Fora shall designate their representatives to the Coordination Committee.

Article 28: Continental Councils

Each Continental Forum shall have a Continental Council as its governing body with a Continental Coordinator and other officials deemed necessary.

The functions of the Continental Councils shall be to ensure the coordination and the consultation of member organizations in their respective continents, and the implementation of the programme of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 29: Financing

- a) Revenues for the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall derive from:
 1. Members fees;
 2. Donations or grants deemed acceptable by the Coordination Committee;
 3. Any other source deemed acceptable by the Coordination Committee.
- b) The Coordination Committee shall not accept funds from large corporations or any other body acting in a manner which is contrary to the objective of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

Article 30: Quorum

The quorum for the purpose of the meetings of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall be as follows:

General Assembly – Two thirds of the delegates

Coordination Committee – More than 50% of members of the Coordination Committee Article 31: Dissolution

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) may be dissolved by a consensus.

Article 32: Offices

The offices of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall be located as determined from time to time by the Coordination Committee.

Article 33: Official Languages

The official languages of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) shall be English, French and Spanish.

Article 34: Interpretation

Between General Assemblies the Coordination Committee has authority in matters concerning the interpretation of this Constitution.

Article 35: Status

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) is an independent organization.

By authority of the General Assembly, the Coordination Committee may undertake any measures deemed necessary to confer on the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) a juridical personality in accordance with the applicable laws of a country in which the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) carries out its activities.

Annex 2

RESOLUTION 1

A Resolution on Toxin, Heavy Metal and Radioactive Pollution in the Pacific

That this Forum (WFFP) request the United Nations to implement a study of the Pacific Ocean (both North and South) to identify the high rate of toxin and mercury and other poisons. WFFP will select the researchers.

This should be incoming CC immediately as people of this area are experiencing the early onset of many types of cancer in young children.

B) Resolution on shipment of Radioactive waste

That this Forum (WFFP) demand a cessation of mining of uranium on the lands of the indigenous and tribal peoples and that all further transfer of spent uranium and other radioactive wastes across oceans, for example between Japan and France.

We are concerned that this transfer puts the coastal and fishing people at a high risk. Rather than waiting for an accident to happen, we urge countries to act more responsibly and to seek alternative uses of naturally renewable resources, such as solar and wind energy.

Annex 3

RESOLUTION 2

PROPOSAL OF (ITSAS GEROA) ASSOCIATION AND SIGNATORIES OF CEDEIRA CHART)

Pursuant to the objectives of article 2 a), 2 d), 2 1), and 2 m) of the constitution Chart, the World Forum denounces the use of four fishing methods which are imposing at sea to a majority of

fishermen "the rule of the over exploiter". These four methods are pelagic trawlers, "naveran" trawlers rock hopper trawl and "perches" trawlers. The Forum's desires the prohibition of these four methods:'

in all areas frequented by those fishermen who are using less aggressive methods for the marine environment.

and for all stocks exploited by those fishermen who are using less aggressive methods for the marine environment.

Call to the objectives of article 2 a), 2 d), 2 1) and 2 m) of the Constitution chart of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)

Articles 2: Objectives

"The objectives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples shall be:

To protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihood.

d) To create an understanding of the resource as a common heritage of humanity and, through sustainable fishing practices, conservation and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, to ensure that it is passed on to future generations.

To prevent the export of resource collapse crises and of technologies and practices that lead to these crises.

To provide support for national and international struggles that are consistent with the objectives of the World Forum"

Some other reasons to justify the petition of prohibition

The Code of Conduct for a Responsible Fishing (FAO) confirms on article 6.1 that the right for fishing implies the obligation to do it in a responsible manner.

The aforementioned four fishing methods during the present resolution (pelagic trawlers "naveran" trawlers rock hopper trawl and "perches" trawlers) had demonstrated in various European areas a terribly hard impact on the marine environment and, consequently, on other fishermen and their families. Taking into account the characteristics of these methods there is no way to use them in a manner which could be considered responsible, in disagreement with the affirmation of some ship-owners, fishing organizations and science bodies.

In Europe the scientific organizations are directly linked with the lobby of the non-selective fishing and economically powerful fleets. This union marks the origin of the well known diminishing of the European halieutic resources. Therefore it is necessary to denounce it from Southern Fishermen.

The proposed measures of prohibition in this resolution seek for a preventive effect in Southern seas and in their fishermen. These measures may also contribute to the regeneration of certain stocks in Europe, and to give back hope and trust for many Northern fishermen.

There is no reason to disappointment on the affected ship-owners due to the proposed prohibitions, because the European Union has important budget incomes for fisheries and it has been always supporting the ship-owners, particularly for changing the fishing methods.

Loctudy, October 2000

Delegate:

Robert Alvarez (Itsas Geroa/ Future of the Sea, Chairman)
40, rue Francois Bibal
64500 SAN JEAN DE LUZ (FRANCE); Tel & Fax: 0033 0559 262906
Email: xabiezwizabarrena@hotmail.com

Auditor

Xabier Ezeizabarrena (Itsas Geroa/ Future of the Sea, Lawyer)
Euskal Herria, 12
20003 SAN SEBASTIAN (SPAIN); Tel: 0034 943 429290
Email: xabiezwizabarrena@hotmail.com <http://www.pcpages.com/ezeiza>

Annex- 4

WORLD FISHERIES DAY CELEBRATIONS

November 21, 2000

World Fisheries day was celebrated on November 21, 2000 by the member countries/ organizations with a lot of enthusiasm and solidarity. It was indeed an occasion for the whole fishing communities in the world to assert themselves as the owners, protectors and users of the water bodies and its wealth and to commit themselves anew to keep on struggling for their sustenance. Below we include the report of the WF Day Celebration of some of the countries.

MALAYSIA

In conjunction with World Fishery Day, Penang Inshore Fishermen Welfare Association (PIFWA) has planted 5000 mangrove saplings on 16 November 2000 at Sungai Chenaam, Seberang Perai Selatan. This event is held to emphasise the importance of the mangrove forest as an ecosystem that is integral to the life of the fishermen. The Association calls for greater participation and cooperation with the relevant State and Federal Ministry in order to conserve the usefulness to the fishing community as a whole.

SOUTH AFRICA

In South Africa, the Artisanal Fishers Association celebrated the World Fisheries Day by picketing the government offices to highlight the marginalisation of traditional fishworkers. About 500 fishers sang and danced war songs (toy-toi) and made their voices heard. A large number of women participated in the event. The petition demanding the redress of the fishworkers grievances was presented to the Director Mr. Horst Kleinsmith.

SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka, all the fishworker organizations joined together and celebrated the World Fisheries Day in a collective manner in the name of Sri Lankan fisher people's movement at Negombo. A march was organized from Pitipana fish market to green park Negombo. The main demands were:
Reduce price of Kerosene and Diesel
Reasonable price for their fish catch
Stop destructive fishing operations Dynamite & Light purse seine
Release Sri Lankan Fishermen detained in India and other foreign countries
Release the fisher people from the insecurity situation in war tone areas.
The issue of landlessness among fisher people.

Annex 5

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS INDIA

No. 2352/EAM/200

December 29, 2001

Dear Ram Naikji,

Please refer to your letter dated December 1, 2000 regarding a letter from the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) regarding Indian fishermen in the custody of Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka and also the fishermen of these countries in Indian custody.

While the letter from the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) refers to 82 Indian Fishermen, there are in actual fact a total of 112 Indian Fishermen detained in Pakistan. Consular access has been provided to 84 of the 112 Indian Fishermen. We are in regular contact with the Government of Pakistan through the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi and the High Commission of Indian in Islamabad for the early repatriation of all 112 and have in exchange offered to release 160 Pakistani fishermen detained in India.

We are pursuing this matter and are hopeful that Pakistan would agree to exchange all the identified fishermen in each other's custody at an early date.

So far as Sri Lanka is concerned, there is one Indian fishermen in the custody of the Sri Lankan Government. This year Sri Lankan authorities had detained 19 Indian fishermen one of whom died while in custody, while 17 have been released and repatriated to India. The High commission of India takes up all cases of Indian Fishermen in Sri Lankan custody with the Sri Lankan Government.

There are a total of 59 Sri Lankan Fishermen in the custody of the Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Earlier this month, the Kerala Government had released 60 Sri Lankan Fishermen after completing necessary formalities.

As you are aware, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka had visited India recently. We had then also discussed the problems faced by fishermen from both countries and highlighted the humanitarian aspect of the problem faced by the poor people for whom fishing is the only means of livelihood. We agreed that the issue should be dealt with in a spirit of compassion and understanding. We further agreed that all pending cases of fishermen in custody should be expeditiously settled. Sri Lanka would be sending a team to India in order to study the legal procedures involved.

As regards Maldives, there is one Indian fishing boat "Mr. India" along with 8 fishermen in the custody of the authorities in Maldives. The High commission of India has taken up their case. The Government of Maldives has agreed to release the detained fishermen; the High commission of India is pursuing the release of the boat as well and is working out the formalities for the return of the fishermen.

Government of India is in continuous and regular contact with the respective governments through diplomatic channels for securing the earliest release and repatriation of detained Indian Fishermen. With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-Jaswant Singh (Minister of External Affairs)

Shri Ram Naik, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Government of India, NEW DELHI - 110 001
(Copy to Thomas Kocherry)

ANNEX 6

PRESS RELEASE (spillage of levoli sun)

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) is extremely shocked at the recurrence of marine accidents involving toxic Chemicals at Sea. The Italian Vessel levoli sun carrying 6021 tons of toxic chemicals including 1027 tones of methyl ethyl ketone, 3998 tonnes of styrene and 996 tonnes of IPA- ISO propyl alcohol sunk in the northwest channel Island of Alderney, United Kingdom. The vessel is also carrying 100 tones of oil in bunkers.

This is the second major incident in recent years after the Maltese tanker Erika spilled 15,000 tones of heavy fuel off the French coast. The fishworkers are the most affected in these kinds of disasters and we demand that they should be adequately compensated for the loss they incur because of the incident. Proper care should also be given to the restoration of the local ecosystem and fishing in the area.

Those companies/ corporations, which are causing the disaster, be made to pay in line with the polluters pay principle and be held responsible for the recovery and clean up.

We request the French Government and the Italian Government to take stringent actions against the Italian Company. The incident also calls for strong measures and enforcement of marine transport rules particularly involving chemical and toxic substances. All the international treaties in this regard should be honored and enforced. We also request the International Maritime Organization to hear what the fisher peoples organization has to say in this regard as they are the ones affected by such incidents and transportation first & directly.

Harekrishna Debnath

General Secretary

World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)

ANNEX 7

Decision 19 of CC meeting Martinique. 2002: It was decided to send a joint appeal, signed by all the members of the WFFP CC, to the Governments of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives for the release of the fishermen held in each other's jails and pressing for a permanent solution to this problem.

09.01. To the Governments of: India,
Pakistan,
Bangladesh,
Sri Lanka
And Maldives.

World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) is an international organization working among the traditional, artisanal, small fisher peoples in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. We are very much concerned about the innocent fisher people in the jails. We have been fishing for centuries in these waters now have become bordering of each other countries. Since there is demarcation of border of each country it has become a problem for the fisher people to cross over each other's

territory and we are arrested for many reasons like no passport and visa, violation of customs etc. We have been fishing there for our livelihood and survival. We cannot go anywhere else. But all the governments are concerned with smuggling, divisive politics for encroaching into each others territory, terrorism, etc. and so that they have to take action against the so-called violators and the innocent fisher people. Unless we find a permanent solution each country is forced to take short-term solutions. In order to save the innocent poor fisher people of all the countries we request you all the Governments to hold a meeting of all the four governments including representatives from WFFP so that we can find a permanent solution. In order to achieve this WFFP is placing before you the following proposals for your consideration.

Hold a meeting of all the governments and WFFP representatives within 6 months Our concern is to protect the fisher people of all the 4 countries that are depending on fishing for our livelihood.

Issue an identity card to those fisher people who have no record of smuggling, terrorism and in the divisive politics.

Do not arrest those fisher people who are holding identity card.

We agree that the fish resources are shared by the fisher people for our livelihood.

Until we take a permanent solution we request you to release all the detained fisher people and fishing vessels.

Thanking in anticipation,
(Signed by all the CC members present)

Annex 8

World Forum of Fisher Peoples' Member /Address list ,2004

- I. INDIA ASIA**
- 01 National Fishworkers Forum (NFF)
Velankanny Junction, Valiathura
Thiruvananthapuram 695 008 KERALA, South India
Tel: 0091 471 2501376 ,2 505216
Fax: 0091 471 2501376
Email: nff@vsnl.com, fishers@eth.net
thomas.kocherry@gmail.com
Web :www.wffp.org
- II. BANGLADESH**
- 02 Bangladesh Jele Federation (BJF)
85/B, Malibagh, Chowdhury Para
Dhaka 1219, Bangladesh
Tel: 00880 2 9662664 / 29558699
Fax: 00880 2 8613958; Email: icp@bol-online.com

III. SRI LANKA

03 National Fisheries Solidarity (NAFSO)
No. 10, Malwatta Road,
Negombo, Sri Lanka.
Tel/Fax. : 00-94- 314 870 658
Email, fishmove @slt.lk

04 Women Development Federation (WDF)
Vihara Mahadevi Mandiraya
Thangalla Road, Hambantota, Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094 4721022 / 4721022; Fax: 0094 4720499
E mail:hwdf@sltnet.lk

05 United Federaction of Labour (UFL)
17, Barracks Lane
Colombo, Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094 324053 / 430621, Fax: 0094 47 20499
Email: ciwu@sltnet.lk

06 National Union of Fishermen (NUF)
244, Duwa , Negambo, Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094 31 33109,Fax: 0094 31 35041

IV. PAKISTAN

07 Pakistan Fisherfolk Federation (PFF)
Sachal Hall, Jamate Market
Village Ibrahim Hyderi, Malir
Karachi, Pakistan
Tel: 0092 215090543-7750501 Fax: 0092 21 7750501, 5090543
Email:pff@fascom.com / b.m.kutty@cyber.net.pk
Mohamed AN Shah- malishah@cyber.net.pk

V. MALAYSIA

08 Penang Inshore Fishermen Welfare Association
D1-3, Taman Seri Setia Tanjung
Bungah, Pulau Pinang 11200
Malaysia
Tel: 0060 48992597
Fax: 0060 48992597 Email: pifwa@hotmail.com

VI. PHILIPPINES

09 Bigkas Lakas Pilipinas Inc (BLPI)
C/o Asian Social Institute- Family Centre
1518, Leon Guinto Street, Malate
Manila 1004, Philippines
Tel: 0063 25238266; Fax: 0063 2 2 1095
Email: Charles Capricio Cristobal fc7asi@yahoo.com
Charles Capricho- charlescapricho@yahoo.com
0063 2410—9987, FAX-2372 5048

10 PAMALAKAYA
18-A Mabuhay Street Central District,
Quezon City, Philippines
E-mail: pampil@skvinet.net
Phone no: 00632-434-39-15 / 632-434-38-36
Fax No: 00632-434-38-36

VII. THAILAND

11 Federation of Southern Fisherfolk, (FSFF)
57 / 215, Keha-Sathan Kroothan Village,
Pawoong Sob-Dt., Songkhla,
Southern Thailand
Tel & fax :0066 74 448-356
E-mail: ff-net@hatvai.inet.co.th

Address 2

12 74 /1 Karun-ratch23 road,
Tambon Talard ,Muang Dt.,
Suratthani Province 84000
Southern Thailand
Tel & Fax :0066 77 217 - 667
E-mail: samapan@phuket.83000; szonel@hadvai.loxinfo.co.th

VIII INDONESIA

13 (Applied for membership)
Edy suhartono,
LALA-North Sumatra Fisheries Advocacy Network
JL.Mongonsidi 1, No.20 A,
Medan 20152, North Sumatra

AFRICA:

IX. SOUTH AFRICA

14 Artisanal Fishers Association (AFS)
No 9, 8th Ave Fairways
7800 South Africa
Tel: 0027 21 7059183;
Fax (on request): 0027 21 7050098
E-mail: artfishers@worldonline.co.za

15 Food and Allied Worker Union (FAWU)
Vuyisile Mini Centre, Cnr NYI and NY 11o
Guguleru, P.O. Box 1234
Woodstock 7915
South Africa
Tel: 0027 216379040; Fax: 0027 21 6379190
E-mail: Debbie@fawu.org.za

16 Masifundise
36 Durban Road, Mowbray, Cape Town,
South Africa
P.O.Box 323, Athlone, 7760, Cape Town.
Telephone: (27) 021 685 3033/4/5
Fax: 27 021 6853087;
E-mail: suntel@netactive.co.za:dambisamasifundise@tcoe.org.za Naseegh- naseegh@tcoe.org.za

X. SENEGAL

17 Collectif National des Pecheurs- (CNPAS)
Artisanaux Senegal
P.O. Box 3211
Dakar, Senegal
Tel: 00221 953 50 33
Fax: 00221 8321175
Email: credeip@sonatel.senet.net

Postal address of Dao

18 Dao Gaye
Co-Coordinateur du Forum mondial de la Peche
World forum of Fisher peoples (WFFP)
BP 11 Kayar, SENEGAL -WEST AFRICA
Dao Gaye Tel & Fax: 00221 953 50 33
E mail: daogaye@yahoo.fr

XI. REPUBLIC DU MALI

19 Association des Pecheurs et Pisciculteurs du Mali
B.P 08 Baguineda Republic du Mali
Tel: 002221345
Fax: 00223 23 2956
Email: sambadiarra@yahoo.fr

XII. BENIN

20 Union de Professionnels de la Peche Artisanale
03 BP 3558 Cotonou,
Village Nicoue Condji Grand popo
Benin WEST AFRICA
Tel: 0029 324 236 Fax: 0029 330519
Email: ldehy@yahoo.fr : eno@syfed.bj.refer.org

XIII. MADAGASCAR

21 Collectif des Organisations Martimes Mai gaches
Ampasimazava
PO Box 98 Toamasina
501 Madagascar
Tel: +20 53 324 11 Fax: + 20 53 324 11
Email: maristmv@dts.mg

XIV. GUINEA

22 Union Nationale Des Pecheurs
B.R 5505
Republique de Guinee Conakry, Guinea
Tel: 00224 413523; Fax: 00224 413523
Email: minipagjpl@etlLbull.net

xv. UGANDA

23 KATOSI WOMEN FISHING& DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (KWFDA)
P.O. BOX 33929
KAMPALA - UGANDA (East Africa)
Tel/ Fax 256 - 41 - 348774
Email katosi@utlonline.co.ug
24 Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA)
No 67-75, Yusuf Lule Road
Postel Buildings, P.O Box 25494
Kampala, Uganda
TEL: 00256-41- 530912 /(0)77- 603947 (OFFICE NUMBER)
TEL: 00256- (0)77- 474228 (PERSONAL MOBILENUMBER)
FAX: 00256- 41- 344363. Seremos802@hotmail.com

xvi KENYA

25 The Budalang'i Health and Development (BUHEDE-Kenya)
Coffee Plaza 2nd Floor, Suite 1,
Exchange Lane off Haile Sellassie Avenue,
P.O. Box 3683-00506, Nyayo Stadium, Nairobi
Tel: +254 (20) 248 456 / 216 815
E-mail: buhedekenva2000@yahoo.co.uk
Francis Owatha-francis owakha nairobi
E-mail fowakah@yahoo.com

EUROPE

xvii NEW ZEALAND

26 PET SOUTHERN ASSOCIATES
PO Box 33, Mahia
Aotearoa; New Zeland
Tel & Fax: 0064 68375816
E-mail: pet.southernstar@clear.net.nz

XVIII. France

27 Robert Alvarez
ITSAS GEROA, 40, rue Francois Bibal
64500 saint Jean de Luz: **FRANCE**
Tel & Fax : 0033 559 262906
E mail: xabiezeizabarrena@hotmail.nnm / michel.iaureguiQwanadnn.fr
Robert Alvares-Mobile-0033 622 44 36 74
Beatrice-Vice President and Fisher Woman- Mobile—00 33 679 70 6551

28 Association des Pecheurs
Traditionnels a Pied d' Estrain 17 (APTPE)
49, rue des Ridollieres,
1720 BEAUGEAY-FRANCE
Tel & Fax: 0033 549 971024
E Mail: civelle@free.fr

XIX. MATINIQUE

29 Association Familiale Maritime
Quartier Gallochat 97217,
ANSER D' ARLET
Martinique- FWI
Tel & Fax:00596 596 686029
Email: Marie Adamer
E-mail Address: marieademar@wanadoo.fr

XX. GUADELOUPE

30 Union des Marine Pecheurs de la Guadeloupe (UMPG)
Immemble 10 Porte 1031,
GRAND-CAMP, Abymes
Guadeloupe 97139, French West Indies
Tel: 00590 500610, 214660
Fax:00590 916378 (Contact person ANNA)
E mail: comapega@wanadoo.fr

31 Syndicat de defence des
Marins Pecheurs de la Guadeloupe(SDMPG),
Im.North Sail,
Marina Pa.P 91110
GUADELOUPE, French West Indies
Tel: 00590 956726 ,00590 413988

32 Association de Pacheurs du sud Basse Terre (APSBT),
Village des Pecheurs Chemir\ Communal No.3,Rivierre sens 97113
GOURBEYRE G.P.E
French West Indies
Tel: 00590 813057
Fax: 00590 813057 / 00590 813021.

XXI MAURITANIA

33 Federaion Nationale de peche (FNP)
BP: 43, Nouadhibou
MAURITANIA
Tel. 00222 5 745 089 /002225746289
Fax: 00222 5 745 430;
Emal: fnp@toptechnology.mr

XXII SPAIN

34 AGAMAR

Association Galega de Uartscadaras

C/ General Pardinias,26

15706 SANTIAGO COMPOSTELA

SPAIN

Email: aaamar@galicia.ugt.org, fntcm@galicia.ugt.org,

Te1:0034 986 240625; 619 315 519. Fax: 0034 986 436869

Email-agamar@ ugt.org

AMERICA**XXIII. Honduras**

35 CODDEFFAGOLF

Edificio Fiallos Soto, 2do. Piso, oficina 204

Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazan_

Honduras

Tel: 00 504 238-0415 Fax: 00 504 238-0415

Email: cqolf@sdnhon.ora.hnWeb: www.coddeffagolf.org**XXIV. CANADA**

36 BEAR RIVER FIRST NATION

P.O.BOX, 210,

Bear River, Nova Scotia, BOS 1BO

CANADA

Phone 001(902)467 3802

Fax: 001 902 467 4143 , Email:sherry@tartannet.ns.ca

sherry Bear River E-mail Address(es):

sherry.pictou @ ns.sympatico.ca

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DRAFT WFP FISHERIES POLICY FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is a 'policy'?

It was proposed that 'policy' should be understood to mean a set of coherent decisions with a common long-term purpose(s) affecting or relevant to the fisheries sector. It was pointed out that most countries develop a fisheries policy towards implementing provisions of their fisheries legislation, and not the other way around. A policy, however, could also lay down guidelines for the preparation of legislation and in this sense there can be a policy to precede, and a policy to follow, fisheries legislation, it is impossible to implement a policy without the backing of legislation.

2. Enabling legislation for implementation of fisheries policy

Citing the example of the 1994 Fisheries Development and Management Policy of Kerala, India it was pointed out how a well-meaning policy without being backed by enabling legislation could be quite ineffective. This is because only legislation is justiciable. Fisheries Policy as such cannot be implemented because it will not stand if it is challenged before a court of law. Monsoon Trawling Ban and Purseine ban in Kerala territorial waters could be implemented because of Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA) in India. The SC, because of the backing of MFRA, upheld these bans. In many Countries there is no such legislation in the entire EEZ beyond the territorial waters.

3. National fisheries, coastal area and ocean legislation

Each country is Sovereign and each country has its waters according to the Law of the Sea of 1982. Each country has its EEZ as National Waters. Beyond that, is the International Waters, where adjacent countries have greater access to the fish resource if countries are under developed and developing countries. This is very relevant to the WFP.

4. Conflicts between active and passive gear groups in the territorial waters are now taking place also in the EEZ. To address the jurisdictional shift in fisheries conflicts from the state/provincial waters also into the EEZ, it is imperative to have legislation for the EEZ. Harmonized and sustainable fisheries both in the territorial waters and the EEZ are possible only with a national legislation.

5. Further, in the light of new developments in relation to oil exploration and exploitation, it is important to adopt new legislation not only for living resources like fish and other forms of biodiversity, but also to manage exploration and exploitation of non-living resources of the EEZ such as oil reserves. In this context, there is also need for effective legislation to prevent marine pollution from fishery and non-fishery sources both in the territorial and national waters.

6. The importance of having fisheries legislation for the entire Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for all fishing vessels, including domestic and foreign. Conservation of marine fisheries resources and protection of those who work on board traditional fishing vessels must come under this legislation. This was to be followed by an integrated legislation for fisheries and aquaculture encompassing both marine and inland waters. There is also need for an oceans act where fisheries could be a subset of ocean management. In all these legislation, a human perspective should be maintained. We should talk of aquaculture only if it is traditional and improved traditional within the purview of the SC Judgement of 1996 by Justice Kuldip Singh, in India.

7. The importance of other issues to be considered while developing fisheries legislation included the need to address the unorganized nature of the fisheries sector and the need to highlight the

right to adequate food and national food security, including that of the fishing and coastal communities. In this context, attention was drawn to the recent work of FAO on Voluntary Guide Lines for Food security for all in the context of National Food Security. Importance of Fisheries to the developing countries is an important source of employment, income, food security and foreign exchange. 36 million workers in the fisheries (ILO), world wide, of which 95% are in developing countries. Over 60% of global fish production and more than 50% of global fish exports originate from developing countries (FAO)

8. There is need for coherent and acceptable definition of fishery-related terms, it was proposed. "Artisanal", for example, is a category that is used in the document without offering any definition. The definition given to a traditional and artisanal fish worker is relevant. The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (traditional / artisanal / customary) are those who fish and earn an income to meet the basic needs of life. They work as a community. Sometimes they may employ workers and operate as a collective/ co-operative/group. They participate in the distribution of fish and different activities of fishers that take care of processing, management and conservation of fish resources.

9. Socio-economic security of fishworkers

Should the national marine fisheries policy mainly ensure the "socio-economic security" of "artisanal fishermen" entirely dependent on fishing for their livelihood, or should it be concerned about ensuring socio-economic security of all fishworkers and socio-economic development of all coastal fishing communities? The former would arguably include owners and workers who may or may not originate from traditional fishing castes, including owners who do not directly participate in fishing operations from both fishing and non-fishing castes.

10. Fisheries management and development issues

Instead of the Central / Union Government taking up the initiative to come up with a fisheries policy, should it not be the maritime provinces / states that take the initiative for what needs to be done with regard to fisheries management in the territorial waters, especially the problem of managing excess fishing capacity? Shouldn't the state/provincial governments ask the Union/ Central government to first make effort to optimally accommodate their excess fishing fleet in national waters before considering import of resource-specific fishing vessels? Considering that the fisheries resources and fishing fleet need urgent attention in the territorial waters, shouldn't the policy start from the shore-end, first try to address near-shore fisheries management problems using the resource potential of the EEZ, before proposing measures for the entire EEZ such as the introduction of resource-specific fishing vessels?

