

Science Awareness Webinar - 14

Sustainable Development of the Marine Economy in India: An Assessment

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ABSTRACT OF THE TALK

The Karnataka coast, stretching 300 km, supports rich marine productivity with a fisheries potential of 4.25 lakh metric tons. Over the last two decades, large-scale mechanization has enabled fleets to exploit deeper waters, while parallel industrial growth in oil, shipping, power, fertilizer, cement, and other sectors has intensified anthropogenic pressures on coastal and marine ecosystems. The stretch between Mangalore and Udupi is particularly vulnerable, hosting single buoy moorings, oil jetties, power plants, and multiple industrial and urban effluent outlets.

In line with SDG 14, this report examines the trade-offs between ecological and economic hotspots and presents an assessment of how fisheries, industries, tourism, and local communities utilize coastal and marine ecosystem services. Key recommendations include interstate collaboration on biodiversity conservation, notification of marine sanctuaries, linking fish productivity with pollution impacts, and improving fisheries infrastructure, subsidies, and women's participation in processing and marketing. The report further emphasizes establishing an SDG Cell within line departments, integrating marine ecosystem services into national accounting, strengthening data systems on marine landings, and prioritizing budgetary allocations for SDG 14 action plans.

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