



NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISH WORKERS

2nd April, 2021

Shri Atul Chaturvedi, IAS
Secretary,
Department of Fisheries,
Government of India.

Sub: Uniform Fishing Ban in Indian EEZ

Sir,

Greetings from the National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW).

Please refer to the Government Order [No. 30035/15/97-Fy (T-1) Vol.V Dt.30.03.2021] regarding imposition of uniform ban on fishing by all fishing vessels in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) beyond territorial waters on the East and West coasts.

NPSSFW had submitted its considered opinion regarding fishing ban period to the Fisheries Department of the Government of India on earlier occasions. We regret to state that the Government India in the Department of Fisheries, in its order on fishing ban period, has followed neither the *ecological requirements of natural fish resource regeneration* nor the *principle of scale subsidiarity*. We are putting up the following suggestions for your consideration –

- A. **61 days' ban is not at all sufficient for regeneration of natural fish stock.** The fishing ban period should be extended to at least **90 days** (3 months) for all fishing vessels in the Indian EEZ save and except the manual fishing boats which are exempted from the ban. The small scale fish workers affected by the ban should be provided with **livelihood compensation / support of Rs. 5,000/-** per head per month during the ban period.
- B. In view of the fact that there are manual, motorised and mechanised fishing fleets in our marine fisheries sector and also in view of the fact that more than 80% of the marine catch is taken by the mechanised sector which is responsible for over fishing in near shore areas, the fishing ban period for mechanised fishing fleet should be further extended to **120 days** (4 months) on both East and West coasts of the country.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Pradip Chatterjee.

Convener,

National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW)

Copy forwarded for information to –

Dr. Jujjavarapu Balaji
Joint Secretary(Marine Fisheries & CVO)
Department of Fisheries,
Government of India.