11. It was proposed that fishing vessels should comply with registration and licensing requirements, that fishers should report their catch and maintain a logbook.

12. Vessel-based catch quotas is not acceptable but we should consider only input control measures in fisheries. Output control measures such as vessel-based catch quotas, they fear, might lead to the introduction of individual transferable quotas (ITQ). The possibility of arriving at maximum fleet size for different categories of fishing vessels based on total allowable catch was proposed as an alternative.

13. Input control measures

The importance of fisheries management was recognized, especially fisheries management regimes that could ideally provide more employment and income for the same, or even lower, levels of fisheries production. Instead of labour-intensive and conservation-oriented fisheries

management regimes, different national governments might go for individual transferable quota (ITQ) management system. In this context, we need only input control measures in our fisheries. Any output control management system involving quotas might later lead to the introduction of ITQ.

14. Use TAC instead of MSY

It was suggested that rather than maximum sustainable yield (MSY), total allowable catch (TAC) concept should be used to determine stocks that could actually be fished during a specific period, which is often at levels below the MSY for the same period. Periodic assessment of the status of fisheries resources is important, it was observed. In this context, developing appropriate methodologies, or improving the existing ones, for stock assessment is important it was pointed out.

15. It was also suggested that the existing fishing capacity could be frozen as a precautionary measure until reliable stock estimates and proper assessment of TAC is made. This could also facilitate existing fishing fleet to adjust itself to the extent practicable. Rather than vessel-specific or gear-specific quotas, the total fleet capacity of different categories should be determined subject to TAC.

16. Resolving inter-and intra-gear conflicts

It is difficult to distinguish non-mechanized fishing vessels from fishing vessels with outboard motors since the same fishing communities use both categories of fishing vessels. Moreover they do not have conflicts among themselves unlike their conflicts with trawlers. There are conflicts between motorized and non-mechanized fishing vessels. It is important to provide exclusive protection for non-motorized fishing units in our fisheries.

17. Rather than zoning to minimise gear conflicts through government intervention why can't the conflicts be resolved at the community level in all these fisheries. Even in cases where there are conflicts between motorized and non-mechanized units, the conflicts are primarily inter-gear in nature, and not over mechanical propulsion of fishing vessels. In areas, for example where similar gears are used there are seemingly no conflicts between the motorized/mechanized and the non-mechanized fishing units. Even in cases where similar gears are used the scale of fishing operation is important. We should have flexible arrangements where the need for setting up zones for motorized/non-mechanized fishing are locally determined. In ecologically sensitive areas, however, zones for non-mechanised fishing could be extraneously set up.

18. Is there a genuine need for further motorization?

In the light of excess fishing capacity, fishing pressure and conflicts in the territorial waters between different fishing units, we should have serious reservation for further mechanized fishing vessels. Wherever there are labour intensive fisheries we should not allow further motorisation and mechanisation.

19. Need for diversification of existing fishing fleet

Instead of introducing new generation fishing vessels, we would like to see greater diversification of existing fishing vessels into the EEZ. They sought Government support to diversify, especially assistance to develop communication facilities that would improve safety of their vessels and marketing opportunities. There is a great need for proper assessment of the resources of the EEZ and an allocation of surplus outside territorial waters across maritime States/Provinces/

Regions through quotas based on existing fishing capacity. This has to be followed up by effective registration and licensing arrangements. Fishing vessels should be designated to fish either within or outside the territorial limits. Vessels that are registered to fish in the EEZ should not be licensed to fish within the territorial sea.

20. Reducing fishing capacity in the mechanized sub-sector

It was commented that even halving the existing fleet capacity might bring better dividends to fishers than continuing to fish with the existing fleet capacity at the national level. However, the rationale for reducing excess capacity should be made sufficiently clear, it was suggested. The fishing power of each trawler is much higher than before. Several trawl gears that are used now are designed to be species- bottom-, and water-column-specific and are far more efficient than conventional trawls. There were several questions in relation to capacity reduction. Could it be proposed that only owner-operated trawlers should be allowed to fish? If an owner has more than one vessel could it be suggested that all vessels except one should be retired? Should each family be restricted to own only one trawler? Should vessels that are more than 10 years old be retired from fishing? Trawlers that are not sea worthy should be retired. In Rameswaram in India in the conflict between SRILANKA AND INDIA the trawler boat associations have recently agreed to consider a 50 per cent reduction in their trawler fleet size, provided there are financial incentives in the form of buy-back schemes, or a fleet reduction package. Subsidies should play an important role in financing buy-back schemes, it was proposed. Subsidies that lead to overcapacity should be removed. Fleet reduction will have implications for employment. There will be labour displacement, especially of wage labourers from non-traditional fishing families as a result of fleet reduction. Alternative employment should be provided to workers who lose jobs.

21. Reducing fishing effort in the mechanized sub-sector

In addition to capacity reduction, there is need to introduce effort control measures. There can be mesh size regulations, restricting size of gear, reducing the number of gear units including reducing the number of trawl gear on board each trawler, reducing fishing time at sea especially by reducing trawling hours and by extending the duration of the monsoon ban on fishing. In addition to government initiatives, local fishing communities should be involved in taking up fleet reduction and effort control programmes. Reducing the fleet size could increase the returns on fishing.

22. Managing artisanal fisheries

There is also need to ban or restrict various harmful fishing gears like mini trawl and push nets and certain forms of monofilament nets, it was noted. New gear webbing technologies are employed to produce knotless "pressed" mesh, which cannot be repaired. Once such gear is damaged it has to be thrown away. The use of monofilament gears is now bringing a lot of by-catch. In this context, it was noted that Sri Lanka has banned monofilament nets in its waters. There should be restrictions on craft-gear-engine combinations in artisanal fisheries, it was proposed.

Even in artisanal fisheries subsidies that enhance harvesting capacity should be stopped including assistance for acquisition of fishing craft, gear and engine, except OBM subsidies in areas with low levels of motorization. Co-management, or government working in partnership with fisheries stakeholders for managing fisheries, was discussed. We should accept the concept of co-management in principle. Unless there is statutory authority, co-management cannot work. Undertaking enforcement functions in local-level fisheries management issues only under exceptional circumstances.

23. Wage system v. share system and implications for fisheries management

While considering fisheries management options, would a wage system, or a share system, be more conducive for fisheries management? In a wage system there is pressure on the owner to operate the fishing vessels in lean times, whereas in a share system there is possibility of reducing the number of trips, and the fleet size. A wage system also leads to low payment and abuse of workers. It also leads to overcapacity, unlike a share system. Under a wage system, labour that is absorbed in the sector is more than what the sector can actually accommodate. It was suggested that the marine fishing policy should favour only a share system, not wage system, since the former is more conducive to fisheries management initiatives than the latter.

24. Welfare of fishworkers

Who should actually be eligible for welfare measures meant for fishers. Should fishing caste- based owner-non-operators be treated on par with fishworkers, defined as men and women dependent on fisheries for a livelihood, including those who catch or vend fish, head-load or cycle-load, mend or make nets, process fish, including drying and curing. The definition, however, would exclude categories of workers such as carpenters, drivers, and icemakers catering to the fisheries sector.

25. When it comes to investment in fishing units you could give preferential treatment to those who come from the fishing community, irrespective of their economic status, but not with regard to welfare benefits, which should go to those who do not have any fishing vessels or who have only rudimentary fishing equipment, it was suggested. An owner and his family from fishing castes, however, could benefit from general programmes for economically and socially backward communities, but not from specific programmes meant for economically backward fishers and fishworkers.

26. Fisheries cooperatives

Genuine member-controlled co-operatives in the fishing sector are very few. Co-operatives as they exist are mainly quasi-government organizations controlled by politicians and government officials. They function mainly as delivery mechanisms for government financial assistance to the sector. Genuine member-based co-operatives are discriminated. It was proposed that the existing cooperative act should be amended to allow genuine member-controlled fishermen cooperatives to function without unnecessary outside intervention, where the scope of cooperative is redefined to include not only marketing and supply of inputs, but also resource management programmes. Importance of plurality should be recognized in the cooperative act.

27. Housing of fishers

Regarding housing scheme for fishermen, it was proposed that the beneficiaries should be prioritised. The rights of the beneficiary should be established. It was further proposed that the Government need not build houses, and that it could request other agencies to undertake such projects in a more decentralized fashion.

28. Sea safety measures

With reference to sea safety and early weather warnings, it was proposed that sea safety measures should be incorporated into the MFRAs.

29. Social security measures for fishworkers

Providing social security benefits to fishers and fishworkers was discussed. In this context, attention was drawn to extending the provisions of the 1952 ILO Social Security (Minimum

Standards) Convention (No. 102) to the fisheries sector. The nine principal branches of social security, according to this Convention are: medical care, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, old-age benefit, employment injury benefit, family benefit, maternity benefit, invalidity benefit and survivors benefit. . Medical care benefit has been introduced, which also covers fisher's families.

30. It was proposed that both the State and the Centre should ensure that fishers receive social security benefits under the ILO Convention 102. The provident fund scheme for the unorganised sector should also extend coverage to all fishers. It was demanded that's the Government contribution should be doubled. For every share of worker, the government should contribute two shares. It was also proposed that cooperatives, NGOs, etc may be treated as nodal agencies for implementing welfare schemes to ensure maximum coverage.

31. Conditions of work and welfare of women in the post-harvest sector

Under post-harvest operations, conditions of work of women were are very pathetic all over the World. It was proposed that women in processing and pre-processing sub-sectors, both domicile and migrant, should have a minimum wage and medical assistance, as well as protection of their rights. In addition to other benefits migrant women workers should be provided accommodation. It was also proposed that there should be effective implementation of interstate migration act.

32. Health and hygiene standards in fishing harbours and markets

The importance of promoting health and hygiene in fish markets was recognized. Packaging and bar coding should not displace small vendors from participating in fish trade, it was cautioned. Fish quality should be improved as a process. Regulations to improve hygiene standards should first be implemented in harbours and landing centres. Coastal panchayats should be involved in keeping beaches clean of debris and filth. Use of ammonia to preserve fish should be curbed. There should be provision made for toilets in market places, raised platform for keeping fish, and safe water in adequate quantity and quality to help improve health and hygiene standards. There should be training and support to women to improve quality of fish sold. Coastal pollution from chemical waste is a major matter of concern. It was suggested that movements similar to organic agriculture should be developed in fisheries, especially to sell 'safe fish', based on self- regulations and independent standards acceptable to consumers worldwide. Women should also experience the dignity of undertaking their own initiatives for improving the quality fish, it was suggested.

33. Infrastructure

Regarding infrastructure, it was proposed that fishers' associations should manage infrastructure facilities like fish landing centres and minor fishing harbours. It was also proposed that fishing harbours and fish landing centres should be used as a tool for improved fleet management and for quality control. Dredging costs associated with fish landing centres and harbours should be met by the State, it was proposed.

34. Regional arrangements for fishers' welfare

A sub-regional agreement (at SAARC level) for fisheries management and to address trans- border movement of fishers and fishing vessels should be entered into, it was proposed.

35. Subsidies in Fisheries in Developing countries.

Welfare of fishing community (housing, sanitation, electricity, drinking water), Income support to fisheries, (allowances for lean season/ training period, insurance premia);Tax preferences (rebates

on fuel and other inputs into fishing); Subsidization of capital costs (e.g. Mechanization/acquisition of fishing craft, gear, engine and other inputs)

36. Disciplining capacity/effort enhancing subsidies at WTO

Amending existing notification procedure in SCM Agreement to report on all fisheries subsidies. Linkage between potential capacity/effort-enhancing subsidies, fishing capacity, fishing effort and over fishing: burden of proof on complaining Member vis-à-vis other countries (developed and advanced developing countries). De minimis for capacity-enhancing subsidies for LDCs and designated developing countries at a level higher than the de minimis for other countries. Negotiate different time frames to phase out fisheries subsidies that are proved to be capacity enhancing for the above two categories of countries.

37. Reintroducing non-actionable subsidies

Non-actionable subsidies could include: retraining fishers; fleet diversification; switching over to more selective fishing gear and practices; assistance during natural calamities; scrapping of vessels and withdrawal of capacity; improving product quality (EU proposal); assistance during stock decline due to natural factors; fisheries conservation and management; energy-efficient propulsion techniques etc.

38. Proposed Scope of Disciplining Fisheries subsidies at WTO

Should be confined only to production and trade distorting subsidies. Financial contribution that does not lead to production and trade distortions and where the benefits accrue to human development or the well being of fisheries and fishing communities could be removed from the scope of fisheries subsidies.

39. No subsidies at any sort if it creates over capacity and destructive fishing. Financial contribution to human development of fishers and fishing communities, especially in developing countries, even if it is specific, should not be regarded as subsidies. Illegal fishing, and unrestricted fishing should be put and end.

If these are observed all these lead to FOOD SECURITY among the traditional fisher people and among the consumers.

35. Stop Illegal Fishing

Restraints of issuance of fishing authorization by coastal states in the Region and/or by Flag states to foreign owned and operated large-scale tuna fishing vessels if it leads to an increase in the existing fishing capacity.

- Collection, exchange and disclosure to the extent possible under domestic law, of information on the activities of international business entities such as trading companies undermining effectiveness of the IPOAs so that the concerned states and fishing entities can take appropriate cooperative actions to prevent such IPOA-IUU fishing
- To promote cooperation and harmonization of minimum standards among coastal states at a regional level where appropriate for sustainable management of shared fish stocks and invite FAO to explore a possible use of regional coordinators in FAO programs for such promotion.
- Request all states to review the sanctions against IUU fishing available under their national laws in order to ensure that such sanctions function as a sufficient deterrent to IUU fishing wherever it occurs, taking account of all relevant information including available guidance for such review.

Fishing vessels, and as appropriate, implement measures to reduce over-capacity and prevent it from migrating to other fully exploited or over-exploited fisheries. The continuing high and growing incidence of IUU fishing and the lack of effective implementation of the 2001 implementation plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU) and recommended that FAO should convene a technical consultation to review progress and promote the full implementation of the 1999 FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity and the IPOA-IU. The Law of the Sea 1982, Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries, 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement and the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement, have a strong bearing on IPOA-IUU fishing. The World Fisheries would be managed more responsibly to ensure that fisheries could be available for the generation to come and that, above all, fisheries would continue to make an important contribution to food security, employment and poverty alleviation.

Join National Alliance of Peoples Movements (NAPM) and Peoples Political Front (PPF) to bring about alternate development and alternate politics in India and in the World.

With Best Compliments from:

Medha Patkar, P Chennaiah and Sanjay M.G.
(National Co-ordinators of NAPM)
E-mail: Medha@narmada.org
Chennaiah_p@hotmail.com Sansahil@vsnl.net

Aruna Roy and Thomas Kocherry
(National Co-ordinators of PPF)

thomaskocherry@rediffmail.com
Aruna Roy - mkssrajasthan@yahoo.com.
lokayan@vsnl.com
nff@vsnl.com

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NFF REPORT 2003

National Fishworkers' Forum

Annual Report - 2003

Introduction

1. Fisheries and fisher people in India are passing through a grave crisis. There is an overcapacity and shortage of fish in every state. In fact Gujarat has maximum capacity that created acute depletion in the State. As a result Gujarat fishermen are encroaching into Pakistan waters hoping that there must be better catches and land up in jail. This is countered by the Indian coast guard catching Pakistani fishermen.
In Maharashtra the scenario is the same. Depletion results in decrease in catch. So the fishermen in a bid to make a good catch increases the length and number of nets while decreasing the mesh size, thus further enhancing the rate of depletion and leading to various conflicts for fishing space. The living example of this is the violent and volatile expression of the conflict between Satpati and Vasai areas near Mumbai. The tussle and conflict is in fact the eruption of frustration accumulated in the community due to resource crunch. The clash and violence and burning of boats between fishermen of Kerala and Tamilnadu is nothing but another case of the same syndrome. The situation in the east coast is no different. The conflict between the traditional fisher people and mechanised is rampant in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. The frequent clash between the gill netters and Stalu net fishers over their access to the fishing ground in West Bengal, further reconfirms the tendencies mentioned above. The situation is threatening the future of peace and harmony in the community.
The situation has been further complicated by the large scale eviction and displacement of fishermen from their traditional habitat of fishing grounds either in the name of environmental protection or development. Eviction of 20,000 fishermen from Jambudwip is a clear case of such displacement. Thousands of traditional artisan fisher people depending on fishing for their livelihood are being displaced in Orissa in the name of protection of turtles. 25,000 fisher people are being evicted from 21 Islands of Ramnad district of Tamilnadu in the name of protecting the Marine sanctuary through many development projects like the proposed Navigational channels, oil exploration, sea-bird sanctuary, construction of International Ports, Boroli-Bandra sea link, Essel World etc.
Astonishingly the GOI instead of addressing these crisis in a realistic manner has given licenses to 50 foreign fishing vessels to fish in the Indian waters. Consequently a definite collapse of Indian fisheries is a foregone conclusion. The NFF through 42 point charter of demand, Kanniyakumari March, "Fishers storm in Delhi", "Do or Die" agitation, different indefinite fasts, in Porbander, Mumbai and Umbergam, different harbour blockades, fisheries strikes and finally the recent rail rocko agitation in Azad Maidan, Mumbai has been the persistent warning to the state governments and GOI to take action. But all these fell into deaf ears of all the governments and civil society.

Major events in 2003.

- 2.1. In spite of the assurance of the Prime Minister the implementation of fuel assistance to the fishermen was not done. In this context we had nation wide agitation in January and February, which included road blockade, mass fasting, dharana etc in different states. Once again we asserted our determination for acceptance and implementation of 42 point charter of demands,

- 2.2. Shri.Thomas Kocherry met the Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpyee in February. Once again Shri. Vajpayee reassured his commitment towards the implementation of fuel assistance scheme.
- 2.3. In July 2003 a good number of leaders particularly from Maharashtra and Karnataka went to Delhi and met the Agricultural Minister Shri.Ajit Singh.The delegation was led by Shri.Thomas Kocherry and it included NFF Chair person Shri.Harekrishna Debnath, General Secretary Shri.N.D.Koli, R.K.Patil and Promod Madthwaraj Leaders met Agricultural Minister Shri. Ajit Singh and Petroleum Minister Ram Naik and the Deputy Prime Minister Sheri. L.K. Advani to press for our demands.
- 2.4. The lobbying for the implementation of the demands continued and shri. Thomas Kocherry and Shri. Harekrishna Debnath met the Agricultural Minister Shri. Ajit Singh and Petroleum Minister Shri. Ram Naik once again in the month of September. Ajit Singh agreed to form a (review) committee to work with the ministry. He also assured the delegation that the issue of supplying kerosene is under consideration of the expenditure committee and is expected to be cleared soon.
- 2.5. Thomas Kocherry, Hare Krishna Debnath, N.D.Koli, Narendra Patil and R.K.Patil again met Ram Naik and Ajit Singh in November to pursue the demands .This lobbying resulted in the formation of a committee to look into the charter of demands. The committee comprises of the following members.

•	Joint Secretary (Fisheries)	Chair Person.
•	Shri; Hharekishna Debnath Chair Person NFF	Member
•	Shri; N.D.Koli. General secretary NFF	Member
•	Shri Thomas Kocherry Ex. Member NFF	Member
•	Shri; R.K.Patil. EX. Member NFF	Member
•	Sheri. R.K.Patil. EX.Member NFF	Member
•	Shri Rajendra Mehar, MD.SMVK Society.	Member
•	Deputy Fisheries Development Commissioner	Secretary
•	Fisheries Development Commissioner	Member

3.0. **Community based Resource Management**

- 3.1. NFF family believes that all natural resources should be owned and managed by those who depend on it for their livelihood. To bring about such a common property regime there should be sustained struggle and innovative preparedness. Community based resource management is the most important document of this doctrine keeping in view, the need to have proper perspective and training NFF General Secretary Shri. N.D. Koli took a full course of study and exposure in St.Francis Xavier University in Canada 2002. To disseminate the information and to percolate the knowledge to the leaders of our unions NFF organized a series of workshops on CBRM in the months of March and May 2003.
- 3.2. In March 2003 there were four state level workshops in Arnala (Maharashtra), Diamond Harbor (West Bengal), Vishakapattinam (Andhra Pradesh) and Trivandrum (Kerala). Shri.N.D. Koli organized these workshops and Mr.John Kearny of Canada was the resource person in each of them.
- 3.3. In May 2003 we had a National workshop on CBRM as a culmination of the earlier workshops. Prof John Kearney and N.D.Koli were the resource persons. NFF chair person was instrumental in organizing this workshop, where Shri. Narendra Patil, Shri. Chandrashekar Sagar, Shri. Moreswar Vaithy, Shri.T.K. Rahman were among the sixty participants of the workshop. After successfully conducting these studies and training programs, it is desirable that we take up one or two places where CBRM can be practically practiced to set an example for others to follow. The national workshop identified Jambudwip as a potential spot for this.

4. Jambudwip Struggle

- 4.1. After the General Body meeting of NFF at Trivandrum, the struggling fishermen of Jambudwip took over the island on 21st December 2002, in the context of a visit of the island by Parliament Standing Committee on Environment and Forest. Shri.Thomas Kocherry and NFF chairperson were with the fishermen at this crucial moment of their struggle.
- 4.2. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) attached to the Ministry of Environment and Forest submitted their report and directed the State Government to remove all traces of encroachment from the island before 30th March 2003. As the State government was yet to take concrete step for regularisation of fish drying activity in the island. We had to go to the Supreme Court praying a stay on the CEC recommendations. If we had not done so the CEC recommendations would amount to a Court verdict after 31st March, 2003.
- 4.3. The state government did not respond to the Supreme Court vis-à-vis our petition. Due to the inaction of the state government the CEC and the armies got an interim order restricting entry of trawlers and mechanized boats into Jambudwip. The court in fact upheld the rights of the fishermen and restricted only trawlers (which they never use) and mechanized boats. The state government misinterpreted the interim order and ordered complete ban on fishing and fishing activity in Jambudwip. Respecting the interim order the fisher people went to the island on 16th October 2003(World Food Day) with country boats and implements. But soon after the fishermen landing in the island they were brutally beaten up and chased out of the island. Thirteen fishermen were injured and four were arrested.
- 4.5. The destitute fishermen have been pushed to a precarious situation living in distress with an uncertain future. This would not have happened unless the state government wished so. The next date of hearing of the case is on 30th January 2004. The Jambudwip struggle is the most militant struggle of the fishermen of India in recent times. In spite of all our efforts the future of Jambudwip community is uncertain. What should be the future of course is the action on the part, of NFF. ???.
5. NFF executive committee met in Ramesharam in June 2003. Ramnad District Fishermen's union hosted the executive committee meeting. It was decided to continue the DO OR DIE agitation and go to Delhi to meet the concerned ministers to press for our demands.

5. Struggle Against ONGC

6. The fisher people in Maharashtra showed courage to fight against the atrocities of the security Force of ONGC upon fisher people. Oil exploration created decrease in fishing grounds for the fisher people. Under the leadership of Maharashtra Machimar Kirti Samathi, fisher people gathered in Vasi, Phalghar, Mahim and Thane and demanded the appointment of a committee to look into the problem. Two of the fisher people were injured .One of them Dinesh was treated with the help of the fisher people.

7. WFFP Coordination Committee Meeting.

World Forum of Fisher-people's Coordination committee meeting was held in Sri Lanka in June 2003. Eight new members were admitted to WFFP. It was a very lively and eventful meeting. The most important among the decisions taken is that the next general assembly of WFFP will be held in Kenya in November 2004. One of the most important businesses is to work out a fisheries policy. Bilateral issues like detention of fishers in India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, also figured in a big way.

8. Women's Magna Carta.

A national work shop on fisherwomen was held in Mangalore on 13th and 14th July 2003. It

was a very enlightening experience and a big stepping stone towards women's empowerment and participation in our union activities. The women leaders came out with a Magna Carta which will be treated as a historic document in the future. It has already been circulated to our members and affiliates.

- 8.1 As a follow up of the Mangalore work shop at state level convention was held Kerala, Ernakulam in November 2003 where more than thousand women participated. In Orissa also the women have made significant progress through SAMUDRUM. Sister Mariamma has started working among the fisher women particularly in A.P. and Orissa How do we go about mobilization of fisherwomen in Union activities and how do we bring women to the forefront? What are the concrete steps that could ensure steady growth of women's participation and leadership in our activities and organization.?

Furthering the bond of Brotherhood

- 8.2 NFF general secretary Shri.N.D.Koli and Shri. Xavier Pinto and Thomas Kocherry took one trip to Pakistan each, in different occasions in June, August and November 2003 respectively. The warmth of hospitality and expressions of solidarity particularly by the fisher folk of Pakistan was a memorable experience for them. Shri. Thomas Kocherry went to Sri Lanka in November on an invitation of NAFSO to participate in various programmes of Sri Lankan fishers. This trip further reinforced the bond of comradeship between the people.

9. World Social Forum

During the world Social Forum -NFF organised several programmes in Mumbai. More than 150 NFF leaders from all coastal states participated in these events.

- 10.1 On 18th January we had a convention of different people's movements of various countries called "People's Movements Encounter!!"(PME 2)
- 10.2 On 19th January NFF organised a huge rally In Azad Maidan Mumbai aimed at train blockade. Many leaders of fraternal movements spoke on the occasion. There was a militant face off with the police while we approached CST in a bid to blockade the railway. We are proud of our women who showed tremendous courage and strength on the occasion. We thank each and every participant of the event for the conviction they showed.
- 10.3 The WSF-4 in Mumbai was a drift from the three previous WSF congregations. It was largely dominated by a party of India particularly funded by corporate NGO's. NFF registered its dissatisfaction over the mode of functioning of the organising committee of WSF-4 and we distanced ourselves from the so-called "official" events. . The real politic that surfaced by the end of WSF-4 has reconfirmed that NFF was politically very correct in this matter.. However the organizing of the seminar on Displacement by NAPM was historic. The once rejected film "Under The Sun" on Jambudwip was forced to be shown in an honorable manner. The street plays by the Sri Lankan group and Orissa group also attracted many.

10. Conclusions

Next year is going to be the election year of NFF. We are facing lot of internal and organisational crisis as well. Financial self- sustainability is a big question mark. At the same time we have many achievements at our disposal for optimism. We have to have trust in each other to build a firm organisation. Are we capable of taking the organisation unitedly to a better future.? OR are we going backwards?

