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Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Department of Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 21st August, 2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Circulation of Monthly Summary of principal activities and the important decisions taken by Ministries/Departments to the Cabinet for the months of March - July, 2019 in respect of the Department of Fisheries--Reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Cabinet Secretariat's O.M. No. 1/26/1/2018-Cab dated 19th August, 2019 on the above subject and to circulate herewith Monthly Summary of the Department of Fisheries for the months of March - July, 2019 containing principal activities undertaken and important decisions taken, for kind information.

Encl: *As above*


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To
All Members of Council of Ministers

Copy to:

- 1) The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, South Block, New Delhi
- 2) The Secretary to the President, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi
- 3) The Secretary to the Vice-President, 6, Maulana Azad road, New Delhi
- 4) The Press Information Officer, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
- 5) The Secretaries, all Ministries/Departments of Government of India
- 6) Adviser, Agriculture Vertical, NITI Aayog, NITI Bhawan, New Delhi.

Copy for information to:

- 1) PS to Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- 2) PS to all Hon'ble MOSs for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- 3) PPS to Secretary, Department of Fisheries
- 4) PPS to AS&FA
- 5) PPS to all JSs, Department of Fisheries
- 6) Technical Director, NIC, DOF with a request to upload the enclosed document in the Departmental website.

Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month of March, 2019.

Fisheries Sector

- i. As announced in the Budget 2019-20, Department of Fisheries has been created after carving out from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries to provide sustainable and focused attention towards development of the Fisheries sector. Consequently, the Cabinet vide case No. 92/9/2019 dated 19th February, 2019 approved for creation of one post of Secretary and one post of Joint Secretary in respect of Department of Fisheries. In addition, one post of Joint Secretary has been transferred from Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and posted in the newly created Department of Fisheries by DOP&Ts order No. 33/05/2019-EO(SM-I) dated 10.03.2019. Further, I have assumed the charge as Secretary, Department of Fisheries on 8th March, 2019 and are assisted by two Joint Secretaries namely Dr. J. Balaji and Shri. Sagar Mehra.
- ii. Secretary (Fisheries) visited NFDB, Hyderabad on 13th & 14th March 2019 and reviewed the performance and activities of National Fisheries Development Board wherein Chief Executive(CE), NFDB briefed me about the mandate and functioning of the Board, including the genesis organogram and status of the Empowered Committee(EC) & General Body(GB). The CE, NFDB presented the performance of NFDB in the last 10 years and the ongoing activities and in technology transfer including National Fresh water Brood bank (NFFBB). The road to strengthen NFDB so that it becomes one-stop solution for fishery related activities was discussed.
- iii. Secretary (Fisheries) inaugurated the AOC-centre established at NFDB campus for providing services to fish farmers and visited the demonstration units of Backyard RAS, Aquaponic, Domestic RAS, Ornamental breeding unit and live fish holding unit. I also reviewed the arrangements made for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), meetings hosted by India, to be held from 9th to 21st June 2019 at Hyderabad and visited the conference venue and reviewed the progress made with regard to the arrangements and preparations made for the conference.
- iv. Secretary (Fisheries) along with CE, NFDB and a team of NFDB and Telangana State Fisheries officials, went on a field visit and visited "Integrated Fish Market" at Siddipet, as well as the Recirculatory Aquaculture unit at Sankarapally, Telangana, where she interacted with the fish vendors and fishermen community as well as fish farmers. Later, at NFDB, Campus, Secretary (Fisheries) interacted with the women fish farmers/fishers of Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra.

Fishery Institute

Fishery Survey of India (FSI) conducts Exploratory Survey and conducts the stock assessment of the marine Fisheries Resources in and around the Indian Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) with its 11 Exploratory Survey Vessels. During March, 2019, seven survey vessels were operated to collect the real time fisheries data across the Indian EEZs with an average of 20 days out at sea having average 13 days actual fishing days.

