

National Plan of Action for Inland Small-Scale Fisheries

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Why in News?

India has initiated the development phase of the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Small-Scale Inland Fisheries.



- The plan is being developed within the framework established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations**.
- **Aim** - To enhance livelihoods, support sustainable fisheries, and improve freshwater resource management.
- **India's target** - 30 million tonnes of fish production over the next 5 years.

Workshop - A two-day national workshop was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Organisation	Role
Department of Fisheries, Government of India	Leads the initiative

FAO (UN)	Provides the international framework
Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)	Collaborates in developing the action plan
State Fisheries Departments	Support implementation and coordination



- **Coverage** - The proposed plan covers fisheries in the following ecosystems:
 - Rivers and canals
 - Reservoirs
 - Lakes
 - Floodplain wetlands
 - Tanks
 - Cold-water systems
- **Key Objectives**
 - **Livelihood improvement** - Safeguard the livelihoods and incomes of small-scale fishers.
 - **Sustainable resource management** - Enhance the utilisation and management

of freshwater resources.

- **Fishing rights** - Resolve challenges concerning access to fishing resources and rights.
- **Employment** - Promote decent work conditions and expand employment opportunities.
- **Gender equality** - Enhance the participation and opportunities available to women in fisheries.
- **Value-chain development** - Advance processing, marketing, post-harvest trade, and increase fishers' earnings.
- **Climate resilience** - Mitigate the impacts of climate change, disaster risks, and declining water quality.
- **Stakeholder participation** - Engage fishing communities, experts, and other stakeholders prior to finalising the plan.
- **Significance**
 - **Food Security & Livelihoods** - Ensures nutritional security while supporting employment and income for fishing communities.
 - **Sustainable Blue Economy** - Promotes fisheries-led growth, exports, responsible resource use, inclusive development, and climate resilience.

Reference

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