



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata – 700015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

No.: DMF/Pres/28/21

18th August, 2021

Sri Akhil Giri,
The Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge,
Department of Fisheries,
Government of West Bengal.
31-GN Block, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata,
West Bengal 700091

Sub: Marine Fishing Ban Period and Livelihood Support to Fishers during Ban Period.

Respected Sir,

Please refer to our earlier communication resting with our letter no. DMF/Pres/13/21 dt. 05.04.2021 (copy enclosed) addressed to the Director of Fisheries, West Bengal on the subject mentioned above.

We regret to state that till date we have not received any reply from your end to our letter under reference though the issues raised in the letter have been very important for protection of the livelihood of small scale fishers as well as of the natural fish resources.

The Savings-cum-Relief scheme to provide livelihood support to the fishers during the fishing ban period has not been operating in West Bengal since 2015. At present an active fisher may receive Rs.4,500/- during the fishing ban period under the scheme, of which Rs.1,500/- is his or her own contribution and the rest Rs.3,000/- is shared equally by the Central and the concerned State Governments. The marine fishers of West Bengal are unjustly deprived of this entitlement while the central scheme is running in many other coastal states. **DMF demands immediate re-introduction of the Savings-cum-Relief scheme in West Bengal.**

The Rs.3,000/- livelihood support provided under the Savings-cum-Relief scheme is grossly inadequate. **DMF demands a minimum of Rs.5,000/- per month livelihood support for the fishers.**

DMF maintains that 61 days' ban is not enough for regeneration of natural fish stock. **The fishing ban period should be increased to at least 90 days.**





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The mechanized fishing boats are much more damaging to the ecosystem than the small scale fishing boats and they take more than 80% of the catch. They are primarily responsible for overfishing and destructive fishing. *DMF demands that the fishing ban should be imposed applying the principle of scale subsidiarity as in the following –*

- i. 90 days ban on fishing for all motorized boats with livelihood compensation/support for affected fish workers.
- ii. 120 days ban for all mechanized fishing boats.

We would request you to take up the issue of revision of fishing ban period with the Department of Fisheries of the Government of India under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Thanking you and in anticipation of a favourable response from your end,

Yours sincerely,

Pradip Chatterjee

Pradip Chatterjee,
President,
Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF)