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one ecosystem, working together  
to secure its future*



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Report of the  
**Training workshop on the large pelagic fishery  
database (PELAGOS)**

1-5 July 2013 • Colombo Sri Lanka

**Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project**



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15<sup>th</sup> July 2013

***Strengthening of the data collection and reporting systems on the coastal  
and offshore fisheries of Sri Lanka***

**Training Workshop on the Large Pelagic Fishery Database**

**01<sup>st</sup> – 05<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

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## 1. Introduction

The above training was held at NARA from 01<sup>st</sup> – 05<sup>th</sup> July 2013 with the participation of twelve officials representing MFARD, DFAR and NARA. The training was conducted by Mr. Miguel Herrera, Database Manager of IOTC.

The main objectives of the training workshop are,

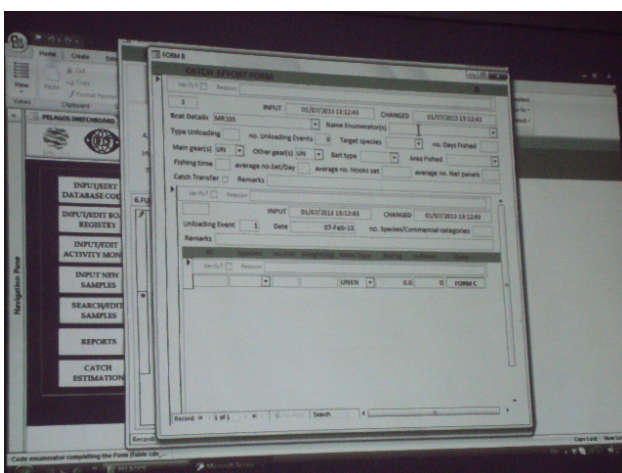
1. Capacity building of the data entry and data processing staff in order to improve the accuracy of input data, reports and data management of the large pelagic fishery survey.
2. Modify and improve the database based on the revised data collection sheets of the survey and code lists (boats, gears, species, etc.), nature of the fishery in Sri Lanka.
  - a. Form A – Daily effort form
  - b. Form B – Catch and effort form
  - c. Form C – Catch sampling form
3. Identify the issues and problems related to data, recording, data entry, catch estimation and reporting.

Following officials participated at the training workshop.

1. Mr. J.A.D.B. Jayasooriya – Statistician/ MFARD
2. Dr. Rekha Maldeniya – Research Officer/ MFARD
3. Ms. Lashanthi Perera – Statistical Officer/ MFARD
4. Ms. P.V. Munasinghe – Development officer/ MFARD
5. Ms. Suwanthika Deepani – Data Entry Operator/ MFARD
6. Mr. Prasanna Premawardane – Head of Vessels Registry Unit/ DFAR
7. Ms. H.M.U. Bandara – Fisheries Resource Management Assistant/ DFAR
8. Mr. R.M.A. Jayathilaka – Research Officer/ NARA
9. Mr. M.I.G. Rathnasuriya – Scientist/ NARA
10. Mr. M.D.I.C. Kumara – Research Assistant/ NARA
11. Ms. V.K. Ranasinghe – Research Assistant/ NARA
12. Ms. P.G.D. Malith Anupama – Management Assistant/ NARA

A wrap-up meeting of the workshop was held on 4<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00 p.m. at the Secretary's Office with the participation of Mr. Miguel/ IOTC, Director General (Technical)/MFARD, Chairman/ NARA, Director General/ DFAR and the Statistician/ MFARD.





## 2. Findings of the training workshop

1. It was noted that there are considerable partial landings occurred in some landing places and not covering all the partial landing events of a boat is impacted on catch estimation.
2. NARA stated that it is required to redesign the sampling schedule considering the seasonal changes in sites of fish landings in some fisheries districts (Puttalam, Trincomalee, Matara, etc.) to increase the coverage of the survey.

3. It was noted that there are issues with the species identification, taking length measurements, completeness of data collection sheets and uniformity of data reporting.
4. It seemed that the curve length measurements currently taken by the steel tapes and the samples selected by the data collectors to take the length measurements have to be revised due to the high variations.
5. Over 400 sets of data collection sheets were monthly received from 37 data collectors; the previous PELAGOS database was installed in NARA and data were entered at NARA. As there is only one officer for the data entry at NARA, the capacity for data entry is low.
6. It was noted that some mistakes are done by the data collectors in species identification, taking length measurements and data recording

### **3. Recommendations**

1. Installation of the database at both SU/ MFARD and MBRD/ NARA to accelerate the data entry and processing
2. Inform NARA to redesign the sampling schedule considering the seasonal changes of sites of fish landings to increase the coverage of the survey
3. Preparation of user manual and training guide to address the issues in uniformity and accuracy of data
4. Conduct a sub-sample survey to estimate the ratio between the straight length and the curve length measurements of the fish
5. Capacity building of the officers in order to improve the accuracy.
  - a. Review the database and do the relevant editing in consultation with (Mr. Miguel) IOTC after three months of the data entry in Seychelles in order to train three data officers.
  - b. Provide an advance training on MS Access to selected officers involve in data input and database administration to make easier the activities related to database
  - c. Provide foreign/ local training on sample designing and data analyzing to selected officers in order to improve the skills and knowledge.
  - d. Build the capacities of field data collectors by providing them foreign study tours on data collection and sampling
6. Invite Mr. Miguel to Sri Lanka to create reports from the database after six months of the data entry
7. Get the assistance of sampling expert and redesign the existing sampling system to avoid the issues and minimize the sampling error

**J.A.D.B. Jayasooriya**  
**Statistician/NPC**









Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project to lay the foundations for a coordinated programme of action designed to better the lives of the coastal populations through improved regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the implementing agency for the BOBLME Project.

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For more information, please visit [www.boblme.org](http://www.boblme.org)



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