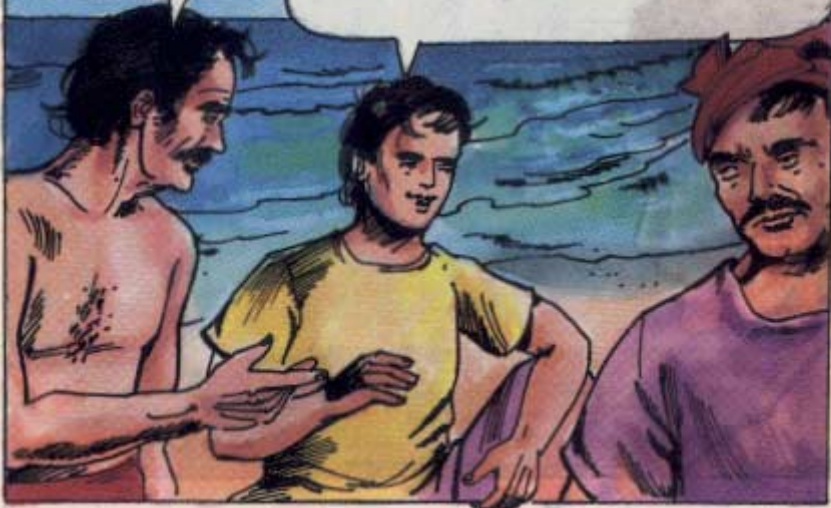
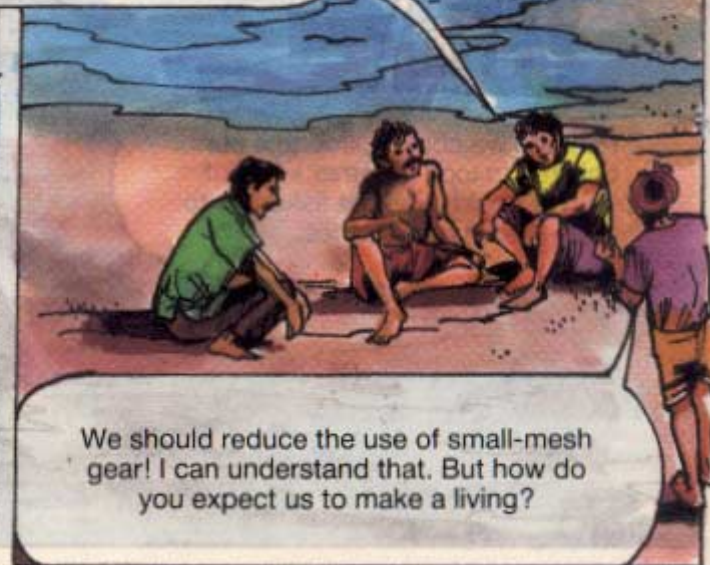


Does this mean that trammelnets are the best gear for shrimp?

Yes. I've already said they catch only fish and shrimp of a certain size. Another reason is, this gear is passive, it waits for its catch instead of sweeping up everything that is available.

