

GUIDELINES FOR CLEANER FISHERY HARBOURS



BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME
Cleaner Fishery Harbours

BOBP/MAG/17
IMO

Guidelines for Cleaner Fishery Harbours

by
R Ravikumar
Consultant, BOBP

Bay of Bengal Programme
Madras, India
1993

This booklet is the result of a felt need to educate those involved with fishery harbours on the typical pollutants that degrade the environment, including harbour waters, and how to mitigate the problem.

The work on Cleaner Fishery Harbours undertaken by the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) has been sponsored by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) is a multiagency regional fisheries programme which covers seven countries around the Bay of Bengal – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Programme plays a catalytic and consultative role: it develops, demonstrates and promotes new technologies, methodologies and 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, and also by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). The main executing agency is the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

The International Maritime Organization under its Global Programme for the Protection of the Marine Environment concentrates on activities of a catalytic nature, designed to support national and regional action to enhance marine environment protection.

This document has not been cleared by the governments concerned or by the FAO.

September 1993

PREFACE

centre engaged in the trade and handling of an edible commodity in bulk must necessarily be, it would be imagined, sanitary. The fact, however, is that, in the majority of cases in the developing world, fishery harbours are dirty and unhygienic. There are many reasons for this:

- Overcrowding,
- Lack of facilities, and, often,
- Lack of a cleanliness ethic among the users.

Fishery harbours have been created at enormous costs, paying due attention to the specifications for civil construction, site location and size. However, the special attention needed to ensure

- adequate water supply,
- the proper management of liquid and solid wastes, and
- the availability of shoreside sanitary facilities

is very often missing. The cost of correcting the sanitation problem 'after the fact' can be very high, but the possible-economic loss to the fish trade due to poor fish quality and the threat to public health warrants action to maintain clean harbours, even at this high cost.

This booklet is about pollution of the fishery harbour environment. It is meant for



harbour managers, boat operators, traders and other users to enable them to understand the many factors that contribute to pollution of their harbour. The simple description of the pollutants and their mitigation should enable them to assess their problems and, hopefully, initiate community action and, perhaps, get the authorities concerned to take appropriate steps to deal with the situation.