

WORKSHOP ON DEPREDAATION IN THE TUNA LONGLINE FISHERIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF), Japan and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), in collaboration with the Seychelles Fishing Authority organized a Workshop on "Depredation in the tuna longline fisheries in the Indian Ocean" on 9th and 10th July 2007 in Seychelles. The objective of the workshop was to review the situation of depredation and estimate real loss of catch due to depredation and discuss mitigation methods devised by different companies. The workshop was endorsed by the 9th Session of the Scientific Committee in order to discuss the results of the five year predation surveys undertaken by the member countries of the IOTC during 2000-01 to 2004-05 and other relevant topics. During the Workshop, participants from countries in the Indian Ocean region presented country reports describing the situation of depredation problems based on the results of the surveys undertaken by them. Representing India, Dr (Mrs) S. Varghese, Fisheries Scientist and Sijo P. Varghese, Scientific Assistant participated in the Workshop. Dr (Mrs) S. Varghese was nominated as Rapporteur for the workshop. Dr. (Mrs) S.Varghese presented India's National Paper titled *Depredation in the Tuna long line Fishery of the Indian waters authored by S.Varghese, Sijo Varghese and V.S.Somvanshi*. Depredation data collected by the Scientists onboard tuna longline survey vessels of the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) during the period from 2001-05 was analysed and presented the results. National reports were presented by IOTC, Australia, India, Japan, Kenya, Seychelles, South Africa, Soviet Union, Spain, UK, Sri Lanka, Univ. of Alaska, Shanghai Fish.Univ., and IRD, France. After the presentation of National Reports, extensive discussions on ways and means to improve statistics on depredation data was held and the solutions were suggested. On 10th July, second day of the workshop, discussions and oral and video presentations were made on mitigation devices like protective net, observation of sperm whales near long line fishing vessels in the Gulf of Alaska and recommended deterrents to avoid depredation and Southeast Alaska Sperm Whale Avoidance Project (SEAWAP). Improvement of catch statistics, mitigation, and relation with marine ecology also were discussed during which, Dr. Nishida, NRIFSF, Japan made a review of the catch statistics and the mitigation devices and acoustic approach.

FSI SCIENTISTS PARTICIPATES IN THE IOTC WORKING PARTY MEETINGS

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) convened the meetings of the Working Party on Ecosystem and Bycatch, and on Methods and Working Party on Tropical Tunas were also held from 11th to 20th of July, 2007 at the International Convention Center, Victoria, Seychelles. Representing India, Dr. (Mrs.) S. Varghese, Fisheries Scientist and Shri Sijo P. Varghese, Scientific Assistant participated in the Working Party on Ecosystem and Bycatch while Shri P. Sivaraj, Zonal Director, Chennai Base of FSI participated in the Working Party on Tropical Tunas. Participants from ten Member countries participated in the 3rd Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB), (formerly Working Party on Bycatch) which was opened by the caretaker Chairperson Mr. Kevin McLaughlin. The Working Party discussed various issues related to collection and reporting of the data on bycatch. Review of bycatch data collection by the countries was also presented by the Secretariat which showed that there is no uniformity in the data holdings in the IOTC database. National papers on bycatch species were then presented by the respective participants. Dr. (Mrs.) S. Varghese presented India's National paper titled "Bycatch of sharks and incidental catches of sea turtles in the long line fishery of Indian waters as observed during the tuna resources survey (IOTC-2007-WPEB-13-rev1). The main issues before the WPEB were to review action plan for reduction of shark bycatch in tuna fisheries, and review data on fin to body weight of sharks as per Resolution 05/05, and advice on interaction between sharks and tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean. The WPEB strongly recommended that shark research should be a priority area for national research bodies. The WPEB noted that tunas and sharks have been increasingly fished since 1950s and are showing world wide decline reaching 1/3rd of original biomass. The WPEB also requested the IOTC to develop guidelines on shark identification and data collection and to encourage more research on population and demographic structure of shark population involved in the IOTC managed fisheries as well as mitigation measures such as ecologically friendly fishing gears (circle hooks, shark scaring bait and other shark scaring devices). The WPEB took note of the work being undertaken to study the efficacy of circle hooks in reducing the mortality of sea turtles.