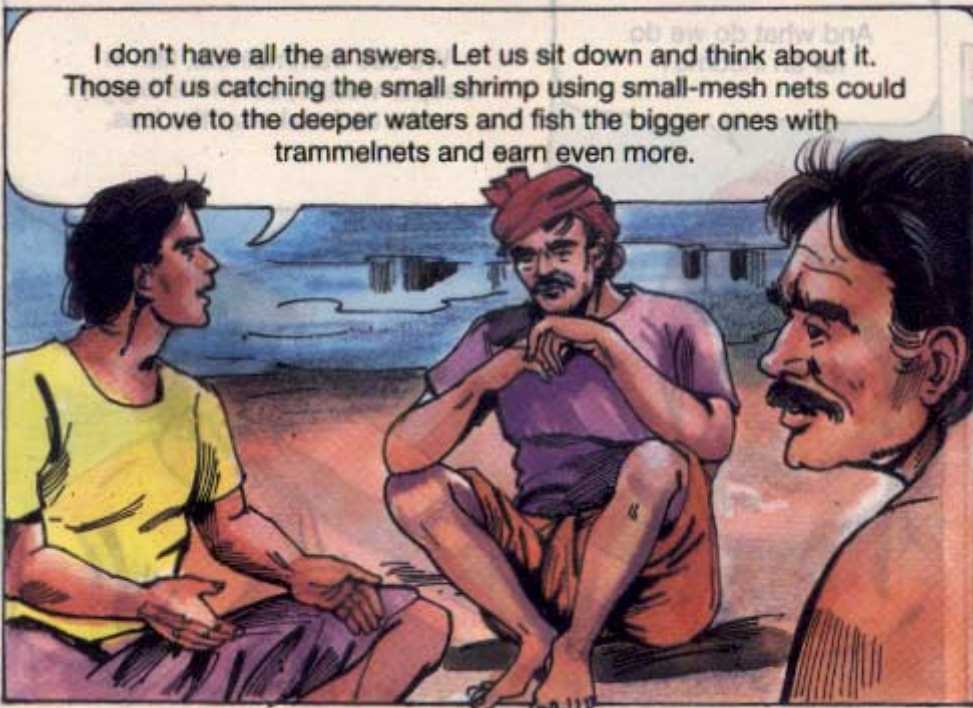


Trammelnets are the gear for catching Tiger Shrimp, provided they are set in deeper waters where the adult Tiger Shrimp are.

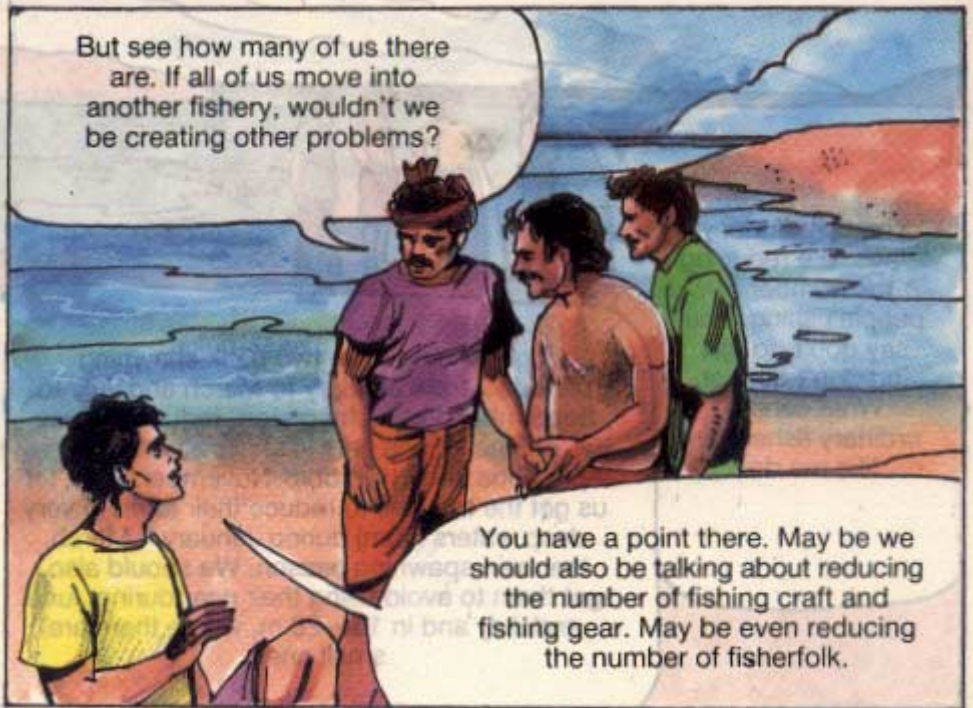


We should reduce the use of small-mesh gear! I can understand that. But how do you expect us to make a living?

I don't have all the answers. Let us sit down and think about it. Those of us catching the small shrimp using small-mesh nets could move to the deeper waters and fish the bigger ones with trammelnets and earn even more.



But see how many of us there are. If all of us move into another fishery, wouldn't we be creating other problems?



You have a point there. Maybe we should also be talking about reducing the number of fishing craft and fishing gear. Maybe even reducing the number of fisherfolk.

How do we do that?

Perhaps we could encourage our children to look for other kinds of jobs. We could even get fisherfolk to learn other trades.