Harekrishna Debnath
Chairperson

N.D.KOLI
General Secretary

STATE REPORTS

I. ORISSA TRADITIONAL FISH WORKERS UNION (OTFWU)

Introduction:

Annual Report - 2003

Orissa state has a coastline of 480 Kms and there are six maritime districts namely Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Puri & Ganjam. In all these districts, union has organized district fish workers with a motto to uplift 3.5 lakh fisher people. The traditional fish workers of Orissa are poor and backward, though Orissa is well known for its marine resources. Because of their minority composition along the coastline their voices are not heard. So to bring unity among them and to solve the issues in an organized way, Orissa Traditional Fish Workers Union (OTFWU) & Samudram (A Federation of Marine Women Organizations) jointly worked for the year 2003.

Objective:

To strengthen the six coastal district unions, to fight for their issues and also support Orissa Traditional Fish Workers Union (OTFWU) in achieving the common issues over the state like-

1. Right over homestead land
2. Establishing user right over coastal forest and protection/promotion of forest cover along the coast.
3. Ensuring availability of all Govt, social security schemes meant for marine fish workers
4. Strict Implementation of OMFR Act with necessary amendment to make it more people oriented and making fisher people aware of the Act & Implementation of CRZ Act in its true spirit.

The activities planned during the period are as follows:

1. Conduct a base line survey and develop a database
2. Based on the findings of the survey to organize campaigns like writing petitions to concerned officials, people's representatives right from Gram Panchayat to State and National level.
3. Interact with concerned department officials, people's representatives, policy makers and academia etc. by organizing mass meetings, conventions, press meets, etc.
4. To get their demands fulfilled they would organize local, regional and central level rallies, gheraos, dharanas etc.
5. To sensitize and pressurize the people to organize Palli Sabha and Gram Sabhas regularly and based on their recommendations to implement programme for the benefit of fisher people.
6. To involve with like-minded networks and build up strength.
7. To pressurize bureaucrats and policy makers to formulate pro-people policies that ensure/protect fisher people's interest.

Last but not the least to establish and strengthen village based organizations through awareness building in people's organizations in the entire coastal district that the marine fisher folks would be recognized as a powerful community, relinquishing their numerical minority status.

Creation of Data base on the Marine Fisher Community:

The data collection and creation of database was completed with full-fledged participation and support from all district level unions. The Chief Guest, Honorable Chief Minister of Orissa Shri. Naveen Patnayak

released the final report "Peoples Report on Status of Marine Fisher Community in Orissa" on the eve of "World fisheries Day - 21st Nov. 2003" at IDCOL Auditorium, Bhuwaneswar.

Sensitization of Village and regional units of District Unions:

It is borne out of the fact that the fishers of various districts are under exploitative forces, and their district unions, except Ganjam are not adequately sensitized and empowered with the combination of village and regional level units. So the representatives of the union and Samudram during the period visited those areas and non-FFDP villages of Ganjam district to organize village and regional consultations to sensitize the marine fishers both men and women on their current status.

Everywhere they tried to facilitate participatory reflection processes to make the people realize where the weakness lies. During the survey period it was observed by the investigators that most of the fisher villages are away from the mainstream of development and they are unaware of the development schemes and about the activities of district union and state union. To make awareness among the marine fishers about the common issues, district and village level issues and plan to solve those through their participation was programmed by the OTFWU & Samudram leaders. They have jointly organized meetings in regional level in all districts covering at least one eighth of the villages during the period.

During the consultation process of the unions, the people gathered at the venue spontaneously and also they shared their feelings and concerns of lack of unity and its consequences. Everybody felt that unless and until they have joined hands with their unions and establish their unity the exploitations will continue. They were not only present physically sharing their concerns but also contributed financially for the organisation of the consultation meetings.

Actions taken to Pressurise the Govt, to meet their demands:

A. District Level:

During the period in 5 coastal districts 'District level conventions' were organized in the state where some major issues related to homestead land, coastal forest management, non-availability of Government sponsored social welfare schemes, implementation of OMFR Act and CRZ Act were taken up. The people of Ganjam, Kendrapara and Balasore launched campaigns to influence the Govt, with the support of their district unions and with the collaborations of OTFWU. The major success they gained through these campaigns are,

- 1. The construction of a permanent bridge over river Bahuda in Charity block of Ganjam district which is a new village of Samudra's area of operation has been taken up and now the bridge has been completed and waiting formal inauguration. This will help people of 3 marine fisher villages to get connected with main land all through the year.**
2. The revenue department of Balasore^{as} promised has taken up a survey of encroached lands for prawn culture. In Ganjam district after clarifying the CRZ norms the tahsildar of Kanisi has instructed to start settlement camps in those villages but the instructions has not yet been carried out.
3. The Zillah Parishad member in Bhadrak district had raised the issue in the district planning board meeting on non-availability of welfare schemes to the marine fisher people. We are waiting for a ground action.
4. In Arjapalli village of Ganjam district the forest department has given entitlement of forest protection and user right to the fisher people. It has been decided that after the plantation work by the department is over, they will give this responsibility to the neighbouring villages. In Balasore district though the forest department has initiated the process of handing over user right of coastal forests to the communities, our fisher people do not benefit from this.
5. In Kendrapada district the fisher people were banned from fishing as this zone was declared as "the sanctuary area by the wildlife department. They have suffered a lot for the last 7 years. Through

continuous effort by the district and state union this year they were able to fish and get free pass to cross that area and reach the sea for fishing and other fish related works.

6. The Port Authority taxed the fisher people near the Paradeep Port more. The Jagatsingpur District, the State and National Unions pressurised the port authority and the ministry of fisheries to withdraw the over taxation and they succeeded.
7. The fisheries department is now formulating an amendment on the demand of seizing the unauthorised transport of prawn seeds and mother prawns and book the transporters along with the vehicles engaged for the purpose. They will get it approved by the cabinet with in a short period.

B. State level:

A team of representatives from all the district unions and OTFWU along with Samudram members met the Secretary, FARD and discussed on the memorandum submitted to Governor of Orissa and the Chief Minister on July 2002. As a result a team of representative from OTFWU & Samudram were invited to discuss on the progress by the commissioner cum Secretary, FARD in the cell of Ministry of Forest & Environment on 3rd November 2003. The higher authorities of the department also participated in the meeting to discuss the issues and came to an agreement.

The following agreements were made:

- a. The fishermen in the districts of Ganjam, Puri & Jagatsingpur were allowed fishing in the ban period for olive riddle turtle conservation by using traditional equipments. In district Kendrapada the fishers were given free pass for fishing in traditional way.
- b. 10 thousand fisher people will be included in under the savings cum relief scheme for the year 2002- 2003.
- c. 500 low cost houses were allocated to the fisher people, out of that Ganjam district would get 110 houses. This was being allocated based on the recommendations of the district unions and OTFWU.
- d. To enforce OMFRA to reduce trawler menace.

Regular interactions are going on with the Secretary, FARD and the Director of fisheries to keep the issues of the fisher people of the state alive with the department. The relationship with the authorities has improved and as such all the higher authorities participated in celebrating the "World Fisheries Day" including Chief Minister of Orissa as chief guest of honour. It was a state level convention where more than 400 fisher people joined and showed the strength of the union.

At the call of NFF for staging a country wide Rail Roko, the OTFWU did the Rail Roko at Bhubaneswar Railway Station. NFF called off the "Do Or Die" agitation at Delhi on 26th July 2002 with the assurance of the central Govt, to look into the 42-point charter of demands. The OTFWU also withdraw the agitation.

The OTFWU joined with NFF on the issue of Kakdwip to strengthen the national level agitation through state level agitation.

To draw the attention of general public on the issues of marine fish workers of Orissa the representatives of the OTFWU & Samudram participated in the Asia Social Forum organized at Hyderabad during January 2003. They along with other participants of Orissa have demonstrated in the forum to bring out the issues of down trodden people of Orissa.

C. Media Campaign

During the year the issues related to fisher community was highlighted through newspapers to make a focus before the administration and also the common people. Two press conferences were arranged one at Berhampur highlighting the issue of banning ring nets, strict implementation of OMFRA, the

juvenile collection & collection of Mother Prawns by the government. The second one was to highlight the ban on fishing to traditional fishermen in the name of conservation of turtles. The real poor fisher people being kept out of reach of the social security schemes. The President of NFF & Secretary of WFFP, Mr. Harekrishna Debnath chaired the meeting.

D. State Executive Body Meeting

The State level Executive Body meetings were organized in every two three months gap in different regions of the state. During the year 5 meetings were conducted and as a result the district leaders were more enthused than last year.

Progress of Samudram in working for welfare of women fishworkers during the period:

Apart from the lobbying and advocacy support to OTFWU, Samudram through its agenda of developing the women and children in the fishing villagers have under taken the following activities:

1. Samudram representatives moved to new villages of Ganjam district and all other coastal districts to sensitize women to come forward and join Samudram for the development women fish workers and their children.
2. During the period 66 new SHGs in Ganjam district were affiliated with Samudram and a number of SHGs have expressed their willingness to join Samudram to strengthen the State level federation of women fishworkers.
3. They organized a massive rally in the district headquarters of Ganjam during the month of January to pressurize district administration to act immediately for providing safe drinking water, regular functioning of primary schools in the isolated villages, allotting more special schools under National Child Labour Welfare Project, establishing EGS and alternate education centres, making good road transport system for the marine fishing villages, regularising PDS centers and ensuring visit of field health workers to the marine fishing villages etc.
4. They have mobilized women fish workers to enroll themselves in the Janasree Bima Yojana. With their initiative 599 women fishworkers deposited required premium to the LIC of India through OTFWU.
5. They have succeeded in mobilising two of their newly affiliated women organisations in the district Ganjam to open pre-schools with parental contribution. But due to lack of staff the initiative has not yet materialized.

Relationship with other organisations

- Two batches of fisher people from the VIKASH organization Visakapattiam, Andhra Pradesh have visited the Samudram area for getting to know Samudram network and how it functions. In second phase a network of NGOs working for the fisher people visited different sights of Samudram operation area and interacted with the executive members of Samudram and OTFWU to know more about their functioning.
- The representatives from OXFAM-GB have visited four times the Samudram operational area and gave support to disaster preparedness and livelihood support programme and it was operated from November. 2003.
- Venkatesh Saligram of ICM has visited the Samudram operational area to get to know marketing situation of fisher community and discuss with members to improve the situation.
- Samudram executive body member Mrs.Buli Dei (NFF member) joined the workshop organized at Chennai by the National Task Force and have shared the experiences of Samudram and highlighted fisher women's problem.

- Fisheries Department discussed with the Samudram Secretary on the ongoing programmes for organizing STEP in Ganjam district, but due to back of audit report it was cancelled.
- A lady researcher from Chennai visited the Samudram office and discussed with members on the conservation of olive riddle tortoise and role of fisher community.
- A team of visitors from Action Aid visited the Samudram office and interacted with members.
- Ms.Sidigga from IOM, Azirbezim visited the Samudram office and interacted with members about the network operation and its style of functioning.

OTFWU and Samudram have jointly worked on the advocacy agenda for the year 2003 with the support from UAA and Action Aid and achieved some of the planned agenda. But the work ahead is much more.

1. To pressurise the Govt. for the strict implementation of OMFRA to prevent trawler issues in the state.
2. To give traditional fishers full rights for fishing in Kendrapada district.
3. To give homestead land rights to all fisher people living near seashore for a long time.
4. To get the rights over coastal forests through joint forest management committee formation with forest department in coastal villages.
5. All the fishermen and women must be covered through the insurance scheme.
6. Ring nets should be banned.
7. Number 5 gate of Paradeep Port should be opened and local fishers get the rights for fishing.
8. TheNoila caste fisher people should get the status of Schedule Caste,
9. Subsidized diesel and kerosene should be supplied to the fishermen.
10. Cancellation of license of foreign vessels.

To achieve the activities planned above.

1. District and village level issue identification and awareness creation through postcard campaigning.
2. District level conventions organized with the district level authorities from the departments and discuss the solutions to the problem with them. Make an effort to solve the problems.
3. Rallies, Agitations, Rasta roko, etc. have organised in some cases.
4. In some special cases with the instruction of OTFWU all the district unions have planned to organize agitations against their respective district administration to pressurise the state and district level administration.
5. It was also planned to make agitation in front of State Assembly & Governor's office if the situation say so. With the instruction from NFF leaders a rail roko was planned to bring out fishermen's issues to the public and get their support.

II MATSYA GANTHI

Traditional Fisher Women's Forum, Visakapattinam, Andhra Pradesh

The General Body meeting of NFF was held at Trivandrum in 2002 December. Three women participated in it. In the month of January 2003, they made a campaign to highlight the rights of fisherwomen

in 3 districts namely Visakapatana, Sreekakulam and Vijayanangaram, met the fisherwomen and shared the General body decisions and report to them.

On 21st January, they organized a one-day get-together for the women leaders of those three districts at Visakapatnam. 50 women leaders and Sr. Mariamma from Orissa took part in it. Sr. Mariamma explained the need for organizing Women's Forum in NFF and having Self Help Groups in each village and to have saving schemes and thus to avail all the benefits from the Government. She taught them few awareness songs and made them aware of the need of education especially for girl children. The women leaders agreed to do a social economic survey of each village for better planning.

On Feb 8th in Pedda Jalaripeta coastal village about 300 women organized a rally to the district collectorate and submitted a memorandum demanding, roads, safe drinking water and houses for these villages.

On Feb 20th National Alliance for People's Movement organized a rally and public meeting at Pedda Jalaripetta in which 200 women participated. On March 7th in Visakapatnam/Panthuruthy D.R.D.A.officials conducted a training program for SHGs and women leaders. On 8th March another training programme was organized and women from Chinnunoga, Mayapalem, M.M.Peta, Pedda Jalaripetta, Revopolavaram participated. Mr.John Kearney from Canada and Mr. N.D.Koli (General Secretary, NFF) participated in it. From March 10th onwards a survey was conducted. The fisher people at Muchalipalyam are suffering from the carbon released from the Shinandri thermal plant. This air pollution is affecting the nearby villages' seawater also. Adults and children are suffering from lung infection. Women are unable to collect the seashells due to the chemical pollution released to the sea from the factory. Their skin gets affected badly; Sr.Mariamma and Laxmi visited their area and had a discussion with the women and village leaders. This news was published in the union news bulletin, "Alakal".

In the month of April awareness training programme was organized for women to participate in the Jenna Bhoomi programme of the Government. During this Jenna Bhoomi programme the women requested the government to provide infrastructure facilities to Revapalavaram village. They also informed the government that they would organize Dharna in front of the collectorate if their demand would not be fulfilled.

One of the S.B.J, managers harassed some of our women. Women took up this issue and asked for the transfer of the manager and accordingly he was immediately transferred.

In the month of July at Pedda Jalaripeta women took up another issue, the auctioning of the market. The village elders refused to give the fish, which comes to the shore to the union. Women informed this decision to Mrs.Laxmi. She published this news in the union bulletin. Hearing this the elders threatened Laxmi. Later they called a village meeting and clarified the matter. This has further strengthened the cooperation and unity of women.

In the month of August 100 women met the collector to protect all their legitimate rights.

In August Laxmi found a poor woman with two children in the Government Medical College Hospital (K.G.H). The woman was suffering from Tuberculosis and were in a critical condition. She took her and admitted in Nirmala charity home run by the Mother Teresa Sisters. A few days later she died. Her children became orphans and the union decided to sponsor them.

The General Body meeting of the union was organized on 24th September at Visakapattinam followed by a rally to the Collectorate. 300 women from 3 districts, Fr.Thomas Kocherry, Mr. Ramalingam from Ongole, Ms.Mariamma and Sahaya also participated and submitted memorandum to the collector.

In October Labour Department of Andhra Pradesh conducted three day training programme. 40 women attended it and the department spent all the expenses including the daily wages. Once again

about 50 women met the collector and demanded their rights. In Pedda Jalaripeta the adult literacy classes for 100 women was started. The Government distributed the materials. There are about 75 SHGs functioning in 3 districts. In the month of November clean and green programme was organized at Pedda Jalaripeta. One of the private companies distributed 1000 slates and other study materials to conduct literacy classes for school dropouts.

Future Plan of Action

- To strengthen the existing Mahila groups and fight for their demands.
- Active participation in the boat Jal- Yathra.
- Availing all the benefits and support for self-management scheme.
- To make the co-operative banks functional.
- Pedda Jalaripeta's development was not done. The assembly election to be boycotted.
- To hold interstate Mahila meetings.
- To form Self Help Groups in all the villages.
- To develop a Mahila Union Fund.
- To avail Saving Cum Relief Scheme for all the women.
- Regulation of fish market with minimum facilities.

III. ACTIVITY PROFILE OF COASTAL ACTION NETWORK

1. Fact Finding visits on the impacts of the proposed beach beautification project of Santhome of Chennai.

A fact finding visit was organized on 3rd September 2002 to assess the impacts of the proposed Beach Beautification Project of Santhome at Chennai, which when implemented will displace 10 Coastal Villages.

On 3.9.2002 a 7 member fact – finding team under the Leadership of Dr. Muthu Gunasekaran went to fishing villages for the Preliminary investigation regarding the eviction of fishing villages, Srinivasapuram Nochikuppam, Nadukkuppam, Ayodyakuppam, Dummikuppam, Bhavanikuppam Nambikkai Nagar, Dideer Nagar, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Mullimanagar and the probable impacts on the habitats of the fisher people. The team visited all the villages and collected evidence from the fisher leaders and fisherwomen.

From the evidence collected, the team found that the plan of eviction if implemented would remove the fisher people from Nochikuppam, Domikuppam, and Selvarajapuram and dump them into the fishing village of Srinivasapuram. It would deprive the livelihood resources of 100000 people. This had created awareness among the fishing community. The fisher people's organizations in Chennai have jointly protested against the proposed Beach Beautification Project of Santhome.

2. Cultural Yathra on Protection of Coastal Ecology and Livelihood Resources of Fishing Community

Coastal Action Network organized in coordination with Ramanathapuram Fishermen's Trade Union a cultural yathra for the protection of coastal ecology of Gulf of Mannar and livelihood of fishing community.

Prior to the yatra a training program was organized from 21st to 23rd February, for the selected 12 members from the participating organizations. It was a training cum workshop to train participants skills in theatre techniques and cultural performances. Together with these theatre techniques participants learnt communication techniques and its processes. At the end of the 3rd day, participants performed

street plays related to coastal issues and problems that affect livelihood of the fishermen.

Participants also composed many songs relevant to the event.

The yatra covered nearly 30 villages from 24.02.2003 to 28.02.2003. The issues highlighted by the skits in yathra were the functioning of illegal shrimp industries against the Supreme Court Verdict, destructive means of fishing such as using dynamites and other technologies, trawling and protection of the resources of Gulf of Mannar, which reached more than 15,000 people.

Cultural Yatra at Killai - Date 16th & 17th June 2003.

To protect the mangroves and the natural resources in Killai - Pitchavaram swamps a cultural yathra was organised by Coastal Action Network supported by Sneha, Killai fishing panchayat villages and Singaravellar Fishermen Development Society. The themes of the Cultural Yathra were the implementation of Supreme Court Judgment in Killai and other coastal villages to protect its natural resources, compensation for fisher people who were affected due to prawn cultivation and protection and regeneration of mangrove forests. The cultural yathra covered 10 villages in and around Killai fishing villages. 6000 people were covered through this programe.

The street plays and other programs during the programs during the Yathra created awareness and educated the public on the protection of coastal resources. People shared that unless protest is made through people's movement coastal villages cannot be protected. They said they would fight against such evils. People said they would not allow burning and cutting down mangrove forests in the coastal regions any more.

3. Campaign by Killai Fisher People against illegal activities of Shrimp Industries:

Coastal Action Network supported the villagers of Killai to file a civil suit in the District Municipal Court at Chidamparam, seeking injunction. In this suit the court appointed a commissioner (1.A. No. 254/2003 in O.S.No. 86/2003) to inspect the area. He visited the area on 26.04.2003 and submitted a report. The commission report states that the shrimp farms are very near to the mangrove forest region of Pitchavaram region. The source of water for the farms is the backwater cannals running north direction situated in the village. At the time of inspection, it was noted that the shrimp farms did not have concrete flooring. Almost all the farms are situated in the agriculture lands (some wet lands and some dry lands.) Also they are situated just 15 meters to 260 meters from the backwaters. The shrimp industries filed a writ petition in the High Court of Chennai (WP No. 15446 of 2003) and got the stay order against the village people, in which the leaders of Killai have filed a counter petition to vacate the stay.

To strengthen the struggles against sh[rimp industries at Killai Coastal Action Network and campaign against Shrimp Industries supported the following Actions by the people: Enlisting the impacts and findings of the fact finding visits, the representatives of the 12 fishermen villages sent petitions to the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Fisheries Minister, Director of Fisheries, Secretary, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, the Chairman of Aquaculture Authority, the Chairman of Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, Cuddalore District Collector and the Superintendent of Police, Cuddalore. Also resolution banning the activities of the shrimp industry in Killai Town Panchayat area was passed and mailed to the concerned authorities. But the concerned parties took no action. On 13.03.2003, a fact-finding team consisting of representatives from Coastal Action Network and Campaign Against Shrimp Industries visited the area, collected evidence, and took photographs. Based on the evidence collected, a petition was sent to the District Collector and other State Level Authorities seeking immediate intervention. On 28.03.2003 Tamilnadu Farmers association, Killai Fishermen Panchayat announced a Hunger Strike jointly by the Federation of consumer organizations of Tamilnadu & Pondicherry, Coastal Action Network and Campaign Against Shrimp Industries. A peace meeting was

called on 27.03.2003 by the Revenue Divisional Officer Tarun Nagarajan, which was attended by 100 representatives from the agricultural and fishermen villages and 9 owners of the shrimp industries. A tripartite committee consisting of 7 representatives of the shrimp farm owners, 7 representatives of the villages and 8 Government representatives was constituted. This committee decided to visit the affected area on 08.04.2003. They also decided to close down all the unlicensed shrimp industries and cancel the licenses of the farms that violated the directions of the Supreme Court Verdict. As per the decision the committee visited the area, assessed the damages and instructed the owners of the shrimp industries not to do anything until further meeting was called. On 23.06.2003 another peace meeting was called by the Revenue Divisional Officer incharge, but nothing happened in the meeting. People were informed that the District Collector would convene a meeting on another specified date. Even after this, the owners of the shrimp farms continued to threaten the villagers with dire consequences.

Public Protest Meeting against the Illegal Shrimp Industries

A public protest meeting was jointly organized by Tamilnadu Farmers Association, Killai Fishermen Panchayat, Federation of Consumer Organisations of Tamilnadu & Pondicherry, Coastal Action Network and Campaign Against Shrimp Industries, on 10.07.2003, demanding the closure of all illegal shrimp industries Compensation to the affected village people and protection of mangrove forests.

Due to the continuous protest actions by the people, several shrimp industries were closed down for a brief period. The villagers found improvement in the quality of water when the shrimp farms were closed down. When they started functioning again, they lost their source of water and livelihood resources. Despite several memorandums to the Government Authorities about the destructive and illegal shrimp industries, no action was taken. Frustrated by the Government's attitude, the fisher people from 12 villages around Killai planned to open the shutters of the shrimp and let out the water. As planned they opened the shutters of the shrimp farms on the midnight of 18th September 2003. The police arrested 92 fisher people including 32 women and charged them with offences such as attempt to murder, criminal intimation, assault and criminal force on public servant, wrongful confinement, etc.

Campaign for Custodial Justice and Abolition of Torture and Campaign Against Shrimp Industries, Tamil Nadu constituted a fact finding team to investigate into the alleged illegal functioning of Shrimp Industries in Killai village including action taken by the village people and the alleged police excesses in dealing with the matter and arrest of 92 fisher people including 32 women from Killai fishermen village, Cuddalore district on 18th September 2003. The team consisted of Dr. N. Markandan, Former Vice Chancellor of Gandhi Gram Rural University, Mr.P.V.Bakthavatsalam, Senior Advocate, Madras High Court, Mr.Karuppan, I.A.S., (Rtd) Convenor, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, Mr.Nizamudeen, General Secretary, Federation of Consumer Organizations of Tamilnadu and Ms.Valanteena, District Secretary, AIWA. The team visited the village, interviewed the people, and Government Officials on Monday 13th October 2003, collected evidence and finalized their report. (The Finding and Recommendations of the Report are enclosed as an Annexure).

4. Actions under Tamilnadu Right Information Act - 1997

Coastal Action Network sent petitions to all the District Collectors of the coastal districts requesting to furnish the information on the details of shrimp industries for which license have been issued so far in their Districts, the copies of the minutes of the District level Committee (Aqua culture) meetings and the list of shrimp industries which are identified for demolition in their District and the details of shrimp industries which have submitted their applications. Out of thirteen District Collectors, four responded and the information received from them is tabulated below, which will be used to file litigation.

S. No.	District	Listed for demolition	Applied for license	Obtained license
1.	Thanjavur	NA*	NA*	15
2.	Pudukottai	25	44	19
3.	Nagapattinam	230	663	81
4.	Cuddalore			

- Using the Right to Information Act, we were able to collect the information of the shrimp industries identified for demolition and the integral shrimp industries functioning in a few districts. This information would form the basis of a Public Interest Litigation.
- The continuous struggles of the fisher people of Killai Village made the District Authorities close down the illegal shrimp farms.

5. Lobby during Budget Session

Coastal Action Network has been instrumental in analyzing the budget and policy notes of Tamil Nadu and circulating the critique of the policies released to the coast and the demands to protect the life and livelihood resources of the coastal communities. In May 2003 a team consisting of six members representing various People's Organizations met the leaders of various political parties and Members of Legislative Assembly and submitted their memorandum with demands to be included in the Budget 2003-2004. Some of the issues raised in the memorandum were raised as questions in the assembly during the discussion on fisheries demand on May 6, 7 & 8, 2003

6. Lobby with MOEF for ensuring the fishing rights of fishing communities in Gulf of Mannar - The Livelihood Resources of People

Based on the memorandum submitted by Coastal Action Network and Ramanathapuram District Fish workers Trade Union before the ministry of Environment and Forest a team from the ministry visited the area on 8th August 2003 and held discussions with the representatives of Coastal Action Network and Ramanathapuram District Fish workers Trade Union on the issue of ban on fishing activities and collection of seaweeds in the Gulf of Mannar.

In the name of protecting the Gulf of Mannar Bio Reserve, the forest department is harassing the fisher people by fining the people who land in the islands for rest, destroying the belongings of women who collect seaweed and the like. A list with details of various harassments in the past five years were collected and presented before the team.

In the 108 fishing villages of Ramanathapuram District, there are about 63000 people depending on the marine resources of the Gulf of Mannar. These people make their livelihood with 603 catamarans, 955 vallams with out board engines, 1911 nattu padagu and 104 thoni. The following details give the picture of fishing in these islands for livelihood.