Fisheries International Cooperation:

- i. Director General (I/c) from Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai and Shri I. A. Siddiqui, Assistant Commissioner (Fisheries) were deputed to attend the Inception Workshop of the Bay of Bengal large marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project phase-2 organized by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bangkok, Thailand during 12th -13th March, 2019 They also attended the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of the BOBLME Phase-2 held in Bangkok, Thailand on 14th March, 2019.
- ii. Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of India participated in the next round of Negotiating Group on Rules (NGR) on Fisheries Subsidies organized by World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva, Switzerland during 25th March – 29th March, 2019.

Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month of April, 2019.

Fisheries Sector

- i. Secretary (Fisheries) visited Kochi on 2nd-3rd April, 2019 to review the various activities mandated to the subordinate Institutes of my Department viz., Central Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering (CIFNET) & National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology & Training (NIFPHATT) and Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA). During the visit, I had interacted with Fisheries Entrepreneurs, traders, Researchers on the fish processing, exports and other post harvest technologies in the sector..
- ii. Secretary (Fisheries) visited Chandigarh on 12th April, 2019 to discuss/review the implementation of CSS on Blue Revolution & to familiarise myself with the innovative technologies for development of fisheries being practiced in the States of Punjab and Haryana. Besides, a presentation was also made by ICAR, CIFT regarding the initiatives to be taken in Punjab and Haryana in the harvest and post harvest sector of fisheries.
- iii. Secretary (Fisheries) inaugurated a 3-day National Fish Food Festival organized by the NFDB at Rajpath Sitting Park. Opp. India Gate, New Delhi from 26th – 28th April 2018 in the presence of Chief Executive, NFDB and Joint Secretary(Inland Fisheries) and other officials from NFDB and Department of Fisheries. There were 15 stalls put up with participation of major restaurants, Govt. organization, entrepreneurs, etc. to show case & popularize consumption of fish and fish products. Different varieties of fish and shrimp dishes were prepared and served to the visitors. The fish food festival attracted huge crowd. This was the first Fish Festival organized after the formation of Department of Fisheries.
- iv. This Department has also issued Administrative approval on 22nd April, 2019 for continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries during the financial year 2019-20 at a total central outlay of Rs. 769.50 Crore.

Fisheries International Cooperation

- i. Fisheries Development Commissioner (FDC), Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India was deputed to Santiago, Chile to participate in the OIE Global conference on Aquatic Animal Health: Collaboration, Sustainability- our Future held at Santiago, Chile during 2-4th April, 2019. In this regard, it is informed that India is one of the Member Countries in OIE and is effectively implementing a National level network programme of National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NASPAAD) throughout the country. Thus the country has been effectively discharging its responsibility and conserving the fisheries resources and their management on a sustainable basis. The periodic reports being submitted regularly from India was well appreciated, by the OIE.

Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month of May, 2019.

Fisheries Sector

- i. Underscoring the importance of fisheries statistics and database, the Department of Fisheries had organized the two day Technical Monitoring Committee(TMC)meeting during 29th – 30th May, 2019 at New Delhi with all the States/UTs to review the Strengthening of database and Geographical Information System (GIS) of Fisheries Sector, validation of fish production and fish seed data for the three financial years of 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19, collection of species wise fish production data as per FAO format and progress on Handbook on Fisheries Statistics-2019, etc. The fish production and fish seed production for the aforementioned years and compiled data sheet for publication of Handbook on Fisheries Statistics-2019 have been finalized.
- ii. With an aim to sustainably harness the potential of tuna and tuna like fish resources in our jurisdictional waters and high seas, and play a pivotal role in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) for the purpose of conservation and management of tuna and tuna like species in the Indian Ocean region, India is hosting 23rd session of the IOTC at Hyderabad during the month of June, 2019. The preparations for the conduct of this important event were closely reviewed.
- iii. As the Department intends to bring a comprehensive legislation for the management and regulation of marine fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and undertaking fishing activities in High seas, the inter-ministerial Committee constituted for reviewing and updating the draft of the 'Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Bill' met thrice during May to discuss and finalize the contours of the proposed Bill and update it as per current and future needs.
- iv. Secretary (Fisheries) have visited Mumbai from 19th -21st May, 2019 and reviewed the functioning of Fishery Survey of India(FSI), and its attached offices in Mumbai, which conducts exploratory surveys and stock assessment of the marine fishery resources in and around the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with its 11 Exploratory Survey Vessels. In addition, I also chaired a meeting with officials of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra and reviewed the progress of implementation of various components of 'Blue Revolution' Scheme in the state of Maharashtra.

