

RESPONSIBLE FISHING IN INDIA – SELF INDUCED CONSERVATION PACKAGE INITIATIVES FROM FISHERFOLK

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It has been reported that the marine fisheries in India over the years has declined considerably due to over capitalisation. The highly productive inshore waters below 50-mt depths have reached a platform of stagnation with effect to scope less on towards further exploitation. More over the fishing in inshore waters has become intense competitive over years due to the adoption of innovative fishing technologies even the passive gears were turned to be active. The rate of transformation of mechanisation and motorisation of traditional fishing crafts has been so dramatic since five decades. The impact of mechanisation has caused severe threats over the livelihood of the traditional fisher folk of India with intense conflicts who concentrate their fishing in the inshore waters. The mechanisation has been so diverse and complex. This has mooted the fisher folk to be more concerned over the resources. The follow up was the fisher folk at various pockets to realise that the resources have to be curtailed for the sustainable catches. Enough and more package of practices concentrating on conserving the resources has been recommended by the research system to control the over exploitation and the same has been well received by the fisher folk only at certain pockets but it is not at the expected level. If so these cases of adoption are only self -induced and not on the basis of the Marine Fisheries Regulation Acts formulated by the Government. There is enough number of reasons to inform why the fishermen do not adhere to the fisheries regulation acts envisaged by the Government. But a status report on the adoption of these technological packages is an unstamped area in India. However, there are some cases that have been reported and documented from various hydro climatic zones. The number of cases is very meagre in Indian fisheries sector and the same has to be well documented and critically analysed. The cases where the fisher folk have taken their own initiatives to conserve the resources have been documented and presented in this paper. Three cases have been analysed in depth. First case, the resolution method followed by the traditional and mechanised fishermen groups fishing in the same area. Second case, the fishermen of Kerala restricting the catch of juveniles and the third case are establishing artificial reefs. The results of the in-depth analysis of the selected three cases inform that the fisher folk have been self-induced rather on based compulsion for taking initiatives over the conservation. This paper will be a benchmark to critically analyse the mode of self-induction by the fisher folk for the process of conserving the resources.