The ninth meeting of the Working Party Tropical Tunas (WPTT) was opened on 16 July 2007 in Victoria, Seychelles, by the Chairperson Dr. Lago Mosqueira. The Working Party reviewed the statistical data for the tropical tunas including Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye tuna and discussed on various topics including Nominal catch, catch and effort, size data, estimation of catches of non-reporting fleets. Shri P. Sivaraj, Zonal Director, participating in the Working Party meeting, presented a paper on "Indices of yellowfin and skipjack tunas caught by long lining in north-eastern Arabian Sea and Andaman & Nicobar waters" (IOTC-2007-WPTT-30) authored by V.S.Somvanshi and S.Varghese. The other participants also made presentations on various topics related to tropical tunas in the Indian EEZ. The Working Party made updated assessment of the stocks of YFT, SKJ and BET. Other topics like tuna tagging activities in the Indian Ocean, tuna atlas to be produced, and the report on fishing capacity workshop were also discussed in the meeting.

FSI PARTICIPATES IN THE MARINE FISHERIES EXHIBITION

The Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai participated in the "Marine Fisheries Exhibition" organized by the NES Science College, Nanded, Maharashtra during 27th – 29th September, 2007. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Venkatesh Kobde, President, Nanded Education Society, Science College, Nanded. The FSI displayed various charts pertaining to survey activities, including fishing methods, fishery resources as well as models of fishing gears, fishes and survey vessels. The marine fisheries exhibition was highly informative to the students and faculty of various schools, colleges and University of Nanded as well as officials from the fisheries department. Dr.V.S.Somvanshi, Director General, FSI, Mumbai also participated in the exhibition and inaugurated the Science Club of the Science College, Nanded, and made a presentation about Indian Ocean and the different resources available in the Indian EEZ.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY CHENNAI BASE

The Chennai Base of FSI organized a one day workshop on "Marine Fishery Resources of South Andhra Pradesh and Diversified Fishing Methods" at Tatichetlapalem, Nellore, of Andhra Pradesh on 28-08-2007 in collaboration

with the Department of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of local fishermen. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri B.Srinivas, Hon'ble President, Mechanised Boat owners Association and presided over by Shri D.Govindiah, Asstt. Director, Deptt. of Fisheries (Nellore) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. Shri P.Sivaraj, Zonal Director, Chennai Base of FSI, delivered the key note address and made a brief presentation on the activities of FSI. 95 fishermen representing 6 fishing villages of Bogohu (Mandalam) attended the workshop. Two technical papers were presented by the Scientists of FSI. The Workshop was concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Shri P.S.Parasuraman, Sr. Fisheries Scientist, Chennai Base.

"HINDI DAY" AND "HINDI FORTNIGHT CELEBRATIONS"

FSI (Hqs) Mumbai

The Fishery Survey of India (Hqs) observed "Hindi Day" on 14th September, 2007 and "Hindi Fortnight" from 14-09-2007 and 28-09-2007. During "Hindi Fortnight" most of the official works were carried out in Hindi. During the fortnight a two day Workshop was also organized on 25th and 26th September, 2007 to motivate and assist the staff to work in Hindi. Shri K.P.Sharma, Research Officer, Regional Implementation Office was invited to give lecture on "The importance of the Quarterly Progress Report regarding progressive use of Hindi and the correct method to fill up the information. He also gave practical training on each item of the proforma and how to maintain the records correctly. In the inter-action Session the Chief Guest answered the queries raised by the participants. Shri K.P.Sharma appreciated FSI for keeping such topic for the Hindi Workshop. During the second day of the Hindi Workshop Shri Rajendra Kumar, Dy.Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme gave lecture on Hindi noting. About twenty officials participated in the Workshop. During this occasion competitions were conducted in Hindi translation, noting and drafting, poem and dictation. A competition in hand writing was also conducted for the benefit of Group D staff. Competitions were conducted for the staff members belonging to Group A & B and C regions. The valedictory function was