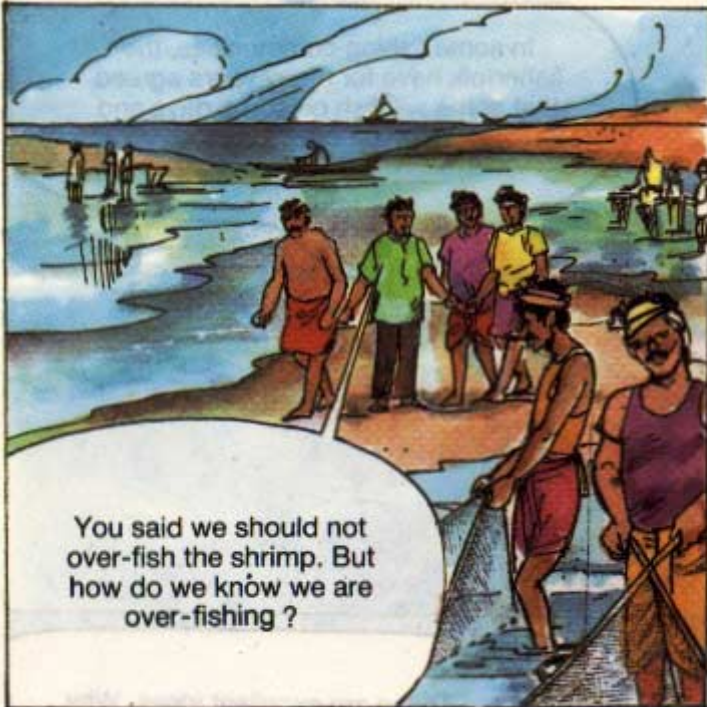
As I said, I don't have all the answers. But I do know one thing. If we don't do something, we're in for trouble. **BIG TROUBLE!**

You talk of many things, like reducing the number of people fishing. You say don't do this and don't do that. What can an ordinary fisherman like me do?

Tiger shrimp have two peak spawning periods... from January to March and July to September. Let us for a start, reduce the use of small-mesh nets in shallow waters in April-June and in October-November. Also, let us get the trawlers to reduce their effort in very deep waters (60m) during January - March, the main spawning season. We should also get them to avoid using their gear during June and July and in 10 - 20 m, where there are small ones.

And what do we do for an income?

We use trammelnets, fish in deeper waters, catch the bigger ones and make up the loss.

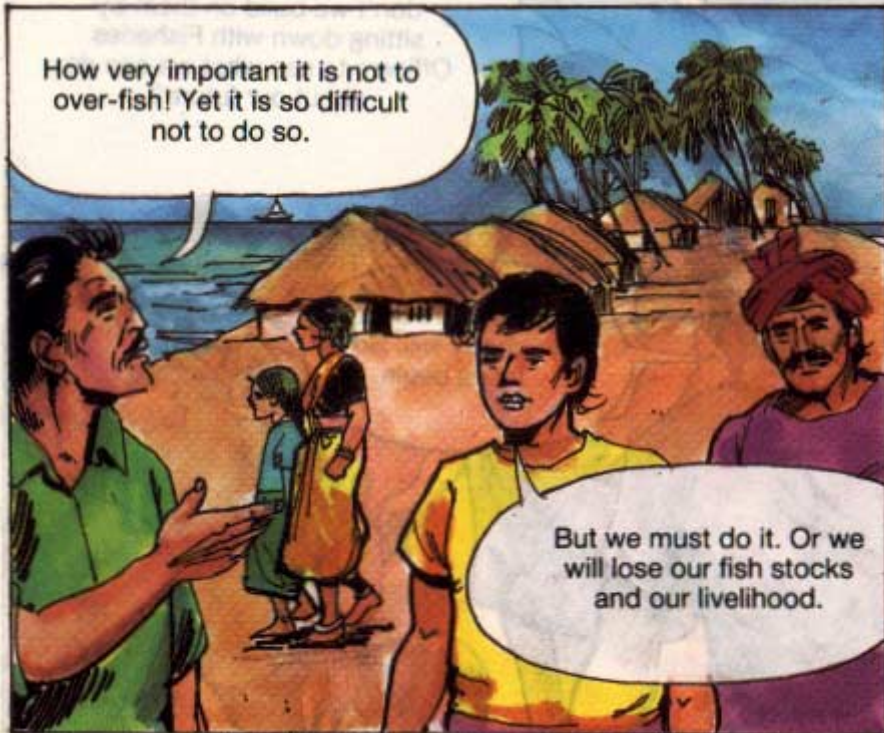


You said we should not over-fish the shrimp. But how do we know we are over-fishing?



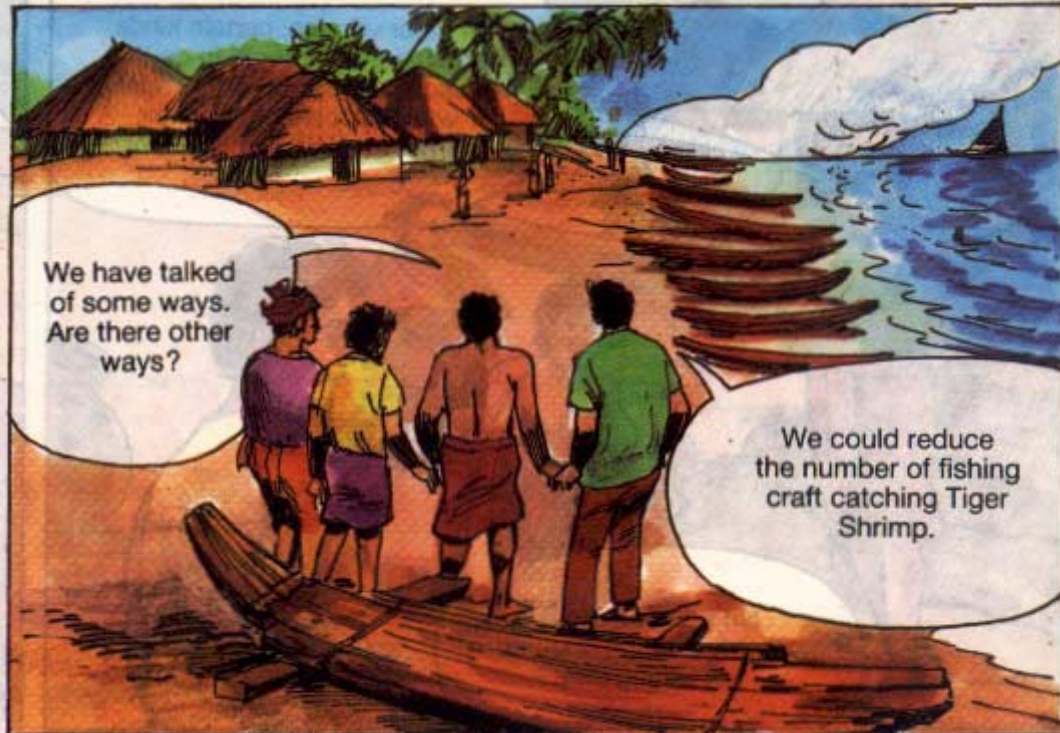
If we find that the quantity of Tiger Shrimp we catch over a period of time in a particular season and place is reducing every year and if the size of the shrimp is also getting smaller than what it should be for that season and place, it is a sign that we may be overfishing.

5 YEARS AGO	4 YEARS AGO	3 YEARS AGO	2 YEARS AGO	TODAY



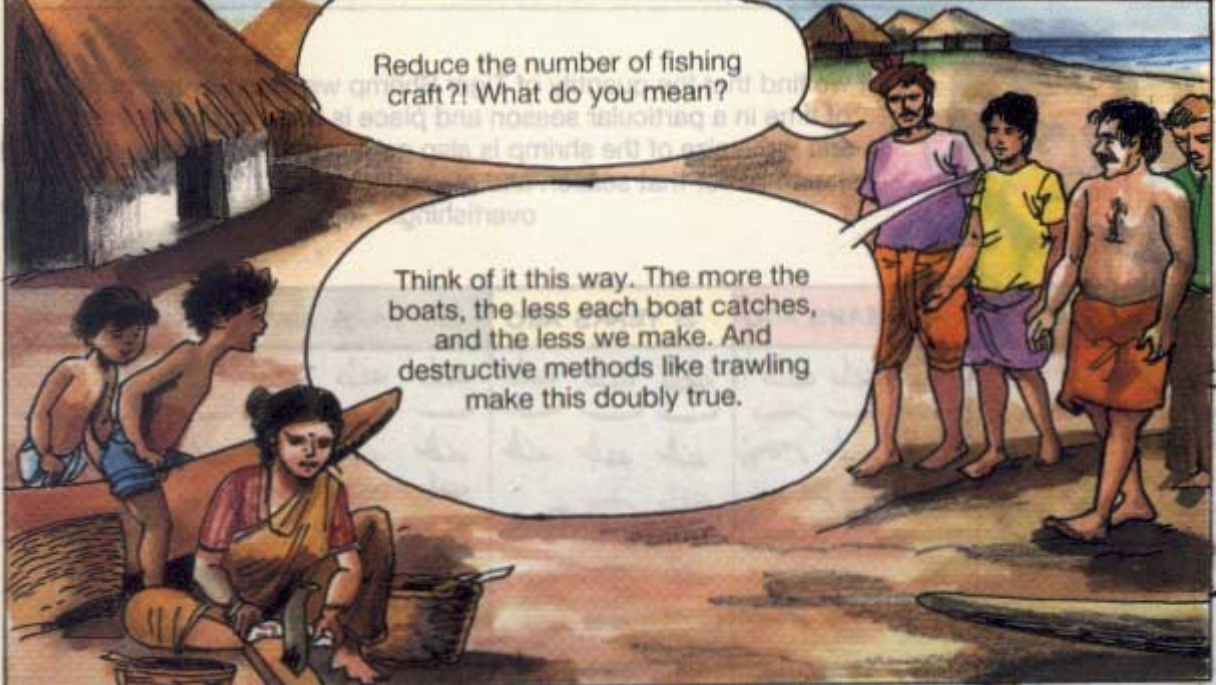
How very important it is not to over-fish! Yet it is so difficult not to do so.

But we must do it. Or we will lose our fish stocks and our livelihood.



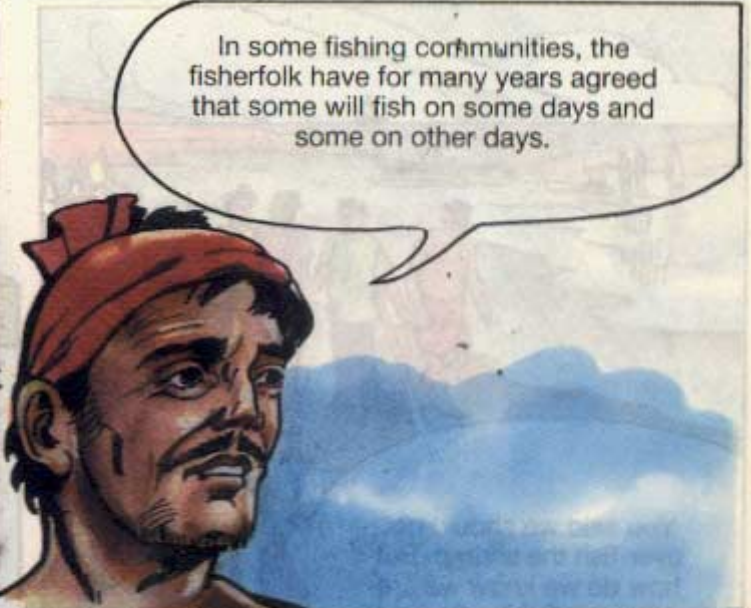
We have talked of some ways. Are there other ways?

We could reduce the number of fishing craft catching Tiger Shrimp.

