



# Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project



## **BOBLME Hilsa Assessment Working Group Meeting 24-25 April, 2012, Mumbai India**

The development of collaborative regional fishery assessment and management plan for hilsa is a key activity for the BOBLME Project. This work will include introducing and promoting collaborative fisheries management approaches for selected key trans-boundary species through the development of regional and sub-regional management plans and harmonization and standardization of data collection and analysis. The Hilsa Assessment Working Group will work on developing a better understanding on the status of the shared hilsa stocks in the region. Several workshops have already been carried out both at national and international levels.

The BOBLME Project has an ambitious, but important programme of work planned for the hilsa assessment working group in 2012. Since 2011, the group, comprising, four members from Bangladesh, four members from India and three members from Myanmar, has made considerable progress in the development of the first ever regional quantitative stock assessment of hilsa in the Bay of Bengal, and at the same time is contributing to the refinement of national assessments. The work of the Hilsa experts is highly technical and developmental, and for these reason it is important that the membership of the group remains the same from meeting to meeting.

The first meeting is to be held on 24-25 April in Mumbai, India. This meeting will cover the continued progress made by the Hilsa WG Meeting towards a comprehensive integrated modeling framework on Hilsa management between the countries of Myanmar, India and Bangladesh. The objectives of the meeting will be to cover the following topics following meeting are to:

- review the coordinated research activities on hilsa being undertaken within the region.
- Update the integrated model to use in the assessment
- Discuss technical aspects of the elements of joint management framework for the Bay of Bengal regarding Hilsa.

The agenda of the meeting will cover the following topics:

- 1) Research Proposal Status and Activity/Plan.
- 2) Integrated Model Framework to use.
- 3) Status Review of current approaches and comparisons with other approaches.
- 4) Hands on Model Development Training for WG (for this everyone should have access to their own laptop or machine).
- 5) Elements of the technical aspects of a joint Fishery Management Plan for Hilsa in the Bay of Bengal Region.
- 6) Recommendations.

The working group will also discuss the plan to complete a technical report and paper (to be submitted to an international journal) on the current status of the assessment and the analytical joint management framework that will be developed for the region. A detailed agenda will be sent out soon.

### **Contacts**

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