held on 28-09-2007 under the chairmanship of Dr.V.S.Somvanshi, Director General, FSI. Dr.Sunita Yadav, Asstt. Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme was invited as Chief Guest for the function. During the function, competitions in Hindi poem recitation was held and many of the participants recited poem composed by them. The Chief Guest congratulated all the winners and participants of Hindi poem competition. The Chief Guest also suggested to give prizes for the staff members who do their maximum work in Hindi throughout the year. She gave away the prizes to the winners of the various competitions.

Mumbai Base

Mumbai Base of FSI observed "Hindi Day" and Hindi Fortnight from 01-09-2007 to 14-09-2007. Various competitions were conducted during this period. The valedictory function was held on 10-10-2007 under the Chairmanship of Shri K.N.V.Nair, Zonal Director. urged the staff members to work together for the progressive use of Hindi and assured to provide all necessary assistance for the implementation of Hindi. Winners of the various competitions were awarded with prizes.

Port Blair Base

The Port Blair Base of FSI celebrated Hindi fortnight from 14th to 28th September, 2007 organising competitions in elocution, debate, noting etc. In the inaugural address Shri A.Anrose, Zonal Director appealed all the staff members to do maximum official work in Hindi not only during the Fortnight but also all through the year, for achieving the target as per Official Language Policy of the Union. During the Hindi Fortnight a "Kavya Sandhya" was organized on 19-09-2007. Shri Sekhar, Chairman, Central Govt. Employees Welfare Co-ordination Committee was the Chief Guest. Dr.R.C.Srivastava, Director, CARI was the Guest of Honour. About 12 poets/poetess recited their own poem on this occasion.

The valedictory function of "Hindi fortnight" was held on 28-09-2007. Shri P.K.Subhash, Station Director, DDK, was the Chief Guest. Dr. Govind Singh

Panwar, Lecturer, JNRM was also present as guest of honour on the occasion. An elocution competition was organized during the function. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest lauded the effort of FSI in implementing the official language. The Chief Guest distributed the prizes to the winners of different competitions. The programme concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Shri Dharamveer Singh, service Engineer.

Visakhapatnam Base

Visakhapatnam Base of FSI observed Hindi Fortnight from 13-09-2007 to 27-09-2007. Competitions in Hindi translation and essay writing were conducted during the period. Valedictory function was held on 27-09-2007. Shri Sharat Chandra Jha, Asst. Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme was the Chief Guest. An elocution competition was an added event of the function in which many staff members participated. Shri Premchand, Zonal Director requested all the staff members to do their official work in Hindi. The Chief Guest in his address said that Hindi is a link language of India and we have to work together for the development of Hindi. He appealed everyone to do maximum work in Hindi. The Chief Guest distributed the prizes to the winners of the competitions.

Cochin Base

Cochin Base of FSI celebrated "Hindi Day" on 14-09-2007 and Hindi Fortnight from 14-09-2007 to 28-09-2007. The inaugural function of Hindi Fortnight was held on 14-09-2007. Shri Sabu Philip, Hindi-in-charge, Southern Railway was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The Chief Guest in his address highlighted the importance of Hindi. During the Hindi Fortnight competitions were conducted in Hindi essay, reading, hand writing, music and terminology. Valedictory function was held on 28-09-2007. Smt. Leena TP, Jr. Hindi Translator, presented a brief report on the progress made in Hindi implementation during 2006-07. Cultural programmes were also organized during the occasion. Dr.S.Girija, Director, IFP, who was the Chief Guest, distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions.