



2023 Fisheries Science Seminar Citizen Science

Focus: species

Pelagic skipjack tuna and other
tuna species



What is this project about?

Dakshin Foundation's Community Based Fisheries Monitoring (CBFM) initiative showcases how local fishers knowledge can inform sustainable management of natural resources. The initiative was launched in Lakshadweep in 2014 on the islands of Agatti, Kavaratti, and Kadmat and on Minicoy in 2015. The protocols for monitoring and the logbooks were co-created with the community, making this a participatory process. This was a key step as it helped incorporate the local fishery context into the monitoring logbooks such as baitfish usage and the use of Fish Aggregating Devices to catch tuna. Interactions with fishers who actively participate in the CBFM program over the years revealed that keeping detailed records of day-to-day fishery dynamics helps them manage their fishing operations better.



...and citizen science?

Citizen science allowed to reach actionable findings which can be used to design future research and engagements within the program. It enabled a large-scale and long-term data collection, also allowing capturing and comparing trends from across islands. It also strengthened networks with the community and generated a sense of stewardship amongst the community. Building long-term, meaningful relationships with the fisher community in Lakshadweep, the CBFM initiative provided an entry point and paved the foundation for larger conversations around fisheries co-management in the islands.



Want to know more?

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