More than 2000 fishermen from the villages Therkuvadi, Munthal Munai, Thoppukadu, Nadutheru, Chinnapalam and Kunthkal near Pamban fish near the islands of Manali, Pallivasai, Kurusadai, Sangali and Muyal, which are about 3 to 6 kilometers from the shore. More than 1500 fishermen from the villages Vethalai, Arulvoli Nagar, Valayuthapuram and Shamugavel pattinam near Mandapam fish near the islands Mullai, Thalayari, Vallai and Mural, which are about 9 to 10 kilometers from the shore. More than 5000 fishermen from the villages Sethukarai, Pakkeerappa, Pallivasal, Idinthakal Puthoor, Kizhakuputhoor, Sivakamipuram, Meenavarkuppam, Keezhakarai, Vivekanadapuram, Bharathi

Nagar, Muthuraj Nagar, Mangaleswari Nagar, Mutharaiyar Nagar, Chinna Ervadi, S.M.Valasai, B.M.Valasai and Aathamcheri near Thirupulani fish near 15 islands including Van and Kurusadai, which are about 30 to 40 kilometers in distance. Traditionally these people stay in these islands for one or two days and dry their nets and land their catamarans on the shore for some time. As the fishermen stay in these islands and fish, they are able to save fuel and human energy and able to fish more.

Sea Weed Collection

Nearly 5000 women from 20 villages including Therkuvadi Munthalmunal, Thoppukaddu and Thonithurai are involved in seaweed collection to make a living.

Seaweed is one of the important marine living resources of the Gulf of Mannar. They are used to produce agar and algin. Agar is widely used in food, pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries. Sustainable utilization of seaweed resources of the Gulf of Mannar would create employment for about 3000 to 3500 poor fishers. According to the recent survey conducted jointly by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and Central Assault and Marine Chemical Research Institute, Mandapam, a total amount of 75300 tones of seaweeds can be harvested from the Gulf of Mannar.

Currently 2000 poor fishers, mostly fisherwomen, living along the shore of the Gulf of Mannar harvest the seaweed and sell it to various agar-producing plants. Considering the following facts, seaweed collection should not be banned.

- Seaweeds are ever growing marine algae and they grow fast only if they are harvested periodically. Periodical removal of the seaweed is a must for the development of this important marine living resource.
- Seaweed regenerates once in 45 days. After 45 days the matured Seaweed detach from the substratum and washed ashore, where it will decay. Hence utilization of these resources will not affect the stand-in stock
- Seaweed will never grow on live corals hence collection of seaweed will never affect coral reef and associated resources.

Thus collection of seaweed from Gulf of Mannar may be allowed as it supports the poor fishers

Fishing rights ensured under the law of the Nation.

Under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 occupational interest of local fishermen are specifically protected even in an area, which has been declared as a sanctuary or national park or closed area. The Honorable Supreme Court considered the rights of the fishermen in Pench National Park Tiger Reserve and directed for issuance of fishing permit as that being the means of their livelihood (1997/3SCC549). This proves that the traditional rights to the livelihood of the people including fisher folks cannot be **taken away**.

The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification issued under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the "Traditional and Customary rights" of the fishing community have been protected. Particularly natural fish drying and hatchery has been exempted from the prohibited activities even in CRZ-1. The Honorable Supreme Court of India in the land mark statement delivered on 11.12.1996(Writ Petition (Civil No, 561/1994) clearly maintained that "the rights of the fishermen and farmers living in the costal areas to have their living by way of fishing and farming cannot be denied to them"

In the above context Coastal Action Network and Ramanathapuram District Fish workers trade union .has made the following demands.

- The Fishing rights of the traditional fisher people in Ramanathapuram District to fish in the island of Gulf of Mannar to be assured.

- Necessary legal action may be initiated against the forest officials who have destroyed the crafts and gears of the fisher people and caused unnecessary losses to them.
- Enforce the traditional fishing rights of the fisher people as enshrined in the law.
- Necessary legal action may be taken against the destructive technologies used in fisheries like dynamite fishing, fishing using pursine and trawl nets and the like.

Jesu Retinam
(Convener)

Ossie Fernandes
(Co- Convener)

Shankar
(Member)

Presented in the Nff General Body Meeting from 22nd to 26th January 2004 at Mumbai.

COASTAL ACTION NETWORK-ANNEXURE

Fact- finding Investigation Report by Citizens Committee on alleged Police Excesses on Fishing People of Killai Village, Cuddalore District and illegal functioning of Shrimp Industries. Campaign for Custodial Justice and Abolition of Torture and Campaign Against Shrimp Industries, Tamilnadu constituted a fact finding team to investigate into the alleged illegal functioning of shrimp industries in Killai Village including action taken by the village people and the alleged police excesses in dealing with the matter and arrest of 92 fisher people including 32 women from Killai fishermen village, Cuddalore district on 18th September 2003. The team consisted of Dr.N.Markandan, Former Vice Chancellor of Gandhi Gram Rural University, Mr.P.V.Bakthavastsalam, Senior Advocate, Madras High Court, Mr.Karuppan, I.A.S.(Retd) Convener, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, Mr.Nizamudeen, General Secretary, Federation of Consumer Organisations of Tamilnadu and Ms.Valanteena, District Secretary, AIDWA. The team visited the village, interviewed the people, and Government Officials on Monday 13th October 2003 and Tuesday 14th October 2003, collected evidence and finalized their report.

The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the fact-finding team:

The findings, conclusions:

Campaign Against Shrimp Industries and Campaign for custodial justice and abolition of torture invited us to conduct a Fact-finding investigation into the violation of Supreme Court Orders regarding functioning of Aquaculture Shrimp Industries and alleged police excesses by Killai Police Personal to the organized peoples protest against the polluting and illegal shrimp industries. Having accepted to constitute the team we met the women of Killai fishing peoples village including 32 women who had been arrested and are out on bail. We listened to their views extensively regarding the illegal actions of the police on 18th September 2003 and also on the impact of shrimp industries on the water, ecology, agriculture, vegetation and livelihood of the people. We also visited the shrimp industry ponds situated around the village along the Uppanar River we took cognisance of those ponds, to which licenses have been given by the Aquaculture Authority. The poor people have been accused of damaging ponds resulting in enormous loss to the owners. We meet several of the government officials concerned with this matter including the District Collector. We also had seen ponds that were cultured and functioning. From the evidence collected through the investigation and study of several reports which we had access to we make the following observations:

1. All shrimp industry ponds around Killai fishing village are illegally functioning in violation of Supreme Court Judgement. We contend that the licenses given by the Aquaculture Authority on Scrutiny by the District committee are in violation as they are all situated inside the highest high tide line of the Uppanar River and in violation of CRZ notification 1991.
2. In direction 3 of the Supreme Court verdict. It is mentioned, "No Shrimp Culture pond can be constructed or set up within the coastal regulation zone as defined in CRZ notification. This shall be applicable to all seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters". As per 29.12.98, CRZ notification High Tide Line is defined that as line on the land upto, which the highest water line reaches during the spring tide.
3. The Aquaculture Authority is legalising what Supreme Court has illegalised. The Aquaculture Authority has the following powers in Sec. (2), (4) of notification (So 88 (E) by MoEF dated 06.02.97.
"To ensure that no shrimp culture pond can be constructed or set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone..."
"To comply with relevant orders issued by the concerned High Courts and Supreme Court from time to time."
4. In Killai area the District Committee headed by the collector and Aquaculture Authority, instead of enforcing the Supreme Court order has only been a licensing body leading to shrimp industries using intensive chemical processes being established on agriculture land and inside the Uppanar River, which is wetland. From evidences collected from the report of the commissioner (I.A.No.254/ 2003, in O.S.No.86/2003), we observed that:
The distance between the shrimp industries and Uppanar estuary is only 10-25 feet; the distance of the residential area of the villages from the shrimp industries is only 50 feet the water tank, which is used for drinking and other domestic purposes the distance is only 10 feet. Based on the above sources we conclude that the existing farms are in violation of Supreme Court verdict and CRZ notification and they need to be immediately stopped.
5. The Supreme Court in its 1996 order only permitted traditional farms to function. But this must be read with the complete 16 directions of the court. We conclude that there are no traditional or improved traditional shrimp farms in Killai village. All the shrimp farms, which we saw, are using industrial chemical method of culture-pesticides steroids and feed in the process of their culture. This is going on despite the Supreme Court in its verdict in WP 561/94. Traditional shrimp culture together with paddy cultivation is practiced in the coastal low-lying areas of Kerala only. Knowing this the district collector, members of the district committee have recommended shrimp industries in Killai for licenses by the Aquaculture Authority.
We state that historically there are no traditional aquaculture farms / ponds in Tamilnadu. It is in existence only in the States of Kerala and West Bengal. This is even acknowledged by the guidelines of aquaculture authority. Also these shrimp farms along the Uppanar River use pesticide to eliminate fishes in the process of their culture, which the manager of the shrimp farm we visited confirmed. This effluent is then let out into the Uppanar River shifting fish life and breeding. Most of the shrimp farms use aerators in the ponds and high-powered pumps to pump in water from the backwaters and sea.
6. We also conclude that all the existing farms are situated in cultivable private lands cultivable po.rambokes. All plantation and vegetation have been killed. Due to salinisation all the lands surrounding the shrimp industries have become waste. Coconut plantations have withered. As per the Supreme Court directions "the agricultural lands, salt pan lands, mangroves, wet lands,

forest lands, land for village common purposes and the land meant for public purposes shall not be used/ converted for construction of shrimp culture ponds, the existing farms have not only violated them but also ended up in the above mentioned impacts. All the shrimp industries are located in this famous wetland, which is part of the Pitchavaram Mangrove forest areas.

7. As per the Government data in Killai town Panchayat alone there are 115 shrimp farms in patta lands and 18 farms in poromboke lands. In the name of prescribing norms and parameters, the Aquaculture Authority has exempted most of these farms from following any environmental norms. There is no restriction as to number of shrimp farms to function in a village. This approach of the Aquaculture Authority has led to all types of violations and the Authority we hold liable for not implementing the Supreme Court Verdict in its real sense.
8. We also found that the functioning of shrimp industries have resulted in following impacts on the ecology and livelihood resources of the people.
 - Salinisation of drinking water, agriculture lands (refer evidence by Ms. Arasakumari (30), W/o. Rajagopal, Near Pitchavaram Tourism area).
 - Depletion of fish resources (evidence by Ilanchelian).
 - Loss of livelihood rights (refer evidence by Ms. Apoorvam).
 - Destruction of Mangroves (refer evidence by CASI).
9. We have travelled along the coast and in no place the high tide line has been marked as per the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification of 1991. The Supreme Court in (WP No. 664/93) Indian Council for Environment – legal action Vs union of India has directed the states to submit their coastal zone management plans and constitute an authority to monitor the violations along the coast. It is very important to mark the high tide line as per the notification to monitor any violation. The Government of Tamilnadu has failed to mark the high tide line till today, whereas Kerala had marked its High Tide Line all along the coast. Thiru. Jaikumar, Thiru. T.C. Ethiraj, the district environmental engineer of Cuddalore Dist. also stated that it is difficult to take action against the violations, as the high tide line is not marked. We conclude that the state of Tamilnadu has failed to mark the High Tide line as per the Coastal Zone Regulation Notification and monitor the violations.
10. The Killai fishing people's federation have been protesting against shrimp farms since 2000 and enlisted the solidarity of many campaign against Shrimp Industries CASI, Coastal Action Network, FEDCOT, Agriculture Associations, Killai Farmers Federation and several political parties and they also have filed petitions seeking ban of shrimp industries to the concerned authorities (refer evidence by CASI). The inaction of environment authorities and the state has pushed the people to open the out flow shutters. We conclude that the opening of net flow shutters of the shrimp ponds by the people on 18th September is only an act of peaceful protest. It is an act of self-defense to protect their livelihood resources. Hence cases registered against accused fishing people must be withdrawn unconditionally. For this FIR has been registered and 92 people arrested including Sec. 307. We consider these arrests and conditional bail as unwarranted.
11. The shrimp owner and the police claim that people have attempted to poison the ponds. We found that this claim by police is false.
12. It is significant to note that 18 Shrimp Industries ponds were closed down in Chidambaram Taluk by the District Collector / RDO which were illegally functioning without license. 8 applications for renewal were rejected by the RDO. 3 fresh applications for running shrimp industries are pending approval. Another 2 applications seeking renewal are pending approval. All these details are for Chidambaram Taluk. Having recognized the illegality of the functioning of shrimp industries in Killai it is subversion

of law to recommend and gain licenses for some shrimp industries in Killai. We hold the district collector liable for this blatant illegal act of sanctioning and recommending licenses to be given in and for non-application of mind in this matter. The Cuddalore district committee and the Aquaculture Authority are liable for grave loss of livelihood and ecological damage. Their actions are in clear violation of Article 21 and should be prosecuted for the same. Similarly legal action should be immediately taken against all shrimp owners for illegal functioning of shrimp industries and causing damage to ecology, massive destruction to life and livelihood of the fishing people, agriculture labourers and farmers. The polluter pays principle of the Supreme Court must be applied and the owners and Government of Tamilnadu restore the ecology and lands to the original qualitative condition. The loss of ecology authority should conduct an assessment of loss to the people and order adequate compensation to be paid to the victims.

With regard to the incidents of police behaviour and violation of human rights standards set by the apex court we arrive at the following conclusions:

13. The police personnel of Killai Police Station, Sub-inspector Thiru Kumar, inspector Mr. Shanmuga Sundram and constables and DSP Palani behaved in gross violation of human rights standards. We strongly condemn the police excesses and violation of Supreme Court and NHRC Guidelines regarding lock up, custody, interrogation of women, arrest and detention. We consider all the arrest of innocent persons in Killi as unwarranted and patently illegal.

- At 1 a.m. the sub inspector of police Mr. Kumar Killi police station arrive at Killi village with two constables. At that time only women were present and they only prevented the S.I. from searching their house. They asked him to be seated in a particular location in the village until the male members arrived. All this happened between 1 a.m. and 3.30 a.m. At 4 a.m. the two constables were asked by the women to proceed but the sub-inspector was restrained surrounded by the women of the village while they were waiting for the return of the men to inform them of the police actions. Suddenly at 5.30 a.m. about 150 armed reserve police headed by DSP of Palani descended on the village and began a brutal lathi charge on the women. As soon as the police force arrived S.I. Kumar also joined the attack on the women and chased them into their houses. Shocked by this sudden brutal attack, the women fled. Police then smashed upon the doors of the houses and beat up the women, children and elders and ransacked the houses in the village in search of the men whom they said had illegally demolished the shrimp farms. We are of the opinion that the arrest of 32 women and 60 men was unwarranted and an act of human rights violation. The sub inspector of Killi police station, DSP of Palani, and District Superintendent of police, Rajeeve Kumar, IPS were responsible for this violation of human rights. When the police raided the village only male police were present. On 18th November the male police beat them up for nearly one and a half hours in spite of their pleading not to beat them. By 6 am 32 women were beaten up and stacked in the police van and taken to Killi police station.

They were told neither at the village nor at the police station that they were arrested and no signature was taken on the arrest memo. While taking them to the police station they were told that the sub inspector wanted to see them. Hence all the Supreme Court directions regarding custody memo as per D.K. Basu vs Union of India were violated.

The women should not be taken to the police station for interrogation before 6am. This is an illegal

action of the police. From 6 am on the 18th until they were taken into judicial custody at 3 am on the 19th they were not given any food.

Recommendations

The Pitchavaram mangrove forest near Paragipettai, is situated on the South East coast of Peninsular India and represent a heterogeneous mixture of mangrove elements. It lies between the Vellar and southern Coleroon estuarine systems and along the Killi lagoon and is referred to as the Vellar Coleroon estuarine complex.

The Pitchavaram swamps with mangrove forests are a typical geomorphic feature in this stretch. Major features of the coastal tract of Tamilnadu consist of an Upland plain (Fluvial-erosion, Flood plain (Fluvial dispositional), Deltaic plain (Fluvial marine) and Coastal plain (Marine). This area form part of Palar, Vellar, and Cauvery drainage basins. Lagoons and salt marshes cover the entire stretch. There are two existing settlements Viz. Mugaiyur, and Peruntheruvu. The two settlement's are classified as CRZ 11 land the rest of the area is classified as CRZ1. Needless to say as part of nature's efficient design mangroves have an important role to play in protecting the coast against the harsh seas. They also act as coastal stabilisers and shelterbelt areas. Mangrove prevents sea erosion and also checks inundation due to sea level rising. The importance of mangrove is not restricted to merely their ecological value, in terms of bio-diversity and functioning of the coastal ecology, they form an integral part of people's lives by supporting the coastal economy, as they are the spawning and breeding grounds for fish. They form important source resource materials for the local people ranging from fuel to medicinal uses. The economic significance of this to the community staggering as any other alternative materials are inaccessible and expensive. They support the meager income of the coastal communities, and play an integral role in the traditional and cultural practices of the communities.

These natural resources are under threat due to the shrimp industries in Killi region and the concerned authorities should ban all the shrimp industries, which are in the proximity of this ecosystem and the violation of the directions of the Supreme Court.

1. It is mandatory on the part of the state government the enforcement authority of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 issued by the ministry of Environment and /Forest (MoEF) to make the high tide line and the coastal regulation zone. Till today the government of Tamilnadu has not marked the high tide line but permitted project based markings by the public sectors and private sectors. MoEF also has failed to ensure the minimum requirement, which will enable the people to monitor and protect the coastal states except Kerala, has marked the high tide with stones at regular intervals.
2. MoEF through the department of environment must ensure with immediate effect to mark the high tide lines and the coastal zones in all the states and protect the coastal ecology and coastal resources of the people.

The total area in the Killi village occupied by the shrimp farms is more than 200 acres and the total quantity of water pumped is 52,80,000 cubic feet and this make the river drain. The shrimp culture in Killi affect the normal life of the fisheries, which is guaranteed under the constitution article 39a. The people recommended strongly banning the shrimp industries in Killi for the following reasons.

- a. They are situated in the high tide line.
- b. They are situated in the cultivable private and pormpoke lines.

- c. None of the farms are following the traditional and improved traditional technology as per the Alagaswamy report.
Fisher people's right to water, rights to habitat, and right to livelihood are violated. They also recommended that the Aquaculture Authority should issue no new licenses.
3. The authority should with the help of expert opinion and after giving opportunity to the concerned polluters assess the effect on ecology /environment on the affected areas, and shall compensate individuals /families who have suffered because of the pollution and shall assess the compensation to be paid to the said individuals /families .The Authority shall further determine the compensation to be recovered from the polluters as the cost of reversing the damaged environment. The Authority should lay down, just and fair procedures for completing the exercise."
4. For illegal detention and arrest without serving Custody Memo as required by the Supreme Court Orders in D.K.Basu judgement, the D.S.P Mr.Palani and Sub Inspector of police Mr. Kumar are liable. Ordering a lathi charge also was unwarranted. As they have violated the norms they should be prosecuted for the contempt of the Supreme Court for not following the custody memo case.
5. All forms of violence against women including harassment and violence during arrest and custody amount to torture. All forms of torture committed on women must be strictly prohibited and the law enforced. No woman should be taken to a place of detention or police station (Sec.160CrPC) for enquiry. Only women police should do this in the place of residence and they can only do arrest. The women enforcement officials should do the interrogation of women only between 6am and 6pm. in a place of detention. On the Prads case D.S.P and, S.I. have violated all these norms and should be prosecuted and the State should render justice to the victims.
6. 32 women from the fishing village were arrested on the morning of 19th September 2003 and they were kept in Killi police station till 12 noon and were produced in Parangipettai court at 4pm. The delay in producing them before the court had made it impossible to avail judicial remedies. Whenever a person in custody is interrogated upon he/she must be informed by the interrogator that she/he has a right to have his/her counsel present at the time of every interrogation. This right had been denied to the arrested persons.
On 18th Sept. 92 persons including 32 women were arrested from the same place between 5 and 7 am and produced before the court the same day at 4pm.They were not given any food during their detention in the police station or the court.
As all the arrested persons are victims of destructive shrimp industries and as the enforcement authorities have failed to protect the resources of the people, which are non-tradable like land and water, it is the duty of the State to withdraw all the criminal proceedings. They strongly reinstated to prove the ill effect of Shrimp Industries and that the people of Killi had been denied justice in spite of their repeated representation to various officials concerned in this matter.
7. All the prisons should be maintained with human Rights standards laid down in the Constitution. Supreme Court and High Court Directives and international Human Rights Instruments.
8. Implement Reforms with regard to arrest and custody in police stations and prisons as directed by the National Police Commission, National Human Rights Commission, and National Commission for Women, Law Commission of India and other High Court and Supreme Court Directives.

9. All the persons arrested in the case should be given compensation in proportion to the torture they underwent during their confinement.
10. In the case of Kullamal, Ms.Ranjitha (30) w/o Mr.Mathiazhagan, Middle Street, 25 police men led by DSP Mr.Palani came to their house on 20.9.2003 at midnight and had threatened them to open the door. They had also damaged their utensils, wire bags, and fishing nets. They should be given compensation by the state for the damages incurred to them

Dr.N. Markandan
Former Vice Chancellor
Ganddhi Gram Rural University

P.V. Bakthavatsalam
Senior Advocate
Madras High Court.

Valanteena
District Secretary, AIDWA

V.Karuppaswamy, I.A.S.(Retd)
Convener, National Campaign On Dalit Human Rights.

Nizamudeen
General Secretary
Federation of Consumer Organisations, Tamilnadu.

IV. SAMUDRA THEERA MATSYA KARMIKULA UNION - ANDHRA PRADESH

Activities Implemented during the year

In this period, at the macro level CBO-STMKU leaders participated in NFF Executive Committee Meeting on 6th & 7th at Pamban, Ramnad District, and Tamilnadu. In the meeting, it was resolved to fight unitedly with the Govt, of India for subsidy of Diesel & Kerosene. Hence, STMKU leaders visited all the fishermen villages to find out the requirements of Kerosene and Diesel and sent the details to Mr. N.D.Koli, General Secretary, NFF. In order to protect the interest of the fishermen community of Jumbudwip from occupational displacement, it was resolved to extend support and conduct protest on 21st Nov. 03.

STMKU leaders have conducted meetings in Kothapatnam Pallipalem village and submitted a request to the A.D.Fisheries, Ongole, Commissioner of fisheries, Hyderabad, District Collector, Mandal Revenue Office, and Ongole for construction of the Light House in Kothapatnam Pallipalem village. The fishermen are facing difficulties in night fishing and the proposed lighthouse construction will be useful to the fishermen villages of Kothapatnam, Chinnaganjam, Bvetapalem, N.G.Padu and Ongole mandals. The Commissioner of Fisheries has sanctioned the Light House construction and construction is started. The local people contributed Rs. 15,000 for the construction.

STMKU leaders participated in the discussions between the Project Director of VELUGU and Traditional Fishermen on 24 June 2003 at M.A.Hall, Nellore. In this meeting, the project Director-VELUGU explained about "Meenam-Manam" Project and that the Government has sanctioned Rs.3

core 75 lacks for 2002-2005 for fisheries development. The Project Director asked to the STMKU leaders to submit the details of the below Poverty Line fishermen. The STMKU leaders and macro level CBO staff have visited all the fishermen villages and prepared the details and submitted to the Project Directors - VELUGU, Prakasam & Nellore Districts.

STMKU leaders had given representations for Boat Yard construction in Kothapatnam Pallipalem village in the fishermen development workshop at S.I.F.T., Kakinada to the Commissioner of Fisheries Director of CAPART, and Project Director of Velugu. The Project Director of VELUGU, Prakasam District sanctioned the "Boat Yard Construction" at Kothapatnam Pallipalem.

Mr. Balaramaiah, Joint Collector Prakasam District inaugurated this program on 24.05.03 at Kothapatnam Pallipalem village.

The legal cases against the shrimp owners in Gundiapalem and Gundamala villages are being followed-up. Similarly the case filed against the District Collector and the Mandal Revenue Officials with regard to CRZ- protecting the Mangroves is pending in the court.

Cultural Activity

12 Cultural programs were organized on 11th, 12th, and 14th of September 2003 at Kothapatnam Mandal, on 15th & 17th September 2003 at Singarayakonda Mandal and on 18th, 19th, and 22nd September 2003 at Ulavapadu Mandals highlighting the need to get organized for getting the fishermen problems solved. This helped the Macro Level CBO to propagate the concepts and to get women members enrolled.

Study/Research/Documentation/Training

Preparation of documents on the changes & development of the fisherfolk community, policy impact on the socio-economic-cultural-political aspects, gender, etc. are being done regularly and the study on the same is in progress.

Staff in-service training was organized on, Gender and Development, Strategic Gender Needs & Practical Gender Needs, Gender related activities and Micro Credit. Staff also attended trainings on Dynamics of Health Systems, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Techniques, Gender and Development and Child Rights organized by other agencies.

Role of STMKU:

- STMKU is consulting with the department of fisheries, Velugu, B.C. Corporation in tapping the available resources. STMKU is recognized now by these departments and are involving them in the planning process and district action plan is formulated in consultation with them only Major achievement of STMKU is Boat Building Yard at Kothapatnam and Light House construction at Kothapatnam.
- STMKU is facilitating the process of federating the SHGs at village level and at the same time, not interfering in their functions. Women are given due respect now and decided to provide space for them in the decision making body of the STMKU.
- Mahila Mandals and SHG's are now part of STMKU and the office bearers of Mahila Mandals and leaders of SHGs are played major role in STMKU.

RALLY & PUBLIC MEETING

STMKU leaders conducted the rally and public meeting in all the mandas at the time of "Janma Bhoomi" program at the Mandal Revenue Office in Prakasam and Nellore Districts of Andhra Pradesh and they demanded to implement the fishermen demands.

STMKU members have submitted the representations on:

- Implementation of MFR Act
- Subsidy of Diesel & Kerosene
- Protect the mangroves area
- Road Facility
- Electricity
- Drainage Facility
- Ration Cards
- In all the mandals STMKU boycotted the distribution of Sri Krishna Bhoomi to the political leaders and Government Officials in Grama Sabhas.

CAMPAIGN

STMKU leaders & macro level CBO staff were divided into two teams Mr.Ponnepudi Ramalingam, Secretary, Avula Jaya Ramaiah, Dist. Convenor of STMKU, leaders and Mr.Balakotaiah & Mr.HimaTeja, the macro level CBO Staff formed one team and Mr.PLakshmaiah, President, Mr.T.Mastan, Member, Ms. G.Mariyamma, members of STMKU and Mr.Ramakrishna, CBO Staff as formed another team. These two teams have visited all the fishermen villages and they conducted meetings with all the village secretaries and fishermen explained about the fishermen Development Programs of Velugu Project and they discussed and identified each village level problems like,

- Mandal level Marker Yards
- Ice boxes
- Fish storage point
- Roads & Transport facilities
- Drinking water facility
- Health facilities.

STMKU leaders submitted the survey details and the required assistance to the Project Director of VELUGU for consideration and necessary actions.

MEETING ON 14.10.03: With Director of Velugu Asst.Director of fisheries.

A meeting was conducted at Old Z.P.Meeting Hall, Ongole on 14.10.03. The Project Director, Velugu, Asst. Director, Fisheries and STMKU leaders and village secretaries participated in this meeting. The Project Director, Velugu discussed with the STMKU leaders and members, about the information collected and their opinions for development of the fishermen community. In the afternoon session, Mr. Krishna Babu, the District Collector, Prakasam District also participated in this meeting. He interacted with the STMKU leaders and fishermen and he promised a sanction one market yard in each mandal and he asked STMKU leaders to submit the suitable place, that is Revenue land, then he would take necessary actions for construction of the market yards.

TEPPA YATHRA

STMKU leaders have planned to conduct a Teppa Yathra from Vishakapattinam to Vakadu with Mr.Rehiman, Secretary, Fishing Boat Workers Union, and Vishakapattinam. They will travel 50 kms per day, end of the day, they would organize a public meeting regarding fishermen community problems and prepare action plans. This Teppa Yathra would be starting on February 04. This information was discussed with all the STMKU mandal secretaries of Prakasam & Nellore Districts. They also agreed and they would inform their villages and they would make arrangements for the program.

WORLD FISHERIES DAY ON 21st NOV. 2003:

Mr.Lakshmaiah, President STMKU and members conducted a public meeting at Kothapatnam Pallipalem on "World Fisheries Day" on 21st Nov.03. Mr.Lakshmaiah, President, STM, demanded to implement the Marine Regulation Act and CRZ Act, strictly. The Government is not implementing the M.F.R.A. Trawlers are fishing near the shore; actually, they do fishing in 8 kms from seashore. The trawlers destroy the nets and boats of the traditional fishermen sometimes even their lives. He requested the fishermen to insure their crafts and to pressurize the Government to implement the MFRA Act & CRZ Acts strictly.

After meeting STMKU leaders and fishermen conducted a rally from Kothapattnam Pallipalem to Mandal Revenue Office, Kothapattnam, and submitted the memorandums to the Mandal Revenue Officer, Kothapattnam regarding implementation of the MFR Act & CRZ Acts.

Mr.Rehiman Secretary, Fishing boat workers, Vishakapattinam and macro level NGO staff participated in the meeting and rally. After the rally they gave press release of the demands they raised in the agitation.

PVC UNIT BY KEMPLAST COMPANY

The state government has given permission to Kemplast Company, which manufactures PVC plastic in Krishnapuram village, Muthukuru mandal, and Nellore district of A.P. They have to import VCM (venyl chloride monomer), which is poisonous. The poisonous effluent from the factory will affect the fish. The factory uses nearly 52-70 lakh liters of water for daily production from Sarvepally Canal. Already water flow in the canal is low.

Actually this company had planned to establish this unit at Kadsaluru. But the Tamil Nadu Government did not give permission. They got permission from Andhra Pradesh State Government for starting the unit at Krishnapuram village Muthukur mandal. Nellore District.

Regarding this issue all community based organizations and STMKU, students, unions have conducted awareness classes on the issue to villagers of Muthukuru, Chillakuru, T.P. Gudur, and Indukurupet mandals of Nellore District. The District collector, D.R.O., R.D.O, Asst. Director of fisheries, M.R.O. and STMKU leaders, and other union representatives and Kemplast company owners and staff participated in the public meeting. All village leaders of unions demanded to stop this PVC unit at Krishnapuram immediately. They also demanded to take necessary action for this issue. Presently the work on the unit is stopped.

STMKU leaders submitted the representations regarding this issue to the District Collector, Asst. Director of Fisheries R.D.O., MRO, and Pollution Control board officers.

TRAINING ON COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT.

Macro level CBO staff attended the training programme on "Coastal Resources Management" From 16th to 18th December at S.I.F.T. Kakinada. This training programe was organized by AFPRO.

Interaction meeting between project director Velugu and traditional fishermen

The meeting was conducted at IMA hall Nellore at. 10.30 am. by the Velugu officials. The following officers were present at the meeting.

Mr.Somireddy Chandra Mohan Reddy
Information and Public Relations Minister

Mr.G.Anantha Ramalu
Collector

Mr.Krishnaiah
Commissioner of Fisheries

Ms.Rajeshawariamamma
M.P. Nellore
Mr.SampathKumar

Project Director, Velugu.

Mr.JaganMohan
Project Director, DRDA.

Mr.Parasarathanam
MLA. Sullurpetta.

Mr.Govindaiah.
A.D. Fisheries.

Honorable Anatha Ramalu the Dist. Collector, inaugurated the meeting and declared the launching of "Meenam-Manam" project (SJSN). Under the project they sanctioned Rs.3 cores 75 lakhs for 2002-2005. This project is to develop Fisheries. The project Director Velugu explained that this project would increase the livelihood opportunities for below poverty line families. He said they will do the BPL survey and record the income and expenditure, social mapping, Resources mapping Natural Recourses, traditions customs etc. They will finalize the list of BPL families and consider them for livelihood programmes.

The Government has sanctioned Rs.30 cores for fishermen development programmes like link roads, construction of marketing facilities etc. The Commissioner also said they are trying another 150 cores for fishermen development. The M.P. of Nellore explained that she has taken up the following programmes for the fishermen development.

1. Construction of bridge on Buckingham Canal at Isakapalem costing 10 lakhs. This work is going on.
2. Rs. one core and 30 lakh was sanctioned for developing facilities in the Market Sanctioned the women development programe.

The Information and Public Relations Minister explained that the following programmes are sanctioned.

- Development of Krishnapuram Vadareve.
- Cyclone Information Centre
- 5000 Pacca houses for fishermen for each house Rs. 40,000. would be given
- Construction of fish Marker at Allipuram

V. ANNUAL REPORT OF FISHING BOAT WORKERS UNION

After the NFF General Body meeting at Trivandrum in December 2002, a meeting of the Fishing Workers Union was called and future programmes were discussed. The leaders attended Asian Social Forum meeting at Hyderabad during 2 to 5 January 2003. Women leaders Mariyamma and Lakshmi respectively from Orissa and Visakapattnam called a meeting of 50 women leaders from

Visakapattinam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam on 21st January and decided to study the problems of Andhra Pradesh Coastal Fisherwomen during February and provide necessary assistance. This meeting also discussed the points of NFF General Body Meeting.

Subsequently the resolutions of NFF General Body meeting as well as the women leader's meeting were disseminated in the fisher villages. Then they embarked on propaganda for NAPM's "Desh Banao Desh Benao" movement and the forthcoming meeting under Medha Patkar's leadership. A meeting of the Visakhapatnam district leaders was convened on 25th January and programmes were chalked out.

A petition was submitted to the District Collector on 5th February demanding attention to the basic amenities such as drinking water, pucca houses, electricity etc. for the 600-fisher families of Peddajalaripeta. On February 20th by 3 PM, Medha Patkar and 50 other leader led the NAPM rally of 500 fishers from APSRTC bus stand to Peddajalaripeta and held a public meeting at 6 PM.

On March 7th CBRM classes were held at DRDO office, Pendurthi in which about 50 leaders participated. On March 8th NFF National Secretary N.D.Koli from Maharashtra and John Kearny from Canada conducted classes at Revupolavaram, Pudimadaka, Peddajalaripeta, Bhimunipatnam and Mangamaripeta. The surrounding of Davis Factory was inspected and a report was sent to Delhi.

On 25th March an Executive Body meeting was convened to discuss about the General Body and the fund collection for the same. It was decided to publish a bulletin named Alalu and call the General Body during May. The decision to seek donation by making models of small teppas did not work well. Stanley of WEEDO gave a donation of Rs. 20000 for publication of Alu.

Meetings were conducted during April and May at fishermen villages in Srikakulam and Visakapattinam District for canvassing membership and strengthening the union. General body meeting could not be convened in May due to paucity of funds. Leaders participated in the East Coast Fisher peoples meeting during 6-8 May 2003. Srinivas from Bhimunipatinam Raju from Revupolavram and Rehman participated in the CBRM meeting at Calcutta. During June 150 members joined in the Union from Bhimunipatnam Mandal. A signature campaign for implementing MFRA started on June 16th and about 20,000 signatures were collected and submitted to the Collector. Rehman could not attend the executive meeting of NFF at Rameswaram in June due to paucity of funds.

During village visits in July, they found that fishers from Revupolavaram were found to suffering from various health problems. A medical camp was conducted under the aegis of Priyadarshini Service Organization and nearly 500 people were given medical assistance.

During the Cyclone in August, 13 Fiberglass teppa from Peddajalaripeta and 20 teppa from Pudimadaka were lost at sea. On receiving the message, in the absence of ADF and Collector, information was given to the Coast Guard who offered to send Helicopters. ON 24th all the teppas returned.

During September, Rehman participated in the meeting conducted by Vivekananda of SIFFS. It was decided to conduct General body in October and started collection of funds. As necessary funds could not be raised, General body was conducted at the Press Club during October 24-25 with borrowed funds. Father Thomas Kocherry, Mahila leader Sr.Mariyamma, Sr.Sahayam from Orissa Ongole Samudra Theera Matsyakarmikula Union Secretary Sri.Ramalingam and district leaders participated. On 24th a rally of 1000 fishermen was led from Peddajalaripetta and made a submission of demands to the Collector.

It was decided to conduct a teppa rally from Ichapuram to Nellore with the participation of Fr. Thomas Kocherry, Harekrishna Debnath, Rehman and R.Polanna. It was decided to start the rally

from Peddajalaripetta highlighting 30-point charter of demands. It was also decided to start a fishermen society and help fishermen at Peddajalaripetta.

- From November surveys were conducted from Nellore to Ichapuram for planning the rally, which is to be conducted in February 2004. It was decided one teppa from Peddajalaripetta to Donkuru village in Ichapuram Mandal and two teppa would join the rally from each village and sail up to 50 kms and. return to the respective vilage. There would be public meetings at Gunupalli, Machileesam, D.Machileesam, Allivalasa, Bhumunipatnam, Kavali, Theertham and closing at Tooplipalem. The 30 point charter of demands are:
- Foreign fishing trawlers and Factory Fishing Trawlers should be prohibited in Indian Waters.
- The Aqua Culture bill of 1997 pertaining to CRZ (CoastalRegulatory Zone) is implemented.
- The recommendations of Murari Committee should be implemented and deep-sea fishing by joint ventures should be banned.
- Order of Supreme Court should be complied in respect of Aqua Culture.
- Use of coastal belt for the benefit of tourism is stopped.
- Fishing for mother prawns and usage of mosquito nets while fishing should be stopped with immediate effect.
- Relief-cum-Saving Scheme, old age pension, insurance, widow pension, ration card, free housing allotments and free education, Scholarships and free medical facilities should be provided to fisherman community.
- Issuing of identity cards should be done similar to the system being followed in the state of Kerala, West Bengal and other states.
- Maketing facilities, which prevail at present in Rythu Bazaars, similar facilities transportation cold storage and basic amenities, be provided to market the fishing products.
- The fishermen community should be granted the status of SC/ST. This recommendation of Mandal Commission is pending since 1955. With immediate effect the Governments should grant the status of SC/ST to the fishermen community.
- As per Mandal Commission Recommendations all fishermen community should be given priority to enter into the activities of civic bodies and politics from village level and nominated postings in state and central Governments.
- Subsidy on diesel for fishing mechanized boats and quota on kerosene is given.
- All loans given through the societies are waived and fresh loans from banks and BC cooperation being issued. During natural calamities, in general the Indian farmers' loans are waived similar facilities be given to the fishermen community.
- Weather forecasting bulletins are not available to the fishermen and they have no facility to receive the same. A separate weather bulletin in local language is made available.
- Storm shelters should be under the fishermen community not with the VUDA (Visakhapattinam Urban Development Authority).
- To the lift ban on restricted fish varieties at sea.
- The pollution at sea by industrial pollution, garbage dumping by ships, fishing trawlers and boats to be prohibited with immediate effect including oil spillages.

- All vehicular pollution emitting smoke be stopped.
- All fishing harbours should be maintained with regular garbage disposal and preventing oil pollution.
- The Coastal belts should be protected from unnatural encroachments and sea erosion.
- Implement MFRA

Chaithanya Jala Jathra

It has been proposed to conduct a Chaitanya Jala Yathra through the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh in a fibre Beach Landing Craft (B.L.C.) to create awareness among the traditional fishing community and to press the Government to respond to their 30 legitimate demands. This Chaithanya Jala Yathra would commence with a press meet organized at Dunkur Village in Srikakulam District on the 20th of February at around 5 p.m. A public meeting that would be addressed by Fr.Thomas Kocherry,. Harekrishna Debnath and other local leaders of the fishing community would follow this. The Chaithanya Jala Yathra would start commence on the morning of the 21st and would reach the next stop at around 5 p.m. 10 mahila leaders under the leadership of sister Mariyamma, K.Laxmi would meet them and the leaders of the NFF would address the people during the public meeting

The schedule of the Chaithanya Jala Jathra.

Date	Time	Village	Mandal	District	Name of the Organizer
20.2.04	3pm(public meeting 21 morning Tappayatra starts)	Donkur	Itchapuram	Srikakulam	B.Umapathi
21.2.04	5 p.m.	Idduvanipalem	Kaviti	Srikakulam	B.Mohan Rao
22.2.04	5 p.m.	Machinellupeta	Vajrapukotturu	Srikakulam	Chemburao
23.2.04	5p.m.	Bandaruvanipeta	Gara	Srikakulam	M.Trinadh
24.2.04	5 p.m.	D.Matchilesam	Etcheria	Srikakulam	M.Lakshmodu
25.2.04	5 p.m.	Chinatapalli	Pusapatirega	Viziangaram	Barri Chinna
26.2.04	5 p.m.	Thotaveedhi	Bheemili	Visakapattinam	V.Satyaraju
27.2.04	5 p.m.	Peddajalaripetta	Pedawaltair	Visakhapatnam	T.EIanna
28.2.04	5 p.m.	Pudimadaka	Atchutapuram	Visakhapatnam	V.Ammoru
29.2.04	5 p.m.	Kotharevu Polavaram	Srayavaram	Visakhapatnam	Ch.Gangiraju
1.3.04	5 p.m.	Uppada	Kakinada	East Godavari	K.Kasulodu
2.3.04	5 p.m.				S.Sharma
3.3.04	5 p.m.	Machilipatinam	Machilipatnam	Krishna Dist.	Venkatachalam
4.3.04	5 p.m.	Machilipatnam	Machilipatnam	Krishna Dist.	P.oVenkateswar
5.3.04	5 p.m.	Lankavenidippa	Repali	Guntur	Ch.Mahaiaxmi
6.3.04	5 p.m.	Kathripalem	Vetapalem	Prakasam	P.Ramalingam
7.3.04	5 p.m.	Pallipalem	Kothapatnam	Prakasam	P.Laxmayya
8.3.04	5 p.m.	Kothasathra	Kavali	Nellore	P.Ramalingam
9.3.04	5 p.m.	Ponnepudi	Ramatheertham	Nellore	J.G.Narayana
10.3.04	5 p.m.	Thrupilipalem	Vakadu	Nellore	A.Mastan

10th evening public meeting

Fr.Thomas Kocherry, Harekrishna and other local leaders like R.Polanna, P.Ramalingam, T.K.Rehman, PLaxmayya, M. Laxmaand , M.Trinadh and APVVU State Secretary P.S.Ajay Kumar, National Coordinator Mr.Chennaya. would accompany the team during the yathra The team would be provided food and accommodation in the villages where the public meetings are to be held and would proceed to the next village in the next morning.

T.K.Rehman

IV. REPORT OF RAMANAD FISH WORKERS UNION

Ramnad District Fish Workers Union was started in 1999. This union takes care of the traditional fish workers of Ramnad District in all aspects. The aim of the union is to protect the fisher people and sea resources. In the district there are 106 fishing villages. In all these villages units of the unions are organized with a membership of 8500.

IMPORTANT EVENTS THIS YEAR

1. *General Body & Executive Meeting of the Union*

On the 5th of every month, the executive meeting is held in the union office. Last year we had 12 executive meetings and 2 general body meetings. In these meetings, important problems of the fisher people were discussed and appropriate resolutions were taken.

2. *Train roko agitation:*

On February 20, 2003, the National Fish Workers Forum called for Train ROKO agitation all over India. Our union participated in this agitation. More than 3000 fish workers participated in the train ROKO. Almost 1500 fish workers were arrested including 800 fisher women. Due to this agitation, the fisher women got saving cum relief scheme in Tamil Nadu this year. We consider this as a victory for the fisher people.

3. *Road ROKO Agitation:*

In the district, dynamite fishing is going on for many years. They have made repeated representations to the collector and the police department. Since no action was taken, the union declared road ROKO agitation on May 20, 2003. Immediately, the Government officials called for a dialogue with the union. After the dialogue, 15 people were arrested and case was registered against them.

The union declared picketing of Taluk Office of Rameshwaram on October 21 2003 for the removal of illegal aquaculture farms. As soon as we declared the agitation, the taluk officer called the union leaders for a talk. For this talk the revenue officials, the fishery officials, and the police department were invited. The union demanded that illegal aquaculture farms should be stopped immediately. After a long discussion, it was agreed to go and visit all the aquaculture farms in Rameshwaram and decide the future course of action. So the agitation was suspended. According to the decision, the officials, union leaders, and CAN from Nagapattinam visited all the aquaculture farms and recommended to the government to remove all illegal farms.

On December 11 2003, an agitation was held in front of the collectorate in Ramanad, in support of the fisher people in Jumbudwip in West Bengal. A memorandum was submitted to the collector expressing our support to the fisher people of West Bengal.

Fishing in Mannar Bay

There are 21 islands in Mannar Bay. The government is not allowing fisher people to fish near these islands. They had made many representations to the officials without any response. On August 2, 2003, the union leaders met, the environmental minister Mr. T.R.Balu at Chennai. CAN and IRF made all arrangements to meet the minister. They explained their problems to the minister and he gave us a sympathetic hearing. On August 8, 2003, a team of environmental ministry and forest ministry officials of Ramnad. met and dicussed. At the end of this meeting, the officials said that the traditional fisher people, men and women would not be prevented from fishing or taking algae, and they could fish freely. But the ban still exists.

We have submitted a memorandum consisting of all the problems faced by the fisher people of Tamilnadu to all political parties, leaders, fisheries minister and coastal district MLAs. CAN organize this program. The MLAs raised the problems of fisher people in the budget session.

4. Fourth Year District Conference

Ramnad District Fish Workers Union conducted its fourth annual conference on July 7, 2003, in Ramnad. The national leaders participated in this conference. They were very happy to have Mr. Harekrishna Debnath, the chairperson of NFF, Fr. Thomas Kocherry and other national leaders. More than 2000 fish workers participated in the conference.

5. World Fisheries Day

The union celebrated world fisheries day on November 21, 2003. On that day, they picketed the collectorate. Their demands were that the fisher people of Jambudwip, should be allowed to fish freely and the fisher people of Ramnad should not be banned from fishing in Mannar Bay. More than 2000 people participated in this agitation. At the end a memorandum was submitted to the collector.

Karuppa swamy
Secretary

VII. DAKSHIN BANGA MALSYAJIBI FORUM (DMFO) ANNUAL REPORT 2003.

1.0. Introduction.

Fishing community and fisher people's Union in West Bengal lived through many harsh experiences this year. Twenty thousand fish workers have been thrown out of their job in Jambudwip and the threat of eviction looms on thousands along the coastline of the state. After handing over Sunderbans to SHARMA for mega tourism project, the state Government has targeted the coastline of Midnapur district and declared it as a "Development Zone" for tourism, food (fish) processing agro-industry etc. This clearly aimed at privatization of the common coastal lands for the benefit of the companies and corporations. The fishing community of Khejiri and Contai blocks, particularly Kadimbad chawk, Bankiput and Boguran Jalpai are fighting on imminent threat of displacement.

Shrinking of fishing grounds due to atrocities of pirates over a vast area adjacent to Indo-Bangladesh border and oil exploration drive of ONGC along the West Bengal coast led to frequent conflict among the different gear groups for fishing space. Incidence of violence between Gill-netters, trawlers, and stake net fishers has taken an alarming proportion. Long standing demand of the fishing community for a uniform monsoon trawl ban along the whole coast have been mocked by prescribing

a blanket ban on fishing from 15th April to 1st June, which is a pre monsoon lean period of the year and normally no fishing takes place at that time. More over proper implementation of the Marine fishing regulations still remains a distant cry. There is no management in fisheries. The govt, takes an attitude free for all and "go as you like". Defying the ban order innumerable mosquito nets are in rampant use round the clock collecting prawn seeds for aqua culture farms without any hindrance. Thousands of trawlers are ploughing the bottom of the sea round the year day and night ignoring all restrictions. Thousands of gill-netters are increasing the length of their nets many folds and reducing the mesh size to sieve even the fish lings, particularly by monofilament nets, without any concern for zonal restrictions and mesh size regulation. Being sandwiched in between, stake-net fishers strive to expand gears and ambit of operation, resulting into inevitable conflict for space. Survival is the key slogan.

- 2.1. Jambudwip struggle has been the number one issue in the state like last year. The West Bengal Union remained occupied with this struggle most of the time in 2003. At the very beginning of this report we like to thank NFF and all state level unions for their continuous support and solidarity with DMF in this struggle.
- 2.2. Since the last general Body meeting of NFF the following major events took place in connection with the Jambudwip struggle.

Sri. Thomas Kocherry arrived and joined the embargo of Jambudwip by the fisher folk on 18th December 2002.

- 2.2. Fisher people took over Jambudwip on 21st December and started fish drying on the island,
- 2.3. Parliament Standing Committee on science, technology, environment and forest comprising of 40 MPs came to Jambudwip on 22nd December for an on the spot enquiry. The state Forest department being the nodal agency was responsible for making arrangements for the trip of these MPs to Jambudwip. The Forest officials deliberately took the MPs in huge vessels during the ebb tide without provision of any small craft for landing. The big vessels were stuck in the shallow waters, one kilometer away from the shore. The accompanying forest officials were telling the MPs they should immediately return because there are pirates all over here and the safety of the MPs will be at stake. The people went to the island in small boats. The State Fisheries Minister Sri. Kiranmany Nanda and Sri. Manoj Battacharya MP persuaded the chairman of the committee Sri. FSamachandriah and Sri Radhika Ranjan Pramanik MP to come down to the island by the fishermen's boats. Sri Thomas Kocherry handed over the representations to the committee and though the MPs assured that the fisher people's rights would be protected the committee is yet to submit its report.
- 2.4. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) submitted its report on 21st December 2002 and directed the State government to remove all traces of encroachment by 31st March 2003. The CEC totally ignored the vital issue of traditional rights and right to life. In the report the fishing community of Jambudwip has been maligned indiscriminately and went up to describing Jambudwip as "unofficial" gate way of India for infiltration, smuggling, ISI connections and so on although there is not a single record of any such incidence in the police records regarding Jambudwip.
- 2.5. Fisheries Minister Sri. Kiranmony Nanda continued to support the struggle and visited the island by the end of January 2003. He also visited the memorial of the Martyred fishermen and addressed the fisher folk of Jambudwip. The meeting was presided over by Sri. Shishu Rajan Das. The NFF chairperson Shri. Harekrishna Debnath was present at the meeting.
- 2.6. In the context of ensuing Panchayath election in the state, the chief minister of West Bengal Battachariya addressed a public meeting in Kakdwip on 2nd January 2003. Referring to the Jambudwip crisis he declared that fish and forest can co-exist and the State Government will do the needful to settle the issue.

- 2.7. A fact-finding team consisting of Ms. Sunita Dubey of Environment justice Initiative (EJI) and Sauparna Laheri of Delhi Forum visited Jambudwip, Haribhanga and Kolkota from 26th to 30th January 2003. They had extensive interaction with fisher people, forest and fisheries officials and eminent citizens during their visit. Later a fact-finding report titled "Endangered Livelihood" has been published by them. Prior to this Sri. Vivekandan of the South Indian Federation of Fisher men Societies (SIFFS) and Sri. Gilbester Assary of the New Indian Express visited Jambudwip, Haribanaga and Kakdwip. Advocates Valentine Xavier, Sanjib Mai, of Kolkota High Court, Mr. Pradip Chatterjee, Gautham Sen DISA and Fr. Jimmy Keepuram of St. Xavier's College Kolkota visited Jambudwip and Haribhanga in January 2003 and stayed with the fishermen for three days. In the second week of March 2003 Mr. Sebastain Mathew of ICSF and Mr. Liaquat of the Equations, visited Jambudwip and met fisher people in Jambudwip, Nankhana, Sagar and other villages.
- 2.8. Green Oscar winning director Ms. Rita Banerjee documented the transient fishing activity at Jambudwip and at sea during the month of January 2003 on behalf of International Collective in Support of Fish workers (ICSF). Ms. Banerjee and her assistant director Ms. Shilpi Sharma stayed in the all men fishing camps and in the distant fishing grounds for many days and also visited the far-flung Haribhanga Island, the proposed alternative to Jambudwip. Later they released a documentary film titled "Under the Sun" which has been highly acclaimed by the viewers and critics. We thank Ms. Banerjee, Ms. Sharma and the ICSF for this valuable documentation.
- 2.9. During the "Desh Bachao, Desh Banao" campaign of the NAPM the campaigners led by Thomas Kocherry and Ms. Medha Patkar visited Jambudwip on 24th February 2003. The team comprising of 82 members including about 40 media persons from Kolkota was received by the fisher people in Jambudwip with great enthusiasm. Ms. Medha Patkar held a press briefing on the island and also addressed the fishermen. In the evening there was a public meeting in Kakdwip. Ms. Medha Patkar, Sri. Kiranmany Nanda, Sri. Thomas Kocherry and the NFF chairperson Sri. Harekrishna Debnath addressed the meeting. This event was widely covered both by the print and electronic media.
- 2.12. Jambudwip being a reserve forest, the transient fishing activity can continue only if the state Government obtains permission from MoEF for regularization as per rules under Forest conservation Act 1980. This should have been done immediately after 1980. But because of the indifference of the state Government, the fisher people are dragged into this misery in spite of recorded evidence of transient fishing on the island since 1953. Although in the context of the militant struggle of the fisher folk, the state Government expressed its desire to regularize the transient fishing in the Jambudwip Reserve forest. But they did not take any concrete steps in this direction. The dead line of 31st March also was approaching very fast. In this context they applied to the minister of forest on 14th February 2003 with copies of the letters from the Fisheries Minister, and the chief minister requesting to initiate the formalities for regularisation. But they never got any response from the government.
2. The fact-finding team released their report on Jambudwip on 17th March in a seminar organised at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Sri. Harekrishna Debnath and Sri. Thomas Kocherry were present representing NFF. Mr. Ashih Kothari, Mr. Sebastain Mathew, Advocate Colin Gonzalves, Mr. Shridhar, Ms. Usha Ramanathan, Ms. Medha Patkar, Comrade Sunit Chopra, Com. S.N. Thakur and Ms. Swarnaprabha Das were among the panelist and speakers. All the speakers appreciated the report and expressed their astonishment on the manner in which the CEC evaluated and reported the Jambudwip issue. Everybody felt that the CEC's report should be challenged in the Supreme Court. The Other Media and EJI jointly organised this event. "Saga of Jambudwip" published by the Other Media was presented to the participants.
- 2.14. When the season ended the transient fishers closed up the camp and came off from Jambudwip on 25th February with great confidence on the minister's assurance. Eventually the dead line of

eviction approached and they were running out of time, the state Government neither sent any formal request for regularization nor challenged the CEC report. Whether deliberate or not the fisheries and the forest Departments were speaking different languages, without taking any concrete step for regularization. In this context NFF moved the Supreme Court of India on 31st March 2003, the last date of the dead line, challenging the CEC report and praying for a stay on it and also allow the drying on Jambudwip as before. They were forced to go to the Supreme Court owing to the inaction of the state Government. If they did not do that the CEC report would have become a law and they would have lost their fishing ground and Jambudwip forever.