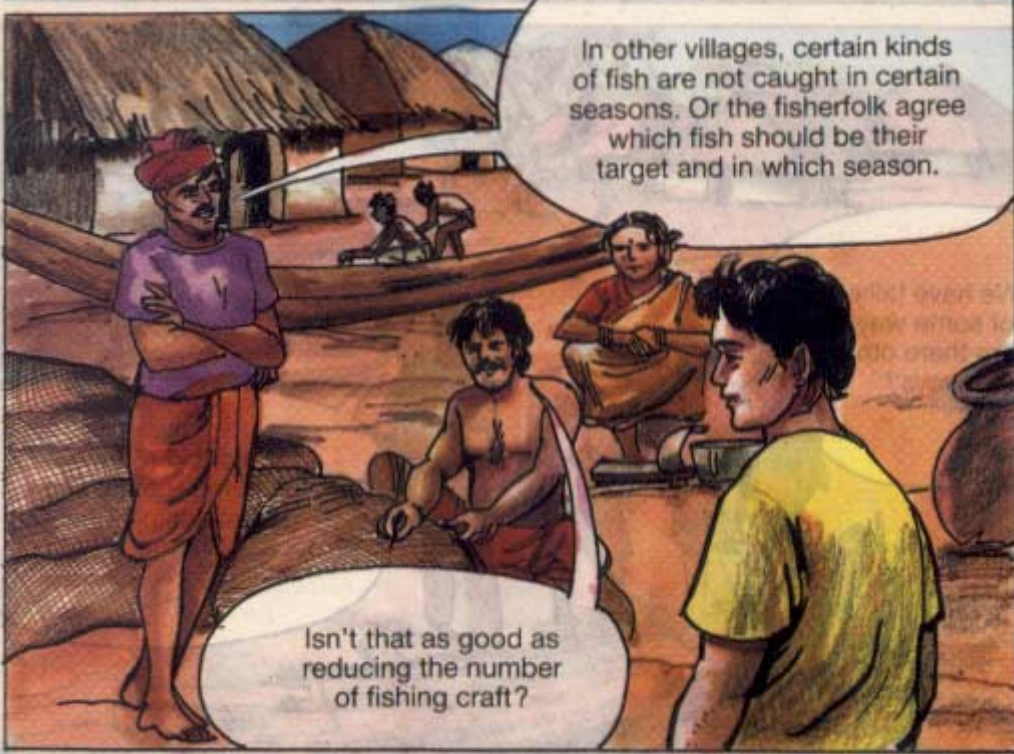


Reduce the number of fishing craft?! What do you mean?

Think of it this way. The more the boats, the less each boat catches, and the less we make. And destructive methods like trawling make this doubly true.

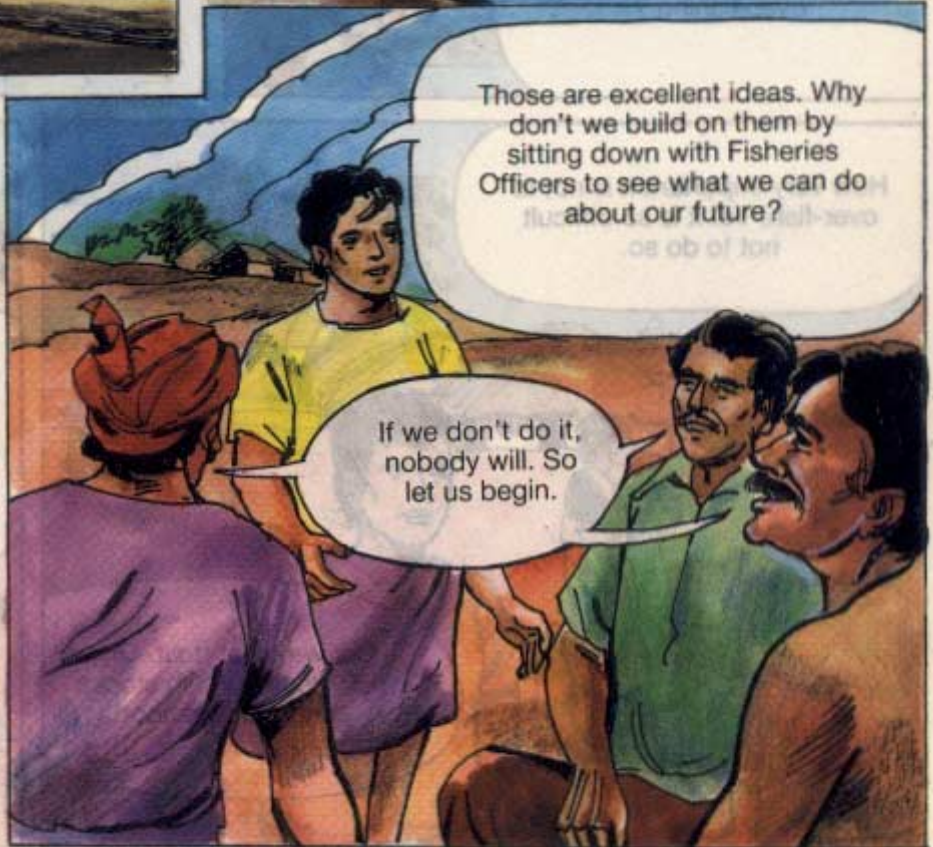


In some fishing communities, the fisherfolk have for many years agreed that some will fish on some days and some on other days.



In other villages, certain kinds of fish are not caught in certain seasons. Or the fisherfolk agree which fish should be their target and in which season.

Isn't that as good as reducing the number of fishing craft?



Those are excellent ideas. Why don't we build on them by sitting down with Fisheries Officers to see what we can do about our future?

If we don't do it, nobody will. So let us begin.