Fisheries International Cooperation

- v. Secretary (Fisheries) has visited Switzerland, Belgium and Denmark during 6th-10th May, 2019. On the 6th-7th May, 2019, She had meetings with Shri, J. S. Deepak Indian Ambassador to PMI, Geneva in connection with the India's strategy and position at the ongoing negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies disciplines at WTO, Geneva. Consultations were held with the Chairman, Negotiating Group on Rules (NGR) including bilateral meetings with some of the key WTO member countries. This was followed by a visit to seafood fair viz. Global Seafood Marketplace held during 8th-9th May, 2019 in Brussels, Belgium along with

CE, NFDB and representative of MPEDA. During 9th-10th May, 2019 meetings were also held with representatives of Denmark at Copenhagen, Denmark to revive the bilateral cooperation between India and Denmark in the area of fisheries and aquaculture.

- vi. Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries), Department of Fisheries (DoF) led a delegation with members of the Department of Commerce and PMI Geneva and participated in the May, 2019 cluster of Negotiating Group on Rules (NGR) on Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations at WTO in Geneva, Switzerland during 6-10th May, 2019.
- vii. Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries), led the team of officers of State Fisheries Department (one officer each from Government of Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tripura, Telangana, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh) and two officers from National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) for Training-cum-exposure visit on "Frontier Aquaculture Technologies" in Israel organized by NFDB during 19th-23rd May, 2019.

Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month of June, 2019.

Fisheries Sector

- i. The Government of India has created a new Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying with two separate Departments i.e. the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying vide Cabinet Secretariat's Notification No. 1/21/7/2019-cab dated 17.06.2019.
- ii. Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD), Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Hon'ble Minister of State for FAHD and Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Hon'ble Minister of State for FAHD, took a series of meetings to review the fisheries sector and set the developmental agenda for first 100 days, 2 years and 5 years. Honorable Ministers had a detailed meeting with the ICAR Fisheries Research Institutes to identify possible areas of collaboration in the fisheries sector, new technological interventions, ways and means of transfer of research from lab to land etc.
- iii. The coordination and review meeting after creation of Department of Fisheries was held under the chairmanship of Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of FAHD with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of State/Union Territories (UTs) Fisheries Departments. Various issues relating to development of fisheries sector, Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of doubling fish farmers incomes', effective implementation of central schemes in the states /UTS, the proposed Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the World Bank Project, the proposed marine fisheries legislation, the draft National Mariculture Policy, the draft National Policy on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, issues pertaining to fisheries subsidies negotiations in WTO and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) were discussed besides setting priorities for sectoral growth.

Fisheries International Cooperation

- i. India hosted the 23rd Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and its associated meetings at Hyderabad during 09th – 21st June, 2019. IOTC is an important Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) responsible for the management tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. 203 delegates from Contracting Parties of the Commission, Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Observers, Invited Experts and IOTC Secretariat personnel attended the session. I have emphasized the need for regional cooperation among the IOTC member countries for responsible and sustainable management of tuna resources, the importance of coastal states being heard in the IOTC and the need for IOTC ensuring a level playing field between the developed and developing nations in the larger objective of poverty eradication. Given the economic importance of tuna resources to India in general and our fishers in particular, organizing this event enabled us to have a deeper insight into the current state of affairs of IOTC and its associated Committees and announced the intent of India to play a pivotal role in IOTC in the years to come. India objected to the use of historical catch data as baseline for quota allocation and also imposition of catch restrictions on tuna and tuna like resources. Accordingly, the IOTC resolution on catch reduction of the yellow fin tuna was

objected and hence the resolution is not binding on India. India also successfully ensured that the IOTC proposal on quota allocation principles based historical catch is deferred.