- 2.15. The petition on Jambudwip was listed on 21st July 2003. The Supreme Court of India asked the State Government of West Bengal and the Government of India to file their responses within four weeks time. We tried in vain to sensitize the state Government to send application for regularisation to MoEF and to file affidavit in the Supreme Court. The petition again came up for hearing on 25th August 2003. The state government did not file any response, but prayed for time again. The Amicus Curial Mr. Harish Salve took advantage of this lapse of the state Government and asked for a complete ban on fishing activities in Jambudwip. The Honorable Supreme Court passed an interim order, banning trawlers and mechanized boats and allowed four weeks time to the state and Central governments to file responses. But the Court did not restrict fish drying in Jambudwip. After the interim order of August 2003, once again a mass petition was sent to the chief minister on 8th September, 2003 to take immediate action for regularisation of fish drying in Jambudwip.
- 2.16. The state Fisheries Department filed an affidavit refuting the charges and conclusions of the CEC and upholding the rights of the fisher people. They submitted that the state government desired to earmark 100 hectares of Jambudwip for fish drying activity. Contrary to this the state Forest Department also filed an affidavit supporting the CEC stand and labeled the 10,000 fisher people working there as smugglers, criminals, merchants, encroachers and destroyers of the forest, and they should be evicted from Jambudwip. Forest Department also said in the Supreme Court that they did not burn down the sheds and fishing implements. These two contradictory affidavits of the same Government speak volumes of the state of affairs there.
- 2.17. As the fishing season began from 1st October and the case was not yet listed for hearing, the Jambudwip fisher folk decided to start fish drying on the island without bringing any mechanized boat in to the island until further order of the court and informed the authorities accordingly. About 3000 fishermen went to the Island on 16th October, the "World Food Day" in country boats with fish drying implements. The real color of the West Bengal Government came out. A huge police force cracked down on the fishers in the island within few hours under the order of the SDPO, Kakdwip. Fishermen were beaten up mercilessly and their implements were destroyed and thrown into the sea. Thirteen fishermen were injured and two boats were seized. Leading newspapers reported the atrocities in Jambudwip. The District administration said that they acted under the written instructions from the home department (headed by the chief minister) and referred to the circular of the Home secretary dated 14th October. Accordingly the state Government interpreted the interim order as total ban on drying fish in Jambudwip. Fisheries Minister Mr. Kiranmoy Nanda differed and questioned this interpretation where as the Chief Minister defended and said that the Chief Secretary has interpreted the "spirit" of the order. On 17th October CPM party organ "The Ganasakthi" daily published a statement in the name of Shri. Kiramony Nanda and Shri. Peeta Besab Das, chair man and Secretary respectively of fisheries front organization—Paschim Banga Rajya Malsyajibi Samathi -blaming NFF for distorting and exaggerating the October 16th episode to create disorder and malign the state Government. They not only supported the police action but also cautioned the fishermen not to step into the provocation of NFF. They further reiterated that the state government has already sent proposal to the MoEF on 4th September for regularisation of

100 hectares of Jambudwip for fish drying.. Same day Ananda Bazaar Patrika carried prominently the statement of the fisheries minister Kiranmony Nanda Challenging Chief Secretary's order banning fishing in Jambudwip by misinterpretation of the Supreme Court order. He expressed his deep anguish on the police action. Fishermen started dharna on small boats in the sea. The police again beaten them up them on 17th October. The struggling fishermen continued dharna in the outer sea. A depression developed in the bay and weather turned very rough, Shri. Kiranmony Nanda intervened and persuaded the floating fishermen to come to the shore for their safety.

They again went to the Supreme Court for clarification/modification of the interim order and filed an application of urgency. The case was listed for hearing on 24th November 2003.

Central Ministry of Environment and Forest submitted the following to the Supreme Court through an affidavit filed by Mr. Proking Astulam Assistant Inspector General of Forests on 22nd November 2003.

1. I submit that fish drying is a non-forest activity and as such requires permission of the Central Government and clearance under the Forest (Conservation) act 1980.
2. I submit that the order of this Hon'ble court dated 12.12.1996 prohibits any non-forest use of forest land without the approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980
3. I submit that the Central government has not received any proposal from the state government and as such did not grant any clearance under the Forest (conservation) Act.1980. Therefore all activities in the said area are contrary to the Order of this Hon'ble court dated 12.12.1996.
4. Where as our comrades in the Raja Malsyajibi Samathi said that the state Government sent the proposal on 4th September (Gnnahnkll 17.10.2003) this affidavit exposed thoroughly how the fisher people are being baffled and misled by systematic misinformation campaign. Jambudwip has served as the living example of double standards of the ruling class. During the hearing on 24th November 2003 the CEC and the Amicus Cutrae prayed that they would be given two weeks time to respond to the affidavit of MoEF. Now the case is scheduled for hearing on 30th January 2004. Current fishing season is almost over .The destitute fisher folk of Jambudwip are in severe distress and hardship.

2.20. State Forest Department has filed a false criminal case against the front line leaders of the Jambudwip fishers on 1st January 2003 and the police submitted the charge sheet declaring the accused persons as absconding, but kept the whole thing in secret until the panchayath election was over. But soon after the panchayath election, Kakdwip police obtained non-bailable warrants of arrest against all the accused. The charge sheet of the case is as follows.

Charge sheet No.4 dated 17.2.2003.

Namkhana PS.case.No. 1 .dt. 1 -1 -2003

Complaint.Sankar Chandra Mandal S/O Sailen Mandal of. S.O.Bakkhali Foresst. Station office.

- Accused:**
1. Sri; Puritosh Das S/o Pyari Mohan DAs8No Kalinagar, Kakdwip
 2. Shri. Shhishu Rajan Das S/O Jyothi Mohan Das,do, Kakdwip.
 3. Shri Suklal Das S/O Shambhunath Das. Ganshpur, Kakdwip.
 4. Sri Renjit Das S/O Gopal Krishna Das. ----- Do.
 5. Shri Sidul Das S/O Fakir Chand. Akshany Nagar, Kakdwip.
 6. Shri Indirajit Das S/O Jiban Krishna Das -- do
 7. Shri Kesto Das S/o Dhananjay Das, Moynapara, Kakdwip.

Name of witnesses:

1. Complainant;
2. Usher Ranjan Dutta DR/For of Bakkhnl Forest office, Namkanna
3. Sukumu Bera BS of ----- do -----
4. Suanta Bhunia BS of—do -----
5. Narayan Bhattacharrya—do -----
6. AS I Ganesh Chandra Roy of Namkana PS.
7. SI Parsh Chakrabarty (IO) of—do ---

Charge: The fact in brief is that on 1 -1 -2003 at 22.05 we received the written complaint of Complainant AS I Ganesh Ch.Roy, duty officer recorded this case to the effect that on 28.12.2002 morning at about 10 hrs that the complainant found that the FIR named accused persons along with others destroyed all mangrove and non-mangrove plants by uprooting and preparing the place with the help of spade for the purpose of fish drying. Seeing this the complainant with his other staff raised objections and the accused persons abused them with filthy language and threatened with dire consequences. On the basis of this written complaint this case was started with this PS and being endorsed by O/CI. He took up the investigation and during the investigation of the case considering the evidence so far collected a Primaface charge U/S143/447/506(11) IPC&33(i)(II) Indian Forest Act has been made out against the accused persons noted in cot-12 Of this CIS form. So I submit CIS No.4, dated 17-2-2003 against them under the above section of the law to face trial in the open court of law after showing them as absconders in this case with a prayer to issue Wtts to P/P against them.

17-2-2003.

Submitted by
Paresh Chakravarty

This case is used, as a hanging sword to intimidate and harass the fishing community at will. The state government is pursuing the case.

2.20. The fishermen and their supporters seeking intervention sent hundreds of telegrams and fax messages to the chief justice of India. After the police atrocities of 16th October, they sent mass petitions to the chief Justice with 6000 signatures of the victims praying for justice. NFF leaders, state level unions, World Forum of Wisher people (WFFP) and many other friendly Organizations and individuals supported the struggle in many ways. We thank each one of them for their solidarity with Jambudwip. Disha and Ankur Kala in Kolkata rendered valuable support in the struggle.

3. Some of the important programmes carried out this year are as follows

- 3.1. The wake of our national struggle for 42 charter of demands Digha -Kolkata high way was blocked at Digha bypass by 3000 fishermen and women from 10 am to 1pm on 2nd february2003. Kanthi Mahakuna Khoti Malsyajibi union samathi organised this blockade. Shri. Nitu Jana, Srikrishna Das, Birendra Nath Shymmal, and Ratna Maji., Lakshnan Jana, Rajkumaar Panda, Biknsh kor and other leaders of KMKMUS/DMF were in the forefront.
- 3.2. A state level workshop on Community Based Resource Management (CBRM) was organized at Gaga Haven, Diamond Harbour from 4^h March 2003. Prof. John Kearney of St. Xavier's Francis Xavier University Canada, NFF General Secretary Sri. N.D.Koli, Chair person Sri. HarekriShna Debnath, Asst. Director of Fisheries, Diamond Harbour MR.Uttam Panja, ADF (Marine) Contai,

DR Upal Sar were among the resource persons. About 100 fishermen and women from Contai Ratnagar, Khejun, Sagar and Kakdwip participated in this workshop.

- 3.3 A. follow up workshop (Regional level) on CBRM was organized on 6th May 2003 at the NFF office at Diamond Harbour. Prof. John Kearney, N.D.Koli and Harekrishna Debnath were the resource persons. Sri.Narendra Patil, Moreshwar Vaity, Chanadrashekar Sagar of Maharashtra, Mr Rehiman and four others from Andhra Pradesh, Sri. Krishna Das, Ratna Majhi, Birendra Nath Shymmam of Contai, Shishu Ranjan Das, Sukhlal Das, Puritosh Das and Shri. Srikanta Das of Kakdwip were among the 65 participants of this work shop.
- 3.4. Annual General Body meeting of Kanati Mahakunna Malsyajibi Union Somatic (KMKMUS) was held on the 18th of June 2003 at Chewasuli fishing village. NFF chairperson, Benfish Project Director Sri. Kishore Nag, and DFO Sri Padipto Mahapatra addressed the delegates. All the village units of the union reported the tremendous political pressure of the ruling class on the fishing community to distance them from NFF. This year no co-operatives could be registered. The eight co-operative societies registered last year used the entire amount of 19 cores available for the current year Major components of the scheme were motorized boats, nets, storerooms central godowns and fish drying implements. Looking at the new inflow of funds through the cooperatives interested political parties are trying to control the fishing community and cooperative. They are blocking the registration of new co-operatives everywhere, particularly in the Khejuri block with the help of the government officials and the Panchayath. They are working hard to marginalize the union The co-operatives are pitted against the union. There are clear evidence of some of the members of the union falling prey to their design .The move of co-operitisation seems to be counter productive for the union. Women are almost forgotten in the committee of the co-operatives. The initiatives of forming women co-operatives have not succeeded. The shadow of frustration is looming over the women. There were no significant achievements for them. The office bearers of KMKMUS were elected unanimously at the general body meeting with Ananda Bar, Srikrishna Das and Shymmam as president, secretary and treasurer respectively.
- 3.5. DMF leaders had a meeting with the fisheries minister Sri. Kiranmay Nanda at the writers building on 7 July 2003.The Fisheries department convened the meeting for discussion on sea safety aspects and weather warning arrangements.. Sri. Nirmalendu Das Srikrishna Das Taian Das Anantha Bar Birendranath shymmam, and Saroj Roy were in the DMF delegation During the meeting the leaders reminded the minister of the assurance given by him on 1st August 2002 regarding implementation of monsoon trawl ban, old age pension scheme, toilets and rest rooms in the market for women fish vendor etc: They urged the minister to take concrete steps for the regularization of fish drying in Jambudwip. So that the fishermen can start working in October.
- 3.6. Sahara India Corporation and the State Government are going ahead with the mega tourism project in Sunderban covering six islands with a projected investment of Rs.500.crores The project includes a floating city, spread over 270 sq. km of inshore waters and creeks. Five star hotels, floatels, casino, water sports, helipad, airstrip, golf course, jetties and modern water transport facilities are some of the declared project plans. The project is given a very high profile publicity and projected as a "golden goose" to the state which will open the floodgate of development in the Sunderban island. But knowledgeable and experienced people think it would be highly detrimental to the highly fragile mangrove ecosystem of Sunderban. It will definitely marginalise and displace the fisher folk and other coastal communities, and will virtually privatize this most precious common heritage that nurtured the people living in the region. It may cater to the rich foreign tourists and generate some foreign exchange earnings for the company. But the socio-environmental cost will be much higher.

They started a programme of dialogue with the people of Sunderban on the issue. ON 15th and 17th of August 2003, two zonal workshops were organized at Jarukhali and Gosava respectively. Several other group meetings were conducted at different pockets, of Sunderban culminating into a regional meet at Besanti High School on 31st August 2003. Sri Nirmalendu Das, Harekrishna Debnath Pindip Chatterjee, Tajan Das, Shymmal Mondal, Shishu Rajan Das, and Shukhal Das gave the inputs. About 100 representatives of different villages attended and interacted in the meeting. Sri. Panchaman Mandal, Nirmaj Das, Niranjan Barni Akshay Das and Indrajit Das were among the participants. It was decided to continue the conscientization process to build up public awareness on the issue.

A follow up meeting was organised at the Bhasha Parishad in Kolkata on 7th September 2003 facilitated by DISHA. It was a very well attended meeting. Eminent intellectuals, lawyers, environmentalists, human rights activists and fisher people deliberated on the issue. The film "Under The Sun" was screened during the meeting.

- 3.7 Kanthi Mahakunnu Khoti Malsyajibi Unniyan samati organised deputation to ADF (Marine) Contai on 29th November 2003 and submitted a memorandum demanding immediate implementation of the pending pension, relief cum saving scheme, toilets and rest rooms, and in the second phase of NCDC scheme 2000 fisher people participated in the March. Sri Krishna Das Biren Shymal, Bano Behari Bar, Nitai Jana, Rajkumar Panda and Ratna Majhi, led the March.

4.0 World Fisheries Day Celebration

Major issue of world Fisheries day in West Bengal was eviction of fisher people and privatization of coastal lands. The concerned islands were Jambudwip, Kaklimbad Chawk, Bhimorwari Dulani, Bankiput and Olil Khoti. The 42 charter of demands and the Fisheries Minister's assurance on old age pension. Toilet and rest rooms in the fish market and monsoon trawl ban were also highlighted.

- 4.1. In Kakkdip the main event of the day was a big demonstration and public meeting in the heart of the town. Fisher women particularly the families of Jumbudwip fishers took part in large numbers. Sri. Thomas Kocherry was the voice of the masses in the public meeting. His message led to a strong resolve by the people to continue to fight for life and livelihood still they establish themselves in Jambudwip. Ten thousand copies of the speech was printed and distributed among the masses. The meeting was presided over by the veteran freedom fighter Shri. Hirlal Das Ro. Sri. Nirmalaendu Das, Shreemathi Rethna Majhi, Shashanka Dev and Tajan Das spoke on the occasion. Print and electronic media covered the event.
- 4.2. In Midnapur district the programme was organised in Contai town. Thousands of fishermen and women rallied round the town before the public meeting in the afternoon. Sri. Sisir Adhikary MLA & Chair man of Contai municipality, Shri. Sailnjan Das Ex: MLA, Shri. Samaresh Das, Shri. Sukhendu Maity, Shri. Nitai Jana and Shri. Krishna Das addressed the gathering. All the speakers expressed their deep concern over the role of the state Government vis-a-vis Jambudwip and condemned the police atrocities on the fishermen. They expressed their strong support and solidarity with the struggling fisher people.

Conclusion

Fisher people have started to feel the punch of globalization and liberalization. More and more of the fishing grounds and coastal common properties are going to companies, corporations and private parties. It is quite natural to expect that the CPIM led Government which loves to speak so

loudly against capitalism and globalization will do its best to protect the people from these menace. Also it was quite natural for many to believe that they will consider the independent unions of fish workers as natural allies in the struggle against the forces of exploitation. But the Jumbudwip struggle brought out the naked truth to light. The continuous atrocities on the fisher folk and systematic attack on the union decisively established that all these expectations were mere illusion. The emergence of the co-operatives instead of becoming a solid platform for furthering the unity is showing a tendency to become the battlefield of greed. Unscrupulous and dishonest elements of the community are using their influence together with the political power in a bid to corner the benefits of people's struggle and destroy the union. A general sense of frustration and helplessness is prevailing in the fishing community. One does not know how long one can sustain the Union and strive to spear head independent struggle for the future of the fishing community, particularly in the context of constant attack from the mighty political juggernaut in the State.

Nitai Jana
President.

Tajendra Lai Das
General Secretary

VIII. REPORT OF KARNATAKA COASTAL FISHERMEN ACTION COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2003

We are happy to present the annual report of the three coastal districts of Karnataka under the Karnataka coastal fishermen Action Committee. This committee was formed in 1997 under the joint leadership of D.K. Magaveera Mahajana Sanga and Akila Karnataka Fishermen Parishad a state unit of fishermen. Fifty-five organisations have come under a single banner. This is the only organisation of Fishermen recognised by the Government. In Karnataka

During the last one-year they had many meetings with the Chief Minister and Fisheries Minister of Karnataka, in Bangalore. They met George Fernandez twice in connection with the settlement of NFF demands with the Prime Minister, of India. They also met Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani in connection with the licenses given to the foreign ships against the assurances given by the Prime Minister. They also met Mr. L.K. Advani and requested him to implement the Mandal commission report in respect of the fishermen.

They have protested against the Jumbudwip eviction and against the foreign deep-sea vessels. This was given wide publicity by the media.

Due to their pressure the Chief Minister of Karnataka announced a package for the fishermen. Since 4 years mechanised boats are getting tax-free diesel of 50,000 K.L. per year costing Rs. 17.5 crores. With our insistence, the Fisheries Minister recommended 55,000 K.L. tax free diesel and assured them that this concession would be continued for the next year also.

The traditional fishermen with outboard engines are getting kerosene quota of two hundred liters per month. The women and inland fishermen are contributing to the saving cum Relief scheme. To improve the economic condition of the fisherwomen two seminars were organized with the help of fisheries department and fisheries College. With the help of NCDC scheme they gave loans to 1000 women at a low interest rate, in D.K. and Udipi Districts.

The Karnataka Fishermen Action Committee took up the responsibility of organizing a two-day

workshop for the NFF women leaders on 13th and 14th of November 2003 at Mangalore. Fr.Thomas Kocherry and Shri N.D.Koli, the general Secretary of NFF led the discussions. Minister Mrs. Manorama Madhwaraj inaugurated the programme.

The Fisheries Day was celebrated on 21st November. The media gave wide publicity. They covered the seminar organized by the State Government and represented their stand on CRZ. A meeting was arranged at Uchila and requested the fisheries Minister to permit the traditional fishermen to fish in the Monsoon season.

Due to their effort the fishermen are included in the most backward list and they are under income tax exemption. Since their students are getting seats for higher education and scholarship with the cooperation of the Backward Cast Federation they have persuaded the Central Government to implement all the other recommendations of the Mandal Commission. They also opposed the reservation quota for the forward cast declared by the Prime Minister of India.

They have organized several Self Help groups and arranged economic help for the women from the banks, government and other organizations.

The General Secretary Shri Vasudev Bloor attended a 10 day seminar at Chennai and Trivandrum organised by International Collective in Support of Fishermen.

Few of them attended the World Social Forum Meeting

Future Plans.

To organize a state level convention of the fishermen and invite the Chief Minister, other ministers, central ministers and the NFF leaders and present our pending demands.

To collect funds for the scholarship for the poor fishermen students.

Vasudeve Bloor
General Secretary

IX. THE REPORT OF KERALA SWATHANTHRA MALSYA THOZILALI FEDERATION 2003

Activities of KSMTF in 2003.

1. The following members were elected in the order of priority to represent KSMTF at the general body of National

Fish workers Forum

T.peter, P.P.John, Fr. Thomas Kocherry, Jiji Antony, S.Stephen, A.P.Felix, K.V.Raphel, S.James, Philomina Thomas, Saudha Assis, John. J.P., and Vincent Benedict.

General Body Meeting of NFF in Kerala

The general body meeting of National Fish workers Forum was held in Thiruvananthapuram at AICUF Centre from 10th to 13th December 2003..The convention was inaugurated by the veteran Freedom Fighter Shri. Hiralal Das Roy by hoisting the flag.The four day convention included programs like Fisheries sector exhibition, Cultural programs, Public Rally and the meeting of the representatives of the general body. The concluding function was inaugurated by shri. N.D.Koli, the general secretary of NFF. The president of KSMTF T.Peter chaired the meeting Fr.Thomas Kocherry declared "Rail Roko" on February

20th in all the coastal states of India. R.K.Patil, Purnima Mehar, Vital, Ratna Mahji, A.AIaya, Ramalinqam T.K.Rehiman, PaulSwamy, A.P.Felix, M.Ambrose, K.V.Raphel, Saudha. Assis, R.Joseph Lopez spoke at the meeting.

The great Fishermen award was given to A.Andrews Who wrote the Book on "Pearls of the Sea The freedom fighters Shri.Hirlal Das Roy (West Bengal) and JanardhnenThampe (Maharastra) were facilitated for their great support and contribution to NFF.

The Agitations Organized by KSMTF during the year.

1. A march was organized to the Civil Supply Office in Thiruvananthapuram in January 2003 for kerosene permit.
2. The " Rail Rocko" was organized at Kollam near the SMP Palace Almost 3000 fisher people participated in the picketing. Picketing was inaugurated by T. Peter president of KSMTF. The general secretary P.P.John, Ambrose, A.Andrews, S.Joseph, J.Jerome, Anto Elias and Fr.Kuriakose addressed the crowd.
3. Agitation for Kerosene. .
To protest against the action of the Government in cutting down the amount of kerosene given to the fishermen for fishing, a sathyagaha was organized in front of the Secretariat by the state committee members and co workers on April 10th. Their demand was to give the amount of kerosene allotted to them in the permit. The Sathyagraha was inaugurated by Fr.Thomas Kocherry. The state president T.Peter, general secretary P.P.John, S.James, R.Joseph Lopez, P.Sukumaran, Anto Elias Raian Lazer, S.Joseph, A.P Felix, on the occasion.
4. Sathyagraha in May 2003.
In May 2003 a sathyagaha was organized in front of the secretariat to protest against sand mining in the sea and against complete ban on fishing during the monsoon. T.Peter the president of KSMTF inaugurated the sathyagraha Fr. Thomas Kocherry and leaders from various organizations spoke supporting the demand.
5. Dharana in front of the Secretariat on July 10th 2003.
For the implementation of the following demands a dharana was organized in front of the secretariat
 - a. Stop the plan to withdraw the ban on monsoon trawling before time.
 - b. to give accrued lump sum grant to school children and also make arrangements to give this grant at the beginning of the school year.
 - c. To distribute the insurance given to the fishermen in accident cases through Fishermen welfare Board.
 - d. The amount of kerosene that is cut down should be reconsidered
 - e. To do a through investigation on the corruption in the import engines and the sale of oil
Thomas Kocherry inaugurated the dharana. The leaders of the state and district unions spoke at length on the demand.
6. There was a mass agitation in August in front of MATSYAFED Office against the corruption in MATSYAFED. A village to village foot march was organized explaining to people about the corruption. During the march fund collection was done to continue and strengthen the agitation In September week long struggle was organized and a rallies were conducted. The leaders of the union were actively present and give leadership week long struggle was organized and a rallies were conducted. The leaders of the union were actively present and gave leadership.

7. A Dharana was organized at the Account General's office to protest against the eviction of fishermen from Jambudwip and also against the order of Supreme Court that no lady police is required to arrest women.
8. The Sand mining is done under the pretext of building houses To protest against this KSMTF took a leading role and formed a joint committee including all political parties and voluntary organizations. Malsyathozilai Congress, CITU, AINTUC, STU, UTUC, Thiruvananthapuram Social Service Society, Kerala Swathantra Malsya Thozilali Federation Deevara Sabha, and Janatha Malsyathozilali union were the members of this committee. This joint committee called a convention of the public on January 22nd 2003 at the bank Employee's hall Thiruvananthapuram. The Convention was inaugurated by Jalselan and the meeting was presided over by V.V.Sassindhran, V. Dinakaran presented the subject paper. Dr. Neelalohidasan Nadar, MLA, and the leaders of various unions and organizations addressed the public. T.Peter welcomed the participants and R.Joseph gave the vote of thanks. A Memorandum against sand mining was given to the Chief Minister. Respecting the demands of the people the Chief Minister reassured them that the government would withdraw this project.
9. Kerala Social Forum and fish workers participation
Kerala Social Forum organized Kerala Solidarity in Thiruvananthapuram at the Cotton Hill School against Globalization. KSMTF joined in the Solidarity. Two papers were presented at the Solidarity, one on complete ban on fishing and its consequences" by Fr.Thomas Kocherry and Globalization and women by Maglin Peter. It was affirmed in the meeting that complete ban on fishing is not practical in Kerala. Shri. Satish Babu was the moderator. Dr. Neelalohida Das Nadar MLA, Palod Ravi, Pulluvila Stanly and Dr.N.K.Sassidharen Pilla addressed the people
10. State Level Study Camp.
The state committee organized a study camp at MJM Center Mavelikara from December 14th to 16th on Globalization and Fisheries Sector, Panchayath Raj. The relevance of non-party Organization, and Globalization and third world countries were the topics of study..
Dr.Varghese George, Dr.Mathew Erathyil, John M.Itty, Vincent Benedict, T.Peter, Jerome and P.P.John led the classes. There were thirty two participants.
11. Malabar Sector camp.
To strengthen the activities of Malabar sector a camp was organized at SRC, Kozhikode from August 23rd to 25th 2003.
12. Work shop on Media.
A work shop was organized on how to make communications through media in the modern world more effectively at Kottayam Thnmyia Media Centre from October 6th to 10th. Communication through print-audio -visual media was analyzed in the workshop. Fr.George Sebastain, Fr.Thottathil, Fr.PaulPalattil, Elias John (NTV), Marian George(Malayala Manorama) and Paul Manalil(Deepika) led the classes. There were thirty participants. Fr. Mathew Erathil inaugurated the concluding Function T. Peter presided over the meeting. K. Soudha welcomed the participants and Ramya presented the report .Shri P.P.John made the facilitation speech.. The meeting was concluded after vote of thanks by J.Jerome.
13. Activities of the women's wing of KSMTF.
ON the international women's day March 8th Seminars were conducted in Thiruvanthapuram an Kozhikode
To strengthen the activities of women at the National level a seminar was organized in Mangalore by

NFF from July 13th and 14th July 2003. Sr. Philomine Marie, Magline Peter and Jiji Antony participated in this seminar representing KSMTF. As a continuation of this seminar a convention was organized in MJM centre Mavelikara. on August 16th and 17th. After discussion the women made the following demands from the government Sr. Philomine Marie and Magline Peter led the discussions

1. To renovate the fish markets and provide basic facilities.
2. To stop violence to women in the market.
3. To provide drinking water in the fishing villages.

