

SRI LANKA COUNTRY PRESENTATION

**Policy Directions in Fisheries,
Coastal and Marine Environment,
and ICM in BOBLME Countries**

**Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development
Ministry of Environment
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Policy Directions

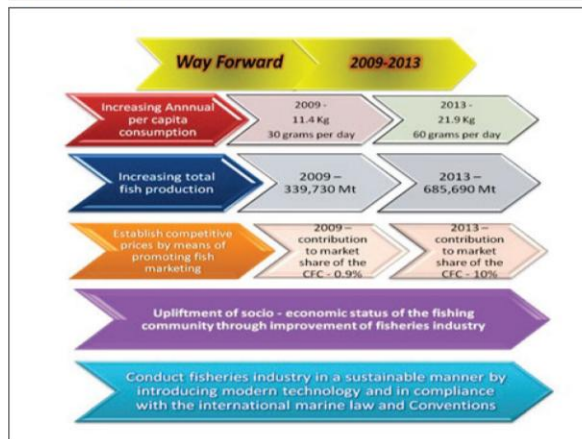
The policy guidelines given in *Mahinda Chintana - Vision for the Future*, Fisheries sector were used as the guiding principles for preparation of Fisheries Sector Development Strategy 2010-2013.

The directions given in Mahinda Chintana are as follows.

- "The fisheries development policy aims at exploiting the country's fisheries and aquatic resources in a sustainable manner, while conserving the coastal environment. The government is targeting self-sufficiency in the national fish supply and a significant increase in fish exports.

Key components of policy direction are specified as follows.

- Diversification of production and exploitation of offshore and deep sea fisheries resources through the introduction of modern technology giving high priority to efficient fishing methods. It is also planned to reduce pressure on coastal resources through the implementation of fisheries management programmes.
- Sri Lanka possesses suitable water bodies throughout the country for developing a viable inland fishing. Thus developments of freshwater capture fisheries and aquaculture in inland water bodies have also been identified as a viable industry. This can be implemented through increasing fish seed production and introducing them into minor and seasonal tanks with the support of community based fisheries management.



Cont.....

- High post harvest losses and lack of knowledge in handling of fish have been identified as a serious impediment to marketing and producer price in the fishing industry. The requirement of prevention of such losses has been given priority in the development plan.
- Inadequate and poorly managed fisheries infrastructure has considerably slowed down the development of the fishing industry. Hence, infrastructure facilities will be improved to exploit the fish resources and reduce post harvest losses."
- Commitments made by Sri Lanka under the UN Law of the Sea Convention and international treaties concerning conservation and management of marine fisheries resources, protection of marine environment and conservation of biodiversity, and requirements of international markets were also taken into consideration in the development of strategies to meet the goals given in Mahinda Chintana Vision for the Future.

Objectives of the Fisheries Sector Development Strategy 2010-2013

- Increase the national fish production in order to enhance the nutritional status of the nation by means of higher per capita consumption of fish.
- Promote exploitation of Sri Lankan fisheries and aquatic resources while maintaining biological sustainability through application of novel techniques.
- Diversify the fishing industry to facilitate adaptation with the present environmental scenarios such as climatic change and episodic coastal disasters.
- Enhance the socio-economic status of the fishing communities
- Develop fisheries infrastructure in the northern and the eastern region compliance with the present and future requirements

Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA)

Major Activities

1. Introduce procedure, Strategy and regulatory regime for control and manage the introduction of invasive species from ships.
2. Prepare Chemical Spill Contingency plan
3. Establish compensation scheme for chemical spill as per HNS convention
4. Establish Marine Environment Protection fund imposing levy on ships calling Sri Lankan ports
5. Establish dedicated waste reception facility for ship generated waste

Accordingly:

1. Amended the Marine Pollution Prevention Act
2. Published the Gazette Regulations
 - No. 1709/15 on "Offshore Exploration for and Exploitation of Natural Resources including Petroleum" and;
 - No. 1741/19 dated 19.01.2012 on Bunkering and approval has now been granted by the Parliament for these Regulations

Drafted Regulations for Gazette on "Oil Spill Contingency Plan"

Drafted the following Regulations

1. Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation
2. Issuance of Permits to Dump Oil, Harmful Substances or pollution or Waste or Other Matter
3. Investigation Procedure on Claims of Pollution Damage
4. The National Standards Relating to Oily Waste Discharge and the conditions relating to marine dumping
5. Anti Pollution Equipment to be Fitted on Ships for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea (by oil)
6. Monitoring and Controlling of Marine Pollution from Land - Based and Other allied sources and Environment Impact Assessment
7. Anti Pollution Oil Record Book Maintenance and up Keeping
8. Fees and Charge Regulations
9. Specifying and Substance or Class of Substance (Other than Oil) that Renders Water Noxious or Detrimental to Human Health or Harmful to Marine Life Regulations
10. Port Reception Facilities- Oil, Noxious, Liquid Substances and Garbage

1. Revised National Oil Spill Contingency plan
2. Prepared regulation and develop procedure to minimize marine pollution from oil and natural resources
3. Prepared waste reception facilities through the registered service providers
4. Introduced new procedure to ensure safe bunker operation in Sri Lankan waters.
5. Acquired the status of Project approving agency in SL - National EIA process, Monitoring the activities on Oil Drilling Activities in Gulf of Mannar Basin - SL
6. Established a School Children led environment Brigade called "Ocean - Friends" (Sagara Mithuro) for strengthen the Coastal and Marine activities
7. Commemorating the world Oceans day (every year), organized Beach Cleaning programs
8. Organize a program with Holcim Lanka Company (SL) on safe disposal of fiber glass material
9. Coordinated and carried out activities to mitigate harmful effects from Oil and Chemical spills from sinking ships

Assistance needed for:

1. Capacity development of the Marine pollution Prevention Authority on combating Oil and Chemical Spills - Physical and Knowledge
2. Strengthening of the "Ocean Friends" Brigades
3. Co-financing and TA for the MFF- GoM SL-INDIA Project
4. TA for GEF-Dugong Conservation Regional Project



Biodiversity and Socio-economic Information of Selected Areas of Sri Lankan Side of the Gulf of Mannar
 Report submitted by IUCN Sri Lanka Country Office to BOBLME Project Component 2.4 Collaborative Critical Habitat Management, Gulf of Mannar
 Final Report
 January 2011
 L/GARAF/09/012

- Biodiversity part has been supported by MFF
- Final report has been widely circulated electronically
- NSF is one of the main beneficiaries for their MAB nomination of GoM




The Gulf of Mannar and its surroundings
 A resource book for teachers in the Mannar District

- NIE has recommended this as secondary school teaching material will be published within next 2-3 weeks
- Teacher training programme has been organised towards the end of October with Mannar Provincial Education Office

Dissemination of findings



UNEP-CMS Dugong By-catch Survey



- MFF and BOBLME supported in conducting these surveys by leveraging travel budget. Turtle Conservation project, Dilmah Conservation and IUCN SL did the surveys

Planned Work

- MFF Regional Project on Living Resources of Gulf of Mannar, India – Sri Lanka initiative
 - Will be launched in October 2012 – BOBLME agreed in principle to support this initiative
- Enhancing the conservation effectiveness of seagrass ecosystems supporting globally significant populations of Dugong across the Indian and Pacific Oceans Basins
 - GoSL initiative - GEF PPG phase, Inception meeting is scheduled for the 2nd week of Oct (MoE and DWC taking the lead with room for MFF and BOBLME to cofunding)



Thank You

"For the prosperity of the nation towards a sustainable Fishing Industry....."