



Resolution on Fast Increasing Climate Crisis

Whereas, the fast increasing Climate Crisis is associated with continuous rise in temperature and in level of carbon dioxide in air, and water of open water bodies which, in turn, is lowering level of dissolved oxygen in water and increasing acidity;

And whereas, decrease in dissolved oxygen and increase in acidity of water are seriously impacting aquatic plants and coral reefs – which are respectively at the base of aquatic food chain, fishes, crustaceans and all other aquatic life and provide habitat for fishes alongwith other aquatic life;

And whereas, Climate Crisis – by changing the temperature and salinity regimes of rivers, is impacting fish migration, breeding, spawning and feeding patterns;

And whereas, Climate Crisis is causing rise in sea level with resulting submergence of fishing community habitats, salinity ingress to sweet water bodies;

And whereas, Climate Crisis has significantly increased the severity of cyclones and storm surges thus further threatening fishing community habitats and increasing the risk to fishers manifold;

And whereas, Climate Crisis, with fluctuations in rainfall, is impacting inland water bodies and fisheries with unpredicted and erratic droughts and floods;

And whereas, large number of coal and nuclear power plants, sited on inland water bodies (also on coastal areas) and discharging large amounts of warm polluted water together with other pollutants, are compounding the rise of water temperature, loss of dissolved oxygen and degradation of water quality, thus aggravating impacts of Climate Crisis;

And whereas, over fishing and use of destructive fishing gears, devices and methods are severely impacting fish stock and are adding on to impacts of Climate Crisis;

And whereas, indiscriminate lifting of water from rivers, wetlands and aquifers are affecting ecology of water bodies and impacting fisheries thus increasing impacts of Climate Crisis;

And whereas, indiscriminate constructions and interventions on watersheds are devastating the natural catchment and drainage systems associated with water bodies thus further affecting their ecology and fisheries over and above the Climate Crisis impacts;

And whereas, harmful agricultural practices – compounded by the impacts of Climate Crisis on agriculture, are causing huge run offs contaminated with chemical pesticides and fertilizers, creating dead zones in river mouths, toxic water bodies unfit for fishes etc.

And whereas, toxic industrial effluents and untreated municipal waste water discharges are polluting the natural waters with severe impacts on fisheries, accentuating the Climate Crisis driven impacts;

And whereas, non-climatic factors impacting fisheries are accentuating the impact of climatic factors and thereby telling upon the climate adaptation capacity of fishing communities;

And whereas, the fishing communities, though one of the worst affected by impacts of the Climate Crisis, have not been provided with adequate scope or authority to intervene in the policy decisions and their implementations of such climatic or non-climatic factors that adversely affect fisheries;

And whereas, impacts on natural fish stock increase dependence on artificial fish culture that increases energy inputs for production and transportation of fish, thereby inducing climate crisis;



Therefore, the NPSSFW(I) proposes that –

- A. The Government of India and all the State and Union Territory Governments immediately restrict or stop all processes and activities that add to the adverse impacts of the Climate Crisis on fisheries (as outlined above and more);
- B. The Government of India and all the State and Union Territory Governments prepare and implement schemes for immediate Climate Adaptation capacities of affected communities including that of the small scale fishing communities;
- C. The Government of India and all the State and Union Territory Governments take effective measures in drastically reducing carbon emissions with a clear timeline;
- D. The Government of India and all the State and Union Territory Governments provide the fishing communities with the right scope and proper mechanism to participate in determining and implementing policies and schemes aimed at reducing impacts of the Climate Crisis on fisheries – both inland and coastal.
- E. The Government of India commissions an independent scientific study forthwith to determine the state of the inland water bodies in India, and how to rejuvenate them to natural health – considering both quantity of flow and water quality.

Accepted by the National Conference of NPSSFW(I)
New Delhi. July 17, 2019.