

Odisha Fisheries Policy

Policy Objectives/goals

- Quantitative and qualitative appraisal of the fishery resources and their potential in the State of Odisha.
- Enhancing the productivity and production of fish from the inland, brackishwater and marine resources and doubling the fish production in the next five years.
- Tapping the untapped potential of aquaculture to contribute to food and nutritional security.
- Quality seed production in inland sector.
- Bridging the gap between the demand and supply of fish for domestic consumption.
- Harnessing the opportunity of expanding export markets for high-value products.
- Capacity building, technological intervention, Human Resource Development, Research & Development, Awareness building and Education of fisherfolk and other stakeholders.
- Upgradation of infrastructure facilities like FH, Fish Landing Centre (FLCs), cold chain, communication, etc.
- Upgradation of the overall quality of fish with emphasis on hygienic post harvest handling.
- Encouraging public-private partnership investment across the sector.
- Generating additional/ supplementary employment opportunities in the rural sector for the fishers, educated unemployed youth and others.
- Alleviating the incidence of poverty among fishers by offering them alternative/ supplementary employment opportunities, health care, communication and sanitary facilities and quality education to children and youth.
- To develop Chilika fishery as a fully managed, sustainable fishery with stakeholder participation.
- Fisheries resource conservation, management and development through reforming and strict enforcement of relevant Acts, Rules and Regulations, leasing policy.
- Improving fisheries coherence, governance and re-defining resource access for fishers.
- Setting of fisheries Hub & Awareness centre.
- PPP mode of operation in fisheries sector wherever possible.

Inland fisheries

Realistic resource assessment

For sustainable management of capture and culture fisheries in the inland water bodies a reliable assessment of inland resources, including the small water bodies, will be undertaken through a detailed survey using Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS).

Capture fisheries

(i) Appropriate measures for developing, propagating, conserving and protecting riverine and other open water fisheries in general and threatened fish species in particular will be taken up, which will include:

- a. Fishing in the open flowing waters will be rationalized appropriately. Use of destructive types of fishing and obstruction of naturally flowing waters by fixed/ stake nets, which is detrimental for migration and natural propagation of fish, will be prohibited.
- b. Improvement of river fish genetic resources through river ranching.
- c. Restoration of the degraded river systems and initiation of appropriate conservation measures.

(ii) With a view to ensuring the fishers earn sustainable livelihood, it will be the endeavour of the State to promote co-management of the resources by effective involvement of the local community in a cohesive manner.

Culture based fisheries in lakes/reservoirs

- Open water bodies such as Minor Irrigation Projects (MIPs), Kata, irrigation tanks, percolation tanks and reservoirs will be brought under the fold of culture based fisheries.
- Emphasis will be given for Cage/ Pen culture in reservoirs wherever feasible.
- Reservoir fisheries management and development and enforcement of regulation of fishing in reservoirs, will be in line with the provisions contained in the Odisha State Reservoir Fisheries Policy 2012 notified by the Government of Odisha.
- Efforts will be made to create live storage of reservoirs by developing tanks in between the areas of Full Reservoir level (FRL) and Dead storage level (DSL) for fish culture.
- Special efforts shall be made for clearance of dead tree stumps and other submerged substrates from the reservoir bed.

Aquaculture in tanks and ponds

a. Best practices being followed in the country for increasing the fish production, particularly from aquaculture to be adopted wherever suitable, in the State for the purpose of doubling of fish production in the next 5 years.

b. Aquaculture shall be developed in a sustainable manner for enhanced production, increased income, employment generation, nutritional and livelihood security.

c. Minor Irrigation Projects (MIP) below 40 ha water area/ Gram Panchayat (GP)/ Revenue tanks shall be uniformly leased for a period of not less than five years for pisciculture. Suitable norms for leasing of these water bodies may be prescribed in consultation with the Department of Fisheries.

d. Aquaculture production will be promoted through vertical and horizontal expansion by following scientific and eco-friendly methods. Special attention shall be given to small-scale aquaculture by

helping them in improving their aquaculture practices through the provision of extension services and capacity building for entrepreneurship development through training.

e. For improving and stabilizing farm productivity and income of the rural poor, integrated farming, rice-fish diversified farming, fish culture in watershed ponds or water harvesting structures, and backyard/household ponds, will be promoted.

Fish Seed Production and Certification

a. The Government will augment the existing capacity of the fish seed hatcheries to meet the widening gap between the demand and supply of fish fry/ fingerlings. The existing single species fish seed hatcheries in the public sector will be converted into multi-species fish seed hatcheries as a measure of diversifying aquaculture covering a wide range of freshwater fish species.

b. A need based assessment on the fish/ scampi seed requirement will be made and establishment of fish/ scampi hatcheries both in the public and private sector will be encouraged on an as-is need basis. While doing so, Cluster Approach (CA) on PPP mode will be supported by allocating specific areas for fingerling production with suitable infrastructure, where the private sector, fisheries cooperatives and SHGs could work jointly.

c. Fish seed certification norms and fish seed hatchery registration based on the Govt. of India's guidelines issued during 2010, shall be formulated and implemented for checking the quality of fish seed produced within the State and those imported from other States. Fish seed producers/ hatchery owners and One-stop Aqua Shops in the state will be duly registered and accredited for ensuring free movement of disease free and quality fish/ scampi brood stock, seed and other inputs and implements within and/ or from outside the state.

d. Quarantine measures will be introduced wherever necessary and enforced for transboundary import of any seed, feed and ornamental fish species.

Ornamental fish culture

World trade in ornamental fisheries has touched a record figure of over billion dollars and is growing at 10% per year. A large number of ornamental fishes that abound in the freshwaters viz. Danio rasbora, Trichogaster spp, Gara spp, Botia spp, Carasius auratus etc. are known to exist in Odisha. Recognizing ornamental fisheries as a potential sector under fish farming; freshwater ornamental fish breeding and rearing in backyard hatcheries will be popularized as a cottage industry, among the rural community and SHGs of Odisha as an alternate vocation and commercial breeding and rearing will be given impetus in the private sector. Training will be imparted to the rural community and they will be provided with the requisite support for construction of aquaria and market intervention.

The Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1981

CHAPTER –1

Preliminary

1. Short title, extent and commencement
2. Definitions
3. Authorisation of Officers for the purpose of any provision of this Act.

CHAPTER –II

Regulation of fishing

4. Power to regulate, restrict or prohibit certain matters within specified areas.
5. Prohibition of use of fishing vessel in contravention of any order made under section-4
6. Licensing of fishing vessels
7. Prohibition of fishing using fishing vessels which are not licensed
8. Cancellation, suspension and amendment of licenes
9. Registration of vessels
10. information to be given to authorized officer about movement of fishing vessels
11. Returns to be furnished by owners of registered fishing vessels
12. Finality of orders under sections 6, 8 and 9
13. Appeals against orders refusing grant of license, etc.

CHAPTER III

Penalties

14. Power to enter and search fishing Vessels
15. Disposal of seized fish
16. Adjudication
17. Penalty
18. Constitution of Appellate Board and appeal to Appellate Board
19. Revision by Appellate Board
20. Powers of adjudicating officer and the Appellate Board in relation to holding enquiry under this Act.
21. Offence by Companies

CHAPTER IV

Miscellaneous

22. Exemptions

23. Protection of action taken in good faith

24. Power to make rules.