

Management of Scombroid Fisheries

Editors

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Recommendations of the National Workshop on Scombroids

1. To establish the economic viability of tuna fisheries in the different regions of the EEZ , FSI may examine the possibility of simulated commercial operations.
2. The retrieval of commercial tuna statistics by the concerned agencies should be effectively implemented through suitable executive orders. The Workshop felt very strongly that the CMFRI and FSI have a major role to play in this area. This issue may be discussed by the Ministry of Agriculture and ICAR to clearly specify the roles.
3. Tagging experiments for skipjack and yellowfin in the Indian EEZ and contiguous high seas should be undertaken on a bilateral or collaborative basis by all the agencies concerned with scombroid fisheries, in view of the highly migratory/straddling nature of the species.
4. Attempts should be made to upgrade the tuna fishery of Lakshadweep from the present small scale level to that of an industry by increasing the size and capacity of the boats and introduction of alternative gears to fully harvest the tuna and other fishery resources available in the archipelago.
5. To make an impact on the exploitation of scombroid resources particularly oceanic species, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well as UT Lakshadweep should be developed as oceanic fishery bases and required infrastructure established. Collection centres for the scombroid catches may be established here with facilities for air lifting the catches to foreign markets.
6. The real time application of the satellite imageries derived from the IRS P4 OCEANSAT for developing an advisory service to the fishermen community and others involved may be developed. Fishermen should be educated about the usefulness of the satellite data for getting better catches by conducting user-interaction programmes at different Centres.
7. All available oceanographic data collected through the FORV *Sagar Sampada* and other research and survey vessels should be analysed on a priority basis in the context of biological and fishery issues involved.
8. Utility of research results in terms of management, stock assessment and socio-economic aspects should be given due importance. Stock assessment studies/techniques need to be refined and revalidated keeping in view the changing pattern of exploitation. Considering the complexity of the factors governing the dynamics of a fishery, it is recom-

mended the use of the 'systems approach' and 'simulation' to estimate the management reference points and analyse the fishery in its entirety.

9. Resource assessment and statistics of livebait in Lakshadweep as well as Andaman and Nicobar islands contemplated by the CMFRI may be speedily implemented.
10. Investigations on the species identity, availability, abundance, fishery and utilization of pelagic sharks both in the coastal and oceanic sector should be given priority by the CMFRI and FSI considering the vulnerable nature of the species.
11. The CIFNET should strengthen the existing training programmes on tuna longline fishing by introducing practical demonstration/training in the use of monofilament longlining taking the assistance of FAO if found necessary.
12. The Government of India should extend the needed support for equipping the present shrimp trawler fleet for harvesting the tuna resources in the EEZ as a measure of diversification, to augment marine products exports.
13. Development of value added products from scombroids for domestic and international markets may be taken up by CIFT on a priority basis. Technology transfer for improved products and processes developed by the CIFT should be given priority with a view to induce the local fishermen/entrepreneurs to produce value added products on a commercial basis.
14. A working group should study the needs to develop the mechanism to provide and disburse finance as well as a better loan recovery system. The Ministry of Agriculture, the banking sector, Government of India and NABARD may take necessary steps in this regard.
15. Management measures have to be discussed with concerned authorities, policy makers at the State and Central Government levels and most importantly the industry and the fishermen community before they are finalised.
16. There is an urgent need for concerted effort to develop human resources in the area of scombroid research, development and management.