At this convention the women's committee was reorganized Santhama Devakaran was elected as the General Convener. and Girly John and Saudha Assis as conveners. The following persons were elected as members of the committee. Pushpin Anonym Marline Peter, Phil mine Marie, Hynamma Laurence, Jiji Antony, Philomina Thomas, Leelamma Jerome, Jessy Vincent and K. Saritha. Under the leadership of this committee a convention was organized at Ernakulam Renewal Centre. Justice Sree Devi inaugurated the convention. The general convener Santhama Devakaran presided over the meeting. KSMTF state president T. Peter and general secretary P.P. John, Advocate Paruvathy, Sanjay, Saudha Assis, Nancy Jacob, K.V. Raphael, and P.V. Pavithran made the facilitation speeches. The next session was moderated by Sr. Philomine Marie. Magdaline Peter presented the paper on "Fisheries Sector and women". K Saritha, Jiji Antony, Jessy Vincent, Priska Kurisappen, Vincent Benedict, and Sheba Ashokan made responses to the presentation. It is worth to mention that the women collected the whole expenses for this convention -Rs.30,000/

In Kozhikode a march was organized to the Corporation Office under the leadership of women, demanding to expedite the sanitation work

14. The Book authored by Fr. Mathew Erathyil "Kerala Fishermen Organisation-A historical analysis" was introduced in a meeting organized for this at MJM Center, Mavelikara. Choonakara Janartharan reviewed the book at this meeting

15. Fisheries Day November 21st.2003.

A seminar was organized on the fisheries day at the YMCA hall Thiruvananthapuram. P. Govinda Pillai inaugurated the seminar. The topic of discussion was Fisheries sector yesterday today and tomorrow. The chief executive South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies presented the paper Advocate M.A. Vahidu gave the message for the day. Dr. G. Gopakumar, (CMFRI) S. Ravindran Nair (Fisheries Department) Fr. Nicolas (TSSS) spoke elaborating the subject. The discussions that followed were led by M. Ambrose. Fisheries experts, Fish workers, political and Social workers participated in the discussion. The general secretary P.P. John welcomed the participants, and Anto Elias gave the vote of thanks

16. Joint Agitation.

A joint agitation with various political parties was organized against the foreign fishing vessels in Indian waters.

17. The leaders and co-workers of KSMTF participated in all the programmes organized by NAPM in Kerala., especially the Plachimada Coca Cola agitation. A public convention was organized in Thiruvananthapuram. against Plachimada CoCo Cola factory. The Opposition Leader Shri. V. S. Achudanadan inaugurated this convention. Fr. Thomas Kocherry presided over the meeting. T. Peter

Spoke representing KSMTF.

18. Alakal

This is the Mouth piece of KSMTF is published regularly

19. Self Help Group

Self Help Group is Organised by Sramasakthi which is under the Trivandrum District committee. This programme is envisaged to strengthen the activities of KSMTF.

20. Other Activities.

- Vincent Benedict represented KSMTF in two National seminars organized by Kerala Institute of Labor and Employment.
- When fish vending women were pushed out of the road side selling place, the leaders of KSMTF intervened and made an amicable solution. The women are selling fish freely there.
- A public convention was organized by the people of Chellanam, Ernakulam, demanding a fishing harbour at Chellanam, over thousand fish workers participated. The Fisheries Minister at this meeting declared the Harbor project in Chellanam.
- To collect funds for their union the Inland Fish workers Union of Alleppey District organized a "LUCK DIP" programme.
- KSMTF Actively participated in the Vehicle Rally organized by Sahyithya Sasthara Parishad against Complete ban on fishing during monsoon season.
- A public convention and agitation were organized to pay the accumulated education grant for the children of the fish workers. KSMTF took an active role in this convention and agitation

21. Memorandums.

The following memorandums were given during the year to state and central governments.

- To the central and state governments for the issue of kerosene for fishing.
- To the chief minister to withdraw all illegal cases against the activists of KSMTF.
- To include women in the relief cum famine programme.
- To give the insurance allowed for the victims of accidents Also the accumulated lumpsum grant for the school children.
- To investigate corruption in the Malsyafed.
- To ban monsoon trawling and .not complete ban on fishing during monsoon season.
- To stop sand mining -memorandum to state and central governments.
- To establish basic facilities in the fish market for women.
- To withdraw the licenses given to foreign fishing vessels.

P.P. John,
General secretary.

THE PROPOSALS BY THE NFF TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CONCERNING FISHERIES POLICY OF INDIA

I. Introduction

1. The Workshop to discuss the 2002 Marine Fishing Policy (Draft) of India, was held at the Animation Centre, Kovalam, from 15 to 17 July 2004. The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India had recently made available the Draft Policy to the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) for discussion. The participants were the national and state-level leaders of the NFF. All maritime states of India were represented except Goa and the Union Territories. The International Collective in support of the Fishworkers (ICSF) and the South Indian Fishermen's Societies (SIIFS) facilitated this.
2. The Draft Policy of the Government of India was introduced. It was proposed at the outset that the title of the document should read 'Marine *Fisheries* Policy' rather than 'Marine Fishing Policy' of India since the scope of the document included fisheries issues. The rationale for a national fisheries policy should be clear, it was suggested. There is need for coherent and acceptable definition of fishery-related terms in the Draft Policy document, it was proposed.

II. Fisheries policy and legislation

1. It was proposed that 'policy' should be understood to mean a set of coherent decisions with a common long-term purpose(s) affecting or relevant to the fisheries sector. It was pointed out that most countries develop a fisheries policy towards implementing provisions of their fisheries legislation and not the other way around. A policy, however, could also lay down guidelines for the preparation of legislation and in this sense there can be a policy to precede and a policy to follow, fisheries legislation. The Workshop was of the view that it was impossible to implement a policy without the backing of legislation.
2. Reference was made to the several struggles of fishworkers since the 1970s, which led to the appointment of the 1978 Majumdar Committee and the 1994 Murari Committee.
3. The Majumdar Committee Report led to the enactment of the Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA), which although originally meant to be a Central legislation, was finally enacted at the State level for the territorial waters. The Murari Committee recommendations were accepted by the government but fisheries legislation for Indian fishing vessels in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) are yet to be made.
4. Citing the example of the 1994 Fisheries Development and Management Policy of Kerala it was pointed out how a well-meaning policy without being backed by enabling legislation could be quite ineffective. This is because only legislation is justiciable. Citing Court judgements in the case of trawlers and purse seiners under MFRA, it was pointed out how the Supreme Court has historically given judgements to effectively implement fisheries legislation that protected the traditional fishing sector. States were able to implement the ban on monsoon trawling and purse-seining because of the MFRA. The Supreme Court could later uphold the ban, thanks to the backing of the MFRA it was observed.
5. The developments in Indian fisheries over the past decade further underscore the importance of having fisheries legislation for the entire Indian EEZ, it was observed. Fishing vessels are now fishing beyond the territorial waters. In Jambudwip, West Bengal, Thoothoor, Tamilnadu and Thane Maharashtra, the fishing ground of traditional fishers is beyond the territorial limits. While the bag net fishers of Jambudwip are found in waters about 50 nautical miles from the shore, the bag net fishers

of Thane are found 70 nautical miles away, and the Thoothoor fishers are found more than 100 nautical miles away from the shore.

6. Conflicts between active and passive gear groups in the territorial waters are now taking place also in the EEZ. This is unprecedented. Passive bag net operations and bottom trawlers, for instance, are fighting beyond the territorial waters in Maharashtra. Although the District Collector had passed an Order to mitigate these conflicts, a local Court, on the ground that the District Collector had no jurisdiction beyond the 12-nautical mile limit, struck it down. To address the jurisdictional shift in Indian fisheries conflicts from the state waters into the EEZ, it is imperative to have legislation for the EEZ, it was observed. Harmonized and sustainable fisheries both in the territorial waters and the EEZ are possible only with a national legislation, it was observed.
7. Further, in the light of new developments in relation to oil exploration and exploitation, it is important to adopt new legislation not only for living resources like fish and other forms of biodiversity, but also to manage exploration and exploitation of non-living resources of the EEZ such as oil reserves. In this context, there is also need for effective legislation to prevent marine pollution from fishery and non-fishery sources both in the territorial and national waters.
8. The importance of having fisheries legislation for the entire Indian EEZ for all fishing vessels, including domestic and foreign, was therefore recognized, which could even be with the broader objectives of the MFRA legislated by all coastal states of India.
9. Conservation of marine fisheries resources and protection of those who work on board traditional fishing vessels. This could be followed by an integrated legislation for fisheries and aquaculture encompassing both marine and inland waters. It was pointed out that aquaculture should only be allowed if it is traditional and improved traditional within the purview of the 1996 Supreme Court Judgement of Justice Kuldip Singh. There is also need for an Oceans Act where fisheries could be a subset of ocean management. In all these legislation, a human perspective should be maintained, the Workshop proposed.
10. Was there a need for a separate fisheries ministry at the Centre? The Plan allocation and expenditure for fisheries are very low and it does not justify the formation of a separate fisheries ministry, it was pointed out. However, a ministry would help to bring greater visibility to the fisheries sector, particularly to the fishworkers. It was suggested that all fisheries and fish habitat related activities should be combined under a fisheries ministry, including the activities of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) fisheries and aquaculture research centres as well as that of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), and activities currently under the 1972 Wildlife Protection Act, *viz.*, measures to protect mangroves, corals, and marine endangered species such as turtles, dolphins, and selected shark species. The participants were of the view that protection of marine species such as turtles and dolphins should be within the purview of fisheries legislation and not under the Wildlife Protection Act.

III. Fisheries management and development issues.

The importance of fisheries management was recognized, especially fisheries management regimes that could ideally provide more employment and income for the same, or even lower, levels of fish production. Instead of the Union Government taking up the initiative to come up with a fisheries policy, should it not be the maritime states that take the initiative for what needs to be done with regard to fisheries management in the territorial waters, especially the problem of managing excess fishing capacity? Considering that the fisheries resources and fishing fleet need urgent attention in the territorial waters, shouldn't the policy start from the shore-end, first try to address near-shore fisheries management problems using the resource potential of the EEZ, before considering other development options for under-exploited resources of the EEZ?

III.1 Use TAC instead of MSY

It was suggested that rather than maximum sustainable yield (MSY), total allowable catch (TAC) concept should be used to determine stocks that could actually be fished during a specific period which should be at levels below the MSY for the same period. Periodic assessment of the status of fisheries resources is important, it was observed. In this context, developing appropriate methodologies, or improving the existing ones, for stock assessment is important, it was pointed out.

III.2 *Reducing, not adding to, existing fishing capacity*

It was suggested that there is no need to further expand existing fishing capacity as a precautionary measure until reliable stock estimates and proper assessment of TAC is made. The Workshop proposed that a proper assessment of fishing capacity should come in conjunction with the status of fisheries resources.

The Workshop was also concerned about the Draft Policy proposal to introduce either multi-day, or resource specific fishing vessels above 20 m Overall Length (OAL). The Workshop proposed a ceiling of 20 m as the maximum OAL of fishing vessels in the Indian EEZ. This could facilitate the existing fishing fleet in territorial waters to adjust itself, to the extent practicable, to the potential fisheries resources of the EEZ. In its light, there was a demand to scrap all larger vessels introduced under joint venture/bare boat chartering arrangements. Joint ventures in fisheries have not brought any benefit either to the country or to the fishers, it was observed.

1. The Workshop discussed if it is sufficient to talk just about the reduction in the total number of trawlers. The fishing power of each trawler is much higher than before. Several trawl gears that are used now are designed to be species-, bottom-, and water-column-specific and are far more efficient than conventional trawls. Each trawler carries several trawl gear of the above types.
 - It was commented that even halving the existing fleet capacity might bring better dividends to fishers than continuing to fish with the existing fleet capacity at the national level. However, the rationale for reducing excess capacity should be made sufficiently clear, it was suggested. In the Indian context, citing Rameswaram's case where there are about 4,000 trawlers, it was pointed out that large fleets led mainly to economic, but not biological over fishing.
 - There were several questions in relation to capacity reduction and equity. Could it be proposed that only owner-operated trawlers be allowed to fish? If an owner has more than one vessel could it be suggested that all vessels except one should be retired? Should each family be restricted to own only one trawler? Should vessels that are more than 10 years old be retired from fishing? Trawlers that are not sea worthy should be retired, it was proposed. In Rameswaram the trawler boat associations have recently agreed to consider a 50 per cent reduction in their trawler fleet size, provided there are financial incentives in the form of buy-back schemes, or a fleet reduction package.
 - Subsidies should play an important role in financing buy-back schemes, whereas subsidies that lead to overcapacity should be removed, it was proposed. The schemes of National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) for construction of new fishing vessels should be stopped, the workshop further proposed.
 - The Workshop proposed that while looking into different fleet reduction options, governments should decide not to issue any new fishing licenses and to freeze the size of the existing trawler fleet, in particular. These measures would automatically lead to reduction in trawler fleet size it was observed.

- Fleet reduction will have implications for employment, it was pointed out. There will be labour displacement, especially of wage labourers from non-traditional fishing castes, as a result of fleet reduction. Alternative employment should be provided to workers who lose jobs. The Workshop proposed that more meetings should be organized in different parts of India to discuss capacity reduction measures. Over the next five years, the Workshop hoped to reduce the number of trawlers by 50 per cent. The participants from Karnataka observed that fleet reduction is already taking place in their purse seine fisheries.

III.3 *Need for diversification of existing fishing fleet*

- The Workshop sought government support to diversify, especially assistance to develop communication facilities that would improve safety of their vessels, and marketing opportunities. In this context, attention was drawn to a trawler fisherman from Nagapattinam diversifying into long lining for yellow fin tuna using floating fish aggregating devices in the EEZ off the Tamilnadu coast. The Thoothoor shark fishers, perhaps the only resource-specific traditional fishers of the EEZ, although are willing to pay for radio communication sets, have so far been denied a radio frequency, which would help them a great deal in improved safety in fishing operations.
- The Workshop proposed an allocation of surplus fisheries resources outside the territorial waters across maritime States through State-specific TAC, based on existing fishing capacity. This has to be followed up by effective registration and licensing requirements. Fishing vessels should be designated to fish either within or outside the territorial limits. Vessels that are registered to fish in the EEZ should not be licensed to fish within the territorial sea.
- Except purse seiners and trawlers of Karnataka no fishing vessel keeps a logbook in Indian fisheries. West Bengal had introduced a requirement to maintain logbook two years ago, however, it is yet to be implemented. It was proposed that fishers should report their catch and maintain a logbook.
- There were doubts, however, regarding how many vessels could actually be diversified. The Workshop participants were of the view that only between 3000 to 5000 longline/gillnet vessels could be accommodated in the EEZ outside the territorial limit. It was thus clear to the Workshop that the entire excess fishing capacity in territorial waters cannot be absorbed in the EEZ.

III.4 *Reducing fishing effort in the mechanized sub-sector*

- In addition to capacity reduction and fleet diversification, there is need to introduce effort control measures, it was recognized. The Workshop proposed a series of such measures, such as mesh size regulations, restricting size of gear, reducing the number of gear units including reducing the number of trawl gear on board each trawler, reducing fishing time at sea, especially by reducing trawling hours and by extending the duration of the monsoon ban on fishing.
- In addition to government initiatives, local fishing communities should be involved in taking up fleet reduction and effort control programmes, it was suggested. The trawler associations in Rameswaram already voluntarily implement effort control measures by fishing only two days a week. As a result, their operational costs have reduced while their income levels have remained at levels when they fished four days a week.

III.5 *'No' to output control measures*

- Vessel-based catch quotas proposed in the draft fishing policy was not acceptable to the participants, who wanted to consider only input control measures in Indian fisheries. Output control measures such as vessel-based catch quotas, they fear, might lead to the introduction of individual transferable quotas (ITQs) in Indian fisheries. The possibility

of arriving at maximum fleet size for different categories of fishing vessels based on total allowable catch was proposed as an alternative. It was, however, brought to the attention of the participants that for highly migratory stocks such as tuna and tuna-like species it may be difficult to avoid subscribing to a quota management system.

III.6 *Disciplining fuel subsidies*

- Under the current subsidies regime there is a positive correlation between diesel subsidies and horsepower: greater the horsepower, larger the entitlement to diesel subsidies in states like Gujarat and Maharashtra. An annual upper limit of 10,000 litres per fishing vessel irrespective of horsepower was proposed without excise duty. Currently, in Maharashtra, for example, 45,000 litres per year per vessel is the upper limit of diesel quota for fishing vessels. The shark fishermen of Thoothoor, Tamilnadu, said they consume about 5,000 litres of diesel per trip and they make about 10 fishing trips in a year. However, they are not entitled for any fuel subsidies.
- The Karnataka participants pointed out that 10,000 litres is not sufficient to harvest resources in deeper waters. The Maharashtra participants said diesel subsidy was scrapped in Maharashtra after the IX Plan, but it was revived as a result of a struggle of fishermen. It was also proposed to consider kerosene subsidies to smaller fishing vessels, however, no quota restriction was proposed. Kerosene subsidy should be extended for the survival of the traditional fishing community in India, however, it should not contribute to overcapacity at any level, and it was observed.
- Considering that the Workshop proposed to cap fishing fleet capacity, it was asked whether or not a fuel policy should follow a fleet rationalisation policy. Fuel subsidy, for example, can be used as an incentive for capacity and effort reduction or for diversification of fishing pressure from overexploited fish resources to under-exploited ones. Diesel subsidies, for example, can be extended to vessels diversifying from the inshore to the offshore waters. However, to ensure that fishing was indeed taking place in designated fishing grounds in deeper waters, fishing vessels should be required to subscribe to a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to reveal their position while fishing in exchange for fuel subsidies. It was suggested that a fuel policy should become a subset of a coherent national fisheries policy. It was pointed out that if a vessel is diversifying into the deep sea, it should have the right to obtain more than 10,000 litres of diesel in an year.

III.7. *Is there a genuine need for further motorization?*

- Motorization of fishing vessels refers to the use of propulsion methods such as imported Outboard Motors (OBMs) and domestic long tails. In the light of excess fishing capacity, fishing pressure and conflicts in the territorial waters between different fishing units, the Workshop had serious reservation about the proposal of the Draft Policy to achieve 50 per cent motorization of the existing fleet of nearly 200,000 non-mechanized fishing vessels. The Workshop was of the view that India's western seaboard has already reached saturation in relation to motorization and that the eastern seaboard may have a potential for 25,000 long tails. There was thus no room for OBMs, it was argued.

III.8 *resolving inter-and intra-gear conflicts*

- The proposal in the draft policy to create an exclusive zone for non-mechanized fishing units was discussed. It is difficult to distinguish non-mechanized fishing vessels from fishing vessels with outboard motors since the same fishing communities use both categories of fishing vessels, it was observed. Moreover, they do not have conflicts among themselves unlike their conflicts with trawlers.

- It was, however, pointed out that there are conflicts between motorized and non-mechanized fishing vessels in West Bengal and Tamilnadu and among motorized fishing units in Kerala. It is important to provide exclusive protection for non-mechanized fishing units in West Bengal, it was argued. Unlike motorized fishing vessels in the southern states, the motorized units of West Bengal do not go very far, hence conflicts with non-mechanized units, it was observed. In Tamilnadu, conflicts between the motorized and non-mechanized fishing units took place mainly because the motorized fishing vessels, in comparison with non-mechanized ones, carry larger quantities of gear. In Kerala, the conflicts in the traditional sub-sector are between motorized ring seines and motorizes mini trawling units.
- There is, therefore, a greater need for an exclusive zone for the non-mechanized fishing units, it was stressed. The workshop proposed flexible arrangements where the need for setting up zones for motorized/non-mechanized fishing are locally determined. In ecologically sensitive areas, however, zones for non-mechanized fishing could be extraneously set up.

III. 9 *Managing artisanal fisheries*

- Fisheries regulation/management is also important for the artisanal sector, the Workshop noted. Capacity reduction should be considered, especially in the ring seine sub-sector, particularly of Kerala where, from Kollam to Kasaragod, there are a large number of ring-seine units. This sub- sector employs 60 per cent of the fisheries labour force of Kerala, it was observed. Net-webbing alone weighs 400 kg and with weights, floats and ropes, a ring seine gear unit weighs at least one and a half tonne. Four units of 40hp engines are used in each ring seine fishing vessel. There is now a shift from outboard motors to using inboard 400 hp Leyland engines.
- There is also need to ban or restrict various harmful fishing gears like mini trawl and push nets and certain forms of monofilament nets, it was noted. New gear webbing technologies are employed to produce knotless "pressed" mesh, which cannot be repaired. Once such gear is damaged it has to be thrown away. The use of monofilament gears is now bringing a lot of by- catch. In this context, it was noted that Sri Lanka has banned monofilament nets in its waters. There should be restrictions on craft-gear-engine combinations in artisanal fisheries, it was proposed. There should be a study on the impact of different webbing material of fishing gear, especially in the artisanal sector, it was suggested.
- Even in artisanal fisheries, subsidies that enhance harvesting capacity should be stopped including assistance for acquisition of fishing craft, gear and engine, except motorization subsidies in areas with low levels of motorization, it was proposed.
- Co-management, or government working in partnership with fisheries stakeholders for managing fisheries, was discussed. The Workshop accepted the concept of co-management in principle. Unless there is statutory authority, co-management cannot work, it was pointed out. Some participants said it should be more a community-based management than co-management and that the role of government should mainly be that of a facilitator, undertaking enforcement functions in local-level fisheries management issues only under exceptional circumstances. The Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA) could have become a powerful management body had it been set up to function as per the guidelines of the Supreme Court, it was pointed out. Similarly, the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in Jambudwip, West Bengal, could also have collaborated with the fishing community in finding lasting solution to protect the mangrove vegetation of Jambudwip. Although the Supreme Court had set up both the CZMA and CEC within a co-management framework, the affected people in practice had experienced considerable harassment because of the non-consultative functioning of these bodies, it was pointed out.

III.10 Wage system Vs. Share system for fisheries management

While considering fisheries management options, would a wage system, or a share system, be more conducive for fisheries management? In a wage system there is *Share system and implications*, pressure on the owner to operate the fishing vessels in lean times, whereas in a share system there is possibility of reducing the number of trips, and the fleet size, it was observed. A wage system also leads to low payment and abuse of workers. It also leads to overcapacity, unlike a share system. Under a wage system, labour that is absorbed in the sector is more than what the sector can actually accommodate.

It was suggested that the marine fisheries policy of India should favour only a share system, not wage system, since the former is more conducive to fisheries management initiatives than the latter. An alternative scenario was also pointed out, viz., the ring seine sub-sector of Kerala, where irrespective of having a share system; the fishery is urgently in need of management. Rather than seeing share system versus wage system, shouldn't the main concern be to ensure the welfare of fishworkers and healthy status of fisheries resources, it was asked.

IV. Should fisheries be on the Concurrent List?

Considering that fishing vessels and fishers are now moving between territorial waters and beyond, it was asked if inclusion of fisheries in the Concurrent List of the Indian Constitution, whereby the State and the Union governments would take joint responsibility for fisheries, would make better sense. It was also noted that a fishing conflict cannot be resolved by a State if it does not have jurisdiction over the sea where the conflict actually happens, and these days such conflicts between vessels below 20 m OAL and registered under State fisheries departments are taking place in waters beyond the territorial sea.

Moreover, the States are bankrupt and the Centre is relatively better off to meet the costs of introducing and sustaining fisheries management measures. It was brought to the attention of the Workshop that Forests were moved from the State List to the Concurrent List in 1976. Also, trade unions, social security, welfare of labour, including conditions of work, are in the Concurrent List. The Workshop welcomed the idea and said moving fisheries into the Concurrent List *prima facie* looked good, that the implications of such a move should be well understood.

Before it is proposed, citing the Maharashtra incidents of bag net conflicts outside the 12-nautical mile limit with bottom trawlers, it was commented that joint responsibility under the State and the Centre should be good for fisheries. Also, during monsoon ban on trawling, the trawlers registered and licensed by the state government authorities, undertake fishing operations outside the 12-mile limit, across the country, it was observed. The Workshop decided to follow up on this issue especially to clarify the responsibilities of both the State and the Centre under a Concurrent List regime.

V. Welfare of fishworkers

V.1 Socio-economic security of fishworkers

Should the national marine fisheries policy mainly ensure the "socio-economic security" of "artisanal fishermen" entirely dependent on fishing for their livelihood, or should it be concerned about ensuring socio-economic security of all fishworkers, both artisanal and mechanized, and the socio-economic development of all coastal fishing communities, it was asked.

The other importance issues to be considered while developing fisheries legislation include the need to address the unorganized nature of the fisheries sector, especially the need for government support in the form of guaranteed employment for at least 100 days to the workers in the fisheries sector, and the need to highlight the right to adequate food and national food security, including that of the fishing and coastal communities. In this context, attention was drawn to ongoing intergovernmental process at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to develop the 'Voluntary Guidelines

to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security'.

V.2 Eligibility for fisheries and community welfare measures

There was animated discussion on who should actually be eligible for welfare measures meant for fishers. Should fishing caste-based owner-non-operators be treated on par with fishworkers, defined as men and women dependent on fisheries for a livelihood, including those who catch or vend fish head-load or cycle-load, mend or make nets, process fish, including drying and curing. The definition, however, would exclude categories of workers such as carpenters, drivers, and icemakers catering to the fisheries sector.

When it comes to investing in fishing units preferential treatment could be extended to those who come from the fishing community, irrespective of their economic status, but not with regard to welfare benefits, which should go only to those who do not have any fishing assets or who have only rudimentary fishing equipment, it was suggested. An owner and his family from fishing castes, however, could benefit from general programmes for economically and socially backward communities, but not from specific programmes meant for economically backward fishers and fishworkers, it was further suggested.

V.3 Parity of fisheries with agriculture

The draft fishing policy proposes to treat full time/occasional fishermen whose household does not own a boat on par with landless labourers. It was pointed out that an average trawler worker, even if he does not own a fishing vessel, would be better off than the owner of a *teppa*. Using the rationale of the Draft Policy, a *teppa* owner will not get the benefits that accrue to a trawler worker even if the former is poorer than the latter. It was proposed that owners of mechanized fishing vessels should be excluded from the saving-cum-relief scheme where only fishermen who do not own a boat should benefit from such a scheme.

V.4 Social security measures for fishworkers

Providing social security benefits to fishers and fishworkers was discussed. In this context, attention was drawn to extending the provisions of the 1952 ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention (No. 102) to the fisheries sector. The nine principal branches of social security, according to this Convention are: medical care, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, old-age benefit, employment injury benefit, family benefit, maternity benefit, invalidity benefit and survivors benefit. Some of these branches of social security are offered to the fisheries sector in India.

Medical care benefit has been introduced, which also covers fisher's families. The government will make a contribution of Rs. 100 per person below poverty line. There is also a life insurance scheme that extends to the fishing communities. Health Insurance in Karnataka also covers open-heart surgeries at a premium of Rs. 60 (*Yasaswini Yojana*) for members of fishermen's co-operative societies. Kerala, Tamilnadu and Maharashtra provide old age benefit (Rs. 175 per month for any old person below poverty line in Maharashtra). Maharashtra also provides maternity benefit, up to two pregnancies, for women below the poverty line. Under *Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana*, Maharashtra further extends destitute benefit to fishing communities. West Bengal has an exclusive old age pension for fishermen and women for Rs. 300. Karnataka fishermen's cooperatives also have a scheme to assist members during monsoon closure of their fisheries.

It was proposed that both the State and the Centre should ensure that fishworkers receive social security benefits under the ILO Convention 102. The provident fund scheme for the un-organized sector should also extend coverage to all fishers. It was further proposed that saving-cum-relief schemes should also be extended to women who are involved in post-harvest activities. It was demanded that the government's contribution should be doubled. For every share of worker, the government should contribute two shares. It was also proposed that co-operatives, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local self-

governments (LSGs), etc may be treated as nodal agencies for implementing welfare schemes to ensure maximum coverage.

V. 5 *Conditions of work and welfare of women in the post-harvest sector*

Under post-harvest operations, conditions of women were discussed. It was proposed that women in processing and pre-processing sub-sectors, both domicile and migrant, should have a minimum wage and medical assistance, as well as protection of their rights. In addition to other benefits migrant women workers should be provided with decent and safe accommodation. It was also proposed that there should be effective implementation of the inter-state migration act.

V.6 *Housing of fishers*

Regarding housing schemes for fishermen, it was proposed that the beneficiaries should be prioritized. It was further proposed that the government need not build houses, and that it could request other agencies to undertake such projects in a more decentralized fashion.

The Workshop proposed that there should be changes to the Coastal Regulation Zone notification to accommodate housing facilities in fishing villages.

VI. Regional arrangements for fisheries management and fishers' welfare

A sub-regional agreement—possibly, at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) level— for fisheries management and to address trans-border movement of fishers and fishing vessels should be entered into, it was proposed. The recent Association for Release of Innocent Fishermen (ARJF) experience about how a human rights initiative became a resource management initiative between India and Sri Lanka in the Palk Bay, and how the small fishermen of Sri Lanka taught a big lesson to the Rameswaram fishermen, was shared.

VII. Fisheries co-operatives

The discussion on promotion of co-operatives highlighted several points. It was observed that genuine member-controlled co-operatives in the fishing sector are very few and that they exist mainly in northern Maharashtra and Karnataka. Co-operatives as they exist are mainly quasi-government organizations controlled by politicians and government officials. They function mainly as delivery mechanisms for government financial assistance to the sector. Genuine member-based co-operatives are discriminated against, it was alleged. In the artisanal sector, except for SIFFS, there are no genuine co-operatives, it was argued.

It was proposed that the existing co-operatives act should be amended to allow genuine member controlled fishermen's co-operatives to function without unnecessary outside intervention where the scope of co-operative is redefined to include not only marketing and supply of inputs but also fisheries management programmes. Importance of plurality should be recognized in the co-operative act, it was pointed out.

VIII. Sea safety measures

With reference to sea safety and early weather warnings, it was proposed that sea safety measures should be incorporated, at the state level, into the MFRA.

IX. Infrastructure

It was proposed that fishers' associations should manage infrastructure facilities like fish landing centres and minor fishing harbours. It was also proposed that fishing harbours and fish landing centres should be used as a tool for improved fleet management and quality control. Dredging costs associated with fish landing centres and harbours should be met by the State, it was proposed.

X. Health and hygiene standards in fishing harbours and markets

The importance of promoting health and hygiene in fish markets was recognized. Packaging and bar coding should not displace small vendors from participating in fish trade, it was cautioned. Fish quality should be improved as a process. Regulations to improve hygiene standards should first be

implemented in harbours and landing centres. Coastal panchayats should be involved in keeping beaches clean of debris and filth. Use of ammonia to preserve fish should be curbed. There should be provision made for toilets in market places, raised platform for keeping fish, and safe water in adequate quantity and quality to help improve health and hygiene standards.

There should be training and support to women to improve quality of fish sold. Coastal pollution from chemical waste is a major matter of concern. It was suggested that movements similar to organic agriculture should be developed in fisheries, especially to sell 'safe fish', based on self-regulation and independent standards acceptable to consumers worldwide. Women should also experience the dignity of undertaking their own initiatives for improving the quality of fish, it was suggested.

XI. Seafood trade and human development

It was proposed that a cess on seafood exports should be imposed to improve drinking water, sanitation, and education facilities in most backward fishing villages of India.

XII. Who should fish?

The main recommendations of an informal meeting among the NFF participants on 15 July 2004, after the Workshop hours, were presented. They were: (i) the Mandal Commission recommendation for separate constituencies and scheduled caste/scheduled tribe benefits to the fisher people should be upheld; (ii) fishworkers from non-fishing castes should be allowed to work in the mechanized sector only if they have an insurance coverage; (iii) granting fuel subsidy should be subject to the particular fishery in question not having overcapacity; (iv) mechanized fishing vessels should prove that they have indeed gone for deep sea fishing to avail subsidy benefits for deep sea fishing; and (v) training for safety should be made mandatory for all fishworkers.

The above report sparked a debate on the issue, viz., who should fish or own fishing vessels, which was not discussed in the draft marine fishing policy. There was some concern about the reference to the Mandal Commission report since it was mainly focusing on different castes, but not deliberating on fisheries policies. The fear of some fishermen from fishing castes is that their children may not be able to obtain a license if only active fishermen are allowed to participate in fishing. The caste factor becomes important in the light of the Mandal Commission recommendation to include fisher people under scheduled tribe/scheduled caste and to establish their constituencies.

It was commented that one should not mix up the action programme of a caste organization with that of a trade union. It was proposed that members of a fishing caste whose main source of income is from fishing operations should be given preferential treatment while deciding who should fish.

Within this category greater preference should be given to those who actually fish. The third priority should go to actual fishers and fishworkers from non-fishing castes who actually work at sea.

Drawing attention to non-fishing castes actively engaging in fishing for the past 40 years in Tamilnadu, it was suggested that the first preference to engage in fishing should go to owner-operators and workers from fishing castes, the second preference to owner-operators and workers from non-fishing castes, and third preference to members of a fishing castes whose main source of income is from fishing, irrespective of whether or not he or she actually engages in fishing. The Workshop accepted the new ordering of categories. These categories are subject to only those using vessels below 20 m OAL.

XIII. Conclusion

Several proposals in the draft fishing policy could not be discussed because of time constraint. More clarity and discussion are required before a coherent national fisheries policy can be developed. It was proposed that the Draft Marine Fishing Policy should be further discussed before finalizing it with other stakeholders, including scientists and government officials. The Workshop recommended to the Minister

of Agriculture to hold a meeting to further discuss the fisheries policy and to make it a comprehensive document, especially to cover marine and inland fisheries and coastal and inland aquaculture.

In the evaluation of the Workshop it was noted that it was for the first time that NFF is reviewing a central government policy before its legislation and implementation. The participants found the Workshop informative and useful. There is need for a more in-depth discussion on CRZ, especially about representation of fishers in the national body and the role of panchayats in the implementation of CRZ notification. It was regretted that there was not sufficient discussion on environmental issues mentioned in the Draft Policy. It was proposed that the coastal members of parliament should be mobilised for the implementation of the national fisheries policy once it is ready. SIFFS and ICSF were thanked for organizing the Workshop. It was suggested by several participants that there should be Workshops of this sort in future for better understanding of issues.

APPENDIX

History of the Marine Fishing Regulation Act of India

The genesis of the MFRA and the problems faced in its implementation were explained. In 1976 a big fight broke out between the *kattumaram* fishermen and trawlers in Tuticorin. 16 fishermen were killed and many trawlers and *kattumarams* were set ablaze. This incident led to the appointment of a Committee under Majumdar, who was the then Fisheries Commissioner of Maharashtra. It was a high-powered committee to study the conflict and to bring about law and order in the sea. Several Secretaries connected with fisheries were members of this Committee.

In 1978, through Jyotirmoy Basu, Member of Parliament belonging to the Communist Party of India (CPI), a bill for fisheries was introduced in the Lok Sabha before the Majumdar Committee Report was submitted. Morarji Desai, the then Prime Minister of India, intervened in the debate on the Bill and said his government would present another model bill, which would be legislated as an act of the parliament. The new model bill, based on the Majumdar Committee Report, was later presented. Indira Gandhi was the opposition leader at that time and she said she would also support the bill. Since fishing and fisheries straddled the territorial waters and EEZ the subject should be negotiated and legislated by the Parliament recommended the Majumdar Committee.

Subsequently, the Morarji Desai government fell and Indira Gandhi came to power. Instead of presenting the bill in the Parliament, Indira Gandhi asked the State legislatures to enact the MFRA. Goa was the first state to do so and under MFRA it prohibited trawling up to 3km from the shoreline. The Act was challenged in Goa and it went up to the Supreme Court.

Kerala enacted MFRA in December 1980 and it was the second state to do so. In May 1981 Kerala banned monsoon trawling and purse-seining, but the ban was soon lifted. The NFF went on a longstanding agitation. Six commissions were appointed, one after the other, because of the agitation. The first was the Committee under the chairmanship of Babu Paul. Although the Babu Paul Committee was divided on the question of monsoon trawl ban, it made 16 unanimous recommendations including a ban on purse seine fishing.

In 1982 purse-seining was banned in Kerala as per the above recommendations and the ban was challenged in the Kerala High Court and the Supreme Court of India. In 1987, at the recommendation of the Balakrishnan Nair Committee, monsoon trawling was banned again in Kerala. The boat owners went to the High Court and then to the Supreme Court. Litigation went on until 1993 when the Supreme Court upheld the ban. In Tamilnadu also the boat owners association challenged the act when it was introduced but the Supreme Court upheld it. The NFF has been demanding seasonal ban on trawling since 1978. Today uniform trawl ban is being implemented all over India and it is the result of an NFF struggle it was observed. The main objectives of MFRA, viz., conservation of fisheries resources and protection of fishers on board traditional fishing vessels were acclaimed at a recent meeting of the FAO.

NFF WOMEN MAGNA CARTA

We the women representing the fisher women from all over India assembled in Mangalore on 13 and 14 July, 2003 to reflect and plan our role as women in the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) and in India today. We, 21 women from different coastal states together with N.D.Koli (our General Secretary), Thomas Kocherry (our permanent co-traveller) and Basudev Bolur (Karnataka General Secretary) take pride in presenting our reflections to the General Body of the NFF and to every fisher woman for consideration and appropriate decisions for furthering our cause. The meeting was inaugurated by MS. Manorama Madhavraj in the presence of Loknath Bolur, acting President of Karnataka Fisher Peoples Union.

OUR REALISATION

- We realise that catches are going down in every fishing gear, though the total catch is on the increase due to over fishing, and increasing fishing pressure.
- The traditional and artisanal fishing communities' debt is on the increase and our poverty is on the increase.
- We also realise that there is over capacity in the fisheries as a whole and this is not effectively addressed by the government and the fisher people.
- Together with it, destructive fishing by Joint Venture Vessels, Factory trawlers, bottom trawlers, mini trawlers, Purse Seiners, Ring Seiners, etc. is going on without any check because we do not have fishing regulation legislation in the entire EEZ.
- We also realise that sea and water bodies have become the dumping grounds for wastes like plastics, sewage waste, toxic waste, industrial waste, waste through drilling etc.
- We see that the water bodies are further polluted through intensive aquaculture and destruction of mangroves. Catching of mother prawns, and seedlings through mosquito nets further deplete fish resources.
- As a result of all this we get less and less fish in the entire coast and we the fish vending women get less and less fish for sale.
- As a result of Mechanisation, through central fish landing we the fish vendors have to travel far and wide, and this is affecting our family life as well.
- Once the fish reaches shore, we have no control over it, though we take all the risks in bringing the fish to the shore, it is taken over by the Merchants and Moneylenders, wherever there are no proper functioning of Co-operatives.
- Once we reach fish markets, again it is controlled by the merchants, moneylenders and their 'goondas'.
- Though in some places we are unloading and loading fish from the fishing vessels and transports, we get fewer wages compared to male workers.
- We realise that we are being displaced from islands and Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ), in the name of protecting forests, from coasts in the name of Development, tourism, sand mining etc, and from water bodies in the name of exploring oils.

- We severely suffer from lack of public transport system to supply cheap protein for the masses and in many places we have to walk more than 10 kilometres with head loads of fish to reach the markets.
- Due to high pollution of water bodies we cannot carry on our collection of oysters, mussels, shells, because our skins get affected.
- Generally we do not have proper facilities in fish markets. In most of the fish markets in the country there is no basic facility like drinking water, toilets, protection from rain and sun.
- In fish landing centres where we work in very large numbers - particularly in the dry fish industry where the women workers quite often need to stay on overnight - our working condition is extremely precarious. There is no toilet facility, no secured place to rest or keep the children accompanying us.
- We condemn all forms of exorbitant taxes thrust upon us by the ruling class. We not only do pay taxes, but also we have to face the goondas and their ill treatment. We have no protection against their harassment.
- Our debts are increasing. Our responsibilities are on the increase too. We face a lot of tensions at home as a result of instability in our economy. We have no insurance. We cannot settle our girls in marriage and dowry is on the increase. All these lead to our men becoming alcoholics. This in turn lead to domestic violence. We are condemned as nobodies and lose self-respect and self-dignity.
- Large number of our young girls are forced to migrate to other states looking for jobs and survival. They are employed through contract agents and they are exploited from beginning to end without proper payments, safe stay and good working conditions.
- We face male domination in Temples, Mosques and Churches.
- We also find male domination in politics as well.
- In the midst of all these, we women find ourselves getting our power weakened day by day in economic, social, and political arenas.

CONCERNING WOMEN LEADERSHIP AS WE SEE IN THE NFF

- We are very happy to see that the NFF has been very serious about women's participation in the organization. Though we are not up to the mark we have to continue our struggle to see that women take active role along with men.
- We are very happy with women's participation in all our struggles through out India. It is because of our struggling together that we still survive as communities.
- Coming from different states we realise that we have more convergence than divergence. Thus we experience more unity and solidarity during these two days we spent here together.
- We generally felt that we women do not assert any leadership anywhere in our organization except in fisher women's co-operatives, Mahila Samajams, and Self-Help Groups.
- It is a fact that fisher women do not play any role of leadership in public life.
- Fisher women do not have access to professional courses, technical education, fisheries schools, and fisheries universities.
- In fisher people's co-operatives, unions and associations women are there only as symbolic representation.

- It is heartening to see that in some places women have taken leadership in stopping child marriages, child labour, alcoholism and created schools for children.
- We also have contested in many panchayats and municipalities and represent women. But in many places it is still a long way to go.
- Leaders like Suja Abraham are emerging to show the way out.

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

- In order to achieve financial stability and security we are committed to implement the following schemes after having communicated the same and make adjustments in each coastal states according to the political situation and support available from the ruling class:
 1. New Swarnima for both urban and rural women through Self-Help Groups (SHG).
 2. Saving Cum Relief scheme for men and women including in the marine and inland sector.
 3. Chaithanya soft loan Scheme.
 4. Gangakalyana Scheme.
 5. Arivu scheme
 6. Assistance to fish marketing,
 7. Mathsya Vahini,
- We are committed to protect CRZ so that we may protect our traditional and customary right over the same including islands.
- We are committed to bring about fishing regulation in the entire EEZ so that we may conserve fish resources and the traditional fishing communities all over India.
- We are committed to bring about constructions of fish markets in the line of MADGOA fish market.
- We are determined to bring about provision of toilets, retiring rooms/dormitories and creches in all fish landing centres and khoties where women workers need to stay for long hours and overnight.
- We are committed to see that all the NFF 42 demands are met.
- We are committed to organise fisher women's co-operatives all over India. •
- We are committed to organise women all over India so that we will bring about changes in all the committees from the local, taluka level, district level, state level and national level attaining 50:50 men and women.
- We are committed to bring about 33% women's reservation in Assembly and Parliament segments.
- We are committed to bring about local bodies, assembly and Parliament reservation for fisher people and fisher people to be included in the SC/ST, as recommended by the Mandal Commission.
- Together with men, we are committed to establish representation of women elected at Panchayat level, Municipal level, State level and National level.

- We are committed to bring about changes in education so that our women are on the forefront beginning with nurseries, SSLC, professional courses as well. Each women co-operative and Union is committed to this.
- Full time women activists should be appointed by the co-operatives and the Unions to see that the above proposals are made into a reality.
- We are committed to make our sea and coast clean and free from pollution.
- We are committed to make an educational and marriage funds in every state so that some help can be provided to those who need it badly.
- We are committed to fight against Globalisation and WTO. We continue our struggle to attain that the COMMUNITIES THAT DEPEND ON NATURAL RESOURCES - LAND WATER AND FOREST FOR LIVELIHOOD, SHOULD OWN AND MANAGE THESE NATURAL RESOURCES THIS RIGHT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY A LEGISLATIVE CHANGE SO THAT WE ARREST PRIVATIZING THE NATURAL RESOURCES

Laxmi B. Vaity
Purnima Meher
Philomin Mary
Seethamma G. Seevarna
Meena
Vidyavathi C. Kutra
Shambhavi Bolar

Shakuntala Shitalakar
Mariamma Antony
Revathy K. Puthra
Geetha Vishukum
Annammal
Radha Suverla
Rita Noronha

Ranjana Meher
Sunanda Bdoor
Maglin Peter
Jiji Antony
Jogamm Soma Shekar
Pushpa Kaup

With best complimentsfrom:

Narendra Patil, Chairperson
Subhash Tare, Vice Chairperson
Ravindra Matre, Managing Director
and Board of Directors

**The Satpati Fishermen's Sahakari Society Ltd.,
At and P.O.- Satpati, Taluka-Palghar, Dt-Thane'
Mumbai-401405. India.Phone-02525 224028**

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM:

Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Managing Director and Board of Directors,
Gorai Machimar Sahakari Society Ltd.,
Gorai Koliwada, Borivali(W), Mumbai Via. India.Phone-022 28452716

NFF LEADERS LIST

1. Gujarat

NFF GUJARAT BRANCH

Premjibhai Khokhari
Gujarat, NFF, Bunder Road Porbunder,
Gujarat - 360575
Tel: 0286-246153 (0), 246835 (R)
Fax:0286 - 2240477

Chandrashekhar Sagar
President
Kinara Bachao Sangarsh Samiti
B/61 Alaknanda, S.N. Dube Road
Rawalpanda, Dalisar (E)
Mumbai - 400003, Tel: 022 - 8973613

Pappoobhai
Kinara Bachao Sangarsh Samiti
Near Machi Mandir Temple Umbergaon
Town, Valsad - Dt. Gujarat. Tel:
0260-564415

2. Maharashtra

N.D.Koli
General Secretary, NFF
13/2, Pitrusmruti, 239, Lady Jamshedji
Road
Mahim (Shivaji Park), Mumbai-400016,
Maharashtra
Tel: 022 - 4363398
Fax : 022 - 4324729
E-mail:flametech@ vsnl.net

Maharastra Machimar Kriti Samiti
Rambhau Patil
At-Wadrai, K.Mahim - P.O.
Via-Palghar, Thane Dt., Maharashtra.
Tel: 0252520133

Ramesh Dhuri
At - Dhuriwada
PO.+ Tal: Malwan, Sindhudurg-Dt.
Maharashtra-416605
Tel:02365 252250 and 252657

Noel P.D'Souza
**Gorai Machimar Sahakari Sanstha
Ltd.**
Gorai P.O., Via-Borevali, Mumbai
Tel: 022-8691351, 344956
mobile-989217090

Mr.Narendra Patil

At/P.O. - Satpati
Tal - Palghar, Dist - Thane
Maharashtra-401405
025 25 224111 (R)224028(0), Mobile:
9422669050

Pournima Meher
At - vadarai P.O., Mahim
Tal - Palghar, Dt. Thane, Maharashtra
Tel: 02525-20406 (R) 02525- 256093

Moreshwar V. Vaity
At Post Arnala, Taluk- Vasai, Dt-Thane
Maharastra-401302, Tel: 0250 2587353

Amjad Borkar,
At-Sakharinate, Tal-Rajpur,
Dt.-Retnagiri, Maharastra-415806,
Tel: 02353 25253 Cell: 9822101422

Mariamamma Antony fmm,
St.Thomas Church Compound,
P.O. Vasai, Sandor, Thane Dt.,
Mumbai-401201
Tel: 0912 326911

3. Goa

Matanhy Saldanha
General Secretary
All Goa Fishermen's Union
Bella Mater Building
St.Inez, Panjim - 403001
Tel: 0832 222273
Email: m_saldanha@pmail.net

Agnel Rodrigues
President
All Goa Fishermen's Union
Rampon Kar Anch-Ekvott. Praia-Velsao,
Cansaulim P.O.Goa.

Xavier Pinto,
CBCI Center, 1 Ashoka Place,
Goldakkhana,
New Delhi-110001
Cell:9820700123
Email: stellamarisindia@vahoo.com

4. Karnataka

Pramod Madhawraj
President

D.K.Mogaveera Mahajana Sangha
Thenkabettu P.O. Udipi Dt., Karnataka-576142
Tel:0820 524550, 525370, 538248 Mobile -
9845243833
Fax: 22380(PP).

Basudev Bolor
GeneralSecretary
Akhila Karnataka Fishermen Parishad
Bolor, Mangalore-575003.
Tel: 0824 457810

5. Kerala

T.Peter
President, **KSMTF**,
Udayam, Valiya Veli - P.O.
Thiruvananthapuram - 695021 Kerala
Tel: 0471-415239(R), 2505216 (O)
Cell-9447429243
Email: admin@alokal.nfit
Web: www.keralafishworkers.org

P.P.John
General Secretary, **KSMTF**
Puthenpurayil, Parumala P.O.,Pathanamthitta -
Dt., Kerala -
Tel: 0479 2313426 (R) Cell: 9847050197

Jiji Antony, KSMTF
Pullammashery House, Kannamaly P.O.
Cochi - 682008.,Kerala. Tel: 0484 - 247317

Philomin Mary
Thomas Kocherry
NFF, Velankanny Junction,
Valiathura- P.O., Trivandrum-695008
Tel/Fax: (910 471 2501 376,
Tel-2505 216.
Mobile: 944705 2376
email: nff@vsnl.com, fishers@eth.net
thomaskocherrv@rediffmail.com

6. Tamil Nadu

A.Paulswamy
President, Ramnad District Fishworkers Union
Bharathi Nagar, Matakulam P.O.
Keelakarai - Via, Ramnad Dt.Tamilnadu
Tel: 045673 311222 (0)

S. Karuppuswamy
General Secretary
Ramnad District Fishworkers Union
Francis Nagar, Pamban, Ramnad Dt.
Tamilnadu. Tel: 0456730856 (0), 31122 (R)

T. Peterdas
President, TFU
Tamilnadu Fishworkers Union
13/2,Kesari Street, 69, Johnson Lane
Nagercoil-629001
Tel: 04652 278188 Cell: 9443366133

Vincent Jain
Deepsea Going Artisanal Fishermen's Union
Divine Complex, College Road Thoothoor
P.O., K.K. Dt., Tamilnadu - 629176
Tel: 04651, 246107 Fax: 04651 64975

Ossie Fernandes,
Jesureitnam
No. 10, St.Thomas Nagar, Little Mount
Saidapat, Chennai - 600015
Tel: 044 2353503 Fax: 044 2355905

R.Nazee Banu,
Ramnadu District Fishworkers Union, 1/560
Bharathi Nagar, Omsakthi Nagar,
Collectorate-P.O., Ramnadu, Tamilnadu
Tel:04567 230856, Cell-984242719

Arulanandam S. CSSR
Ligouri Bhawan, 8 John Armstrong Road,
Bangalore-560084 Cell: 9448042704
Email: arulanandams@vsnl.net

B. Subramannian,
Tamilnadu Fishers' Forum, 104
Nochikuppam,
Mylappore, Chennai-600004 Tel; 044
24981287

R.Meena,
Treasurer, RFTU, 43Dharga Valasai,
Kachpulli-P.o, Ramnad-Dt.,
Tamilnadu. Tel: 04567 229072

N.Muniyandi,
1/1817 Sakthinagar,
Collectorate-P.O., Ramnad, Tamilnadu
Tel: 04567 230856 and 230844
Email: trrm_rmd@rediffmail.com

7. Andhra Pradesh

P.Lakshmiha
President
Samdratheera Matsyakarmikula Union
Kathapattinam Pallipalam
Kathapatanam Mandala, Prakasham Dt.
Ongole
Andhra Pradesh Tel: 08592 27506

Srinivasalu
Secretary
Samudratheera Matsyakarmikula Union
Railwaypet, Old R.T.O.Office
Ongole - 523001, A.P.
Tel: 08592 27506 (O), 54056 (R)
SNIRD - 08592 32008 (O) 34173(R)

T.K.Rehiman, C/o Appal Reddy
President, Trawler Workers Union
Thathayya, 2-11-10 Reddy Colony
Near AppuGhar, Visakapattinam
A.P.-530617

Thomas Henry
54-1-51 c Railpet Prakasham Dt.,
Ongole - 523001. Tel: 08592 28049
Email: thomashenry in @vahoo.co.in

8. West Bengal

Harekrishna Debnath
Rina Das Ray
1073 A.G.Colony, P.O.Manuktala
24 Parganas (N) Dt, West Bengal-743263
Tel/Fax-03216 221769 Mobile:
9818473930
Email: nffcal3@vsnl.com

Ratna Majhi
Dilip Das
Nitai Jena, Chndberia , Contai-P.O.,
West Bengal-721401 Tel:03220 256598

Tejendralal Das
Dry Fishermen's Association,
Kakkdwip, West Bengal. Tel:03210
256582

9.Orissa

K.AIaya
P.O. Arjia Paali, Via-Chatrapur, Ganjam
Dt.,
Orissa-761020. Tel:06811 264314
Email: otfwu@hotmail.com

B. Bulidei,
Viil+ P.O. Arkhakuda,
Via-Brahmagiri, Dt.-Puri, Orissa.

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