

Bay of Bengal Programme

Fishing Technology

FISHING TRIALS WITH BEACHLANDING CRAFT
AT THIRUMULLAIVASAL, TAMILNADU, INDIA 1989-1991

BOBP/WP/75



BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME
Small-Scale Fisherfolk Communities

BOBP/WP/75

Fishing Trials with Beachlanding Craft
at Thirumullaivasal, Tamil Nadu, India
1989-1991

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BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME
Madras, India
1992

Based on the experience gained in small-scale offshore fishing in Uppada, Andhra Pradesh, India (BOBP/WP/56), and the need to diversify and develop small-scale fisheries in the offshore areas off the Coromandel Coast of Tamil Nadu, India, a subproject for the commercial fishing of pelagic species was established in 1989 by the Fisheries Department of Tamil Nadu with technical and financial support from the Bay of Bengal Programme. It was executed in Thirumullaivasal, Thanjavur District, from February 1989 to January 1991 with one beaching craft (BLC) of the IND-20 type. A second boat of the same type became available in July 1990.

The purpose of the subproject was to demonstrate to fisherfolk and Fisheries Officers the technical and economic feasibility of small-scale offshore fishing by using the BLC and employing diversified fishing gear. It was hoped that the demonstration would lead to commercial exploitation of less exploited resources and produce new sources of earnings for the fisherfolk who own and operate traditional as well as other introduced motorized fishing craft. This paper records the trials over a two-year period and the conclusions drawn from them.

The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) is a multi-agency regional fisheries programme which covers seven countries around the Bay of Bengal – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand. The Programme plays a catalytic and consultative role : it develops, demonstrates and promotes new techniques, technologies or ideas to help improve the conditions of small-scale fisherfolk communities in member-countries. The BOBP is sponsored by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom, by member-governments in the Bay of Bengal region, and also by AGFUND (Arab Gulf Fund for United Nations Development Organizations) and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). The main executing agency is the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

This document is a working paper and has not been cleared by the government concerned or the FAO.

November 1992

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The two IND-20s anchored in shallow water in Thirumullaivasal (above) and one of them being beached (below)

