

Awareness Programme on MSC Certification held at NIFAM ON 17/05/2024

Workshop started at 10 AM

- Additional Director welcomed all the officials to the meeting.
- Director addressed the meeting and talked about the need of ecolabelling and how it is affecting the export.
- Sri. Vinod M and Smt. Vineetha made a detailed presentation on Ecolabelling and Certification Process. The three principles of the MSC standards are

1. The sustainability of the stock
2. Eco system impact
3. Effective Management

There are 12 fisheries in India moving towards MSC Certification.

The discussion was based on

1. Strengthening on Fisheries Management Council – The Additional Director stated there are about 200 Fisheries Management Council functioning in the state. The matter of the need of certification and ecolabelling may be discussed and the fishermen may be made aware of the concept.
2. Records to prove that mechanized fishers are not fishing in traditional ground.

The KMRF Act are being implemented strictly by all marine districts. If any violation of law are found fines are imposed and the details are available with the department.

1. Stake holder consultation

(1) Regular Fisheries Management Council meeting, District and State Level Meetings are done.

- The department always give an ear for the problems for the fishermen and the industry before the implementation and the adoption of any rule or change of any rule
- For the square mesh cod end, a State level scheme 20 lakhs has been earmarked in 2024-25.

The possibility and formulating the implementation of MSC certification

- *Regular checking at harbors to ensure the mesh size in recorded. If violations are found fines are imposed. The data of fines is available with the department.*
- *The assistant directors of fisheries station will serve as as a contact point and nodal officer for MSC certification of the district.*
- *Possibility of online publication of fines collected - The revenue got from collection of fines can be published online. an enforcement app needs to be created to help with violations and compliance with regulations. Provision for giving black mark as in Motor Vehicle Department is being considered. MSC requested with the sharing of real craft data, which would be done after taking necessary decisions. MSC also*

requested inclusion of their consultant in fisheries awareness programme .

- *An ad-hoc committee headed by the Director of Fisheries and the Zonal Joint Directors as members need to be formed to take MSC certification forward.*

Programme and discussion finished by 1.00 PM

ABDUL NASAR.B IAS
DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES