

Project Update: July 2014

1) Achievement of project objectives:

This funding was activated in January 2014 and the field work has been undertaken since February 2014. Through this field work, I have documented fisheries management across the Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Maharashtra, India. This part of the project was facilitated by the involvement of 10 volunteers who were trained over a 1-week period. The volunteers were students of fisheries science and thus this part of the field work provided double the benefits, in terms of engaging future fisheries officers with the actual issues of Indian fisheries, while collecting data from fishermen to better manage these fisheries. Over 150 interviews have been completed in this phase of the project.

10 volunteer fishermen have also been identified to participate in the project. Equipment to facilitate their participation has been sourced and their data is expected as soon as the monsoon abates. I have also participated in community meetings regarding fisheries management decisions in order to gain an understanding of how these meetings are structured and plan this project's outreach programmes accordingly.

During the current monsoon fishing ban in Maharashtra, data entry and preliminary analysis is being conducted. Two databases, based on observations of fishing practices, are being developed in addition to other project outputs.



2) Unforeseen developments and ways forward:

Due to unforeseen delays, project initiation occurred 2 months after the start date stated in the proposal. Accordingly, the project is expected to be completed in January 2015. These delays, however, have provided an opportunity for me to engage with the fishing community in ways that I had not previously foreseen. Participation in the community meetings revealed that fishermen would prefer to participate in an integrated outreach and awareness programme. Thus, I have redesigned the multi-media outreach programme to reflect the desires of the fishing community to engage with multiple levels of the fish commodity chain.