- ii. Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries), Department of Fisheries (DoF) participated in the June cluster of Negotiating Group on Rules (NGR) in the ongoing Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations at WTO in Geneva, Switzerland during 11-14th June 2019. Chief Executive NFDB and the Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries), Department of Fisheries (DoF) attended the WTO Regional Workshop on Fisheries Subsidies held in Bangkok, Thailand during 24th-26th June, 2019.

Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month of July, 2019.

Fisheries Sector

- i. Two meetings of the Expert Committee for drafting Aquatic Animal Disease and Health Management Bill, 2019 were held under the Co-chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries) and Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries) on 17th July, 2019 and 25th July, 2019 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss and deliberate upon the draft Bill.
- ii. A delegation from the Compound Feed Manufacturers Association (CLFMA) met me on 24th July, 2019, wherein the issues relating to feed certification, feed and feed supplement, feed certification Standards, Good Aquaculture practices, residue monitoring etc.
- iii. A delegation from the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) met me on 25th July, 2019, wherein discussions were held relating to various issues, *inter alia*, measures doubling seafood exports, diversification, Standard Operating Procedures, expanding lab networks, traceability, residue monitoring, etc.
- iv. The first meeting of the Central Standing Committee (CSC) on Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for formulation of unit cost norms, unit costs and Guidelines on all the major components and sub-components envisaged under the PMMSY was held under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Fisheries) on 26th July, 2019 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- v. A three days National Fish Food Festival was organized by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) at Shastri Ground, R. S. Puram, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu from 26th to 28th July, 2019 to popularize consumption of fish and fish products. There were 14 participants who had put in 16 stalls, and were participated by major restaurants, Govt. organizations, entrepreneurs, Fisheries Cooperative Societies, etc. Different varieties of fish, shrimp, crab and lobster dishes were prepared and served to the visitors. The fish food festival attracted a huge crowd. Apart from fresh fish, dry fish and ornamental fishes & accessories were also sold during the said event.
- vi. A total of 196 Fish Farmers/ Entrepreneurs have been trained by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) during the month of July 2019. Many farmers/ Entrepreneurs from various part of the country visited NFDB's Aquaculture Technology Demonstration Park and various technologies like RAS, Aquaponics, Aqua One Centres, Ornamental Fisheries, etc were showcased. Entrepreneurs and few fish farmers have registered with Aqua One Centres (AOCs) for services and support.
- vii. Shri. Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Shri. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying chaired a review meeting on 29th July, 2019 and reviewed the progress of the schemes in the fisheries sector and also reviewed the progress of the development agenda of the department for the first 100 days.

- viii. Secretary (Fisheries) chaired a meeting on 30th July, 2019 with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of all Coastal States and Union Territories to draft EEZ Marine Fisheries (Regulation) Bill and the proposed Aquatic Animal Health and Disease Management Bill. In addition, I a threadbare discussion on the issues surrounding the India's possible approaches on WTO discipline on Fisheries subsidies on WTO in disciplining subsidies, etc. The physical and financial progress of the Blue Revolution Scheme being implemented in these States/UTs was also reviewed.

Fisheries International Cooperation

- i. Assistant Commissioner (Fisheries), Department of Fisheries, participated in the July Cluster of Negotiating Group on Rules (NGR) on Fisheries Subsidies at WTO in Geneva, Switzerland during 10th -12th July, 2019.
