

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) related to Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in COVID-19 scenario: Issued by Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Nagaland, dated 24th April, 2020

In reference to Government of Nagaland, Home Department letter No.NSDMA-ER-COVID19/301/2020/111 dated the 12th April 2020, and the order of the office of Chief Secretary, dated 20th April along with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-1-(A) dated 10th and 15th April, 2020(consolidated revised guidelines) and in accordance with the Model **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** issued by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying dated 20th April 2020, the Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, Government of Nagaland with modifications as per local conditions hereby adopts the Standard Operation Procedures related to movement of aquaculture farmers, fish workers; transport and marketing of fish, fish seed, feed and inputs for aquaculture activities and Fishing in larger inland water bodies to ensure social distancing and undertaking requisite precautions in view of COVID-19 . The SOPs hereby adopted shall be implemented through District administration including Fisheries Administration and need to be strictly followed by all stakeholders including fish farmers and farm workers/ hatchery operators and operating hands, Marginal fishers and Fish marketing personnel (wholesaler/retailers). The SOPs will be applicable to all the activities related to Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture industry operations including post-harvest and marketing activities during the lockdown period and till further orders.

Relaxations allowed for Inland Fishery activities can be withdrawn at any time by the Government in case on non-compliance of SOPs or for such other reasons as may be decided by the Government of Nagaland or Government of India. **SOPs for Inland Fisheries may consist of 3 parts :**

1. Fish Production units/fish farms and fish seed hatcheries

- a. The fish production units, fish farms and fish seed hatcheries identified by the Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources will be allowed to carry out fishery activities like pond preparation and management, fish harvesting, seed production, packing and selling etc. subject to the compliance of the guidelines issued by the MHA and SOPs issued by this department.
- b. Social distancing and proper hygienic practices shall be maintained during all farming/operational activities. Arrangement of personal protective items such as hand sanitizer, soap, face mask etc. shall be ensured at the place of work.
- c. Disinfectant spraying and hygienic practices shall be carried out at the pond/farm sites/infrastructure sites/hatcheries including disinfection of farm implements at regular intervals or after completion of each operation cycle.
- d. Visitors shall not be permitted inside the farm/production units till situation becomes normal.
- e. Vehicles (carriers) of farm inputs, farm produce and fish seeds shall be monitored by the District Fisheries Officer who in consultation with the district administration shall issue necessary permit/pass for their transport to the destination.
- f. Farm owners/farmers shall declare and share the list of workers/personnel to the nodal Fishery officer(s) posted within their jurisdiction for maintaining the details of the workers/personnel in the register. Further, if any farmer/worker develops symptoms like

cough, fever, shortness of breath, body ache etc. should immediately inform the nodal Fishery officer of the area for further action.

- g. The farm owner/farmer shall procure inputs locally as far as possible and movement of workers shall be limited within the district only.
- h. The District Fishery Officer and local administration shall ensure that the live seed vehicles are not detained enroute. The details of seed movement along with vehicle and staff shall be maintained by the nodal officer of Fisheries department.
- i. Distribution of fish seeds to farmers shall be done only by Fisheries department personnel after observing all safety norms.

2. Inland water bodies such as reservoirs, wetlands, lakes and rivers

- a. Harvesting of fish from large water bodies like reservoirs, wetlands, lakes, rivers etc. can be carried out by using smaller country crafts with minimum number of fishers and by using cast nets or gill nets.
- b. Community fishing shall be put on hold and only marginal fishers shall be allowed to fish from the larger water bodies till situation improves to normal. Fishers allowed to carry out fishing will have to return to their designated fish landing sites only.
- c. Fishers should maintain social distance while on board, take all sanitary precautions and avoid contact with fishers having symptoms of flu. Such symptomatic fisher should immediately abandon fishing activity and inform the Fishery nodal officer(s) of the area for further action.
- d. Minimum handling of catch should be ensured onboard as well as at the landing centers till the fishes are disposed of to the trader.

3. Fish markets (Whole sale or Retail)

- a. Social distancing shall be maintained in all wet fish markets (wholesale or retail). Dealers or workers shall adhere to preventive guidelines as prescribed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- b. All fish collection centers/markets (wholesale or retail) shall be sanitized on daily basis as per the advice of Health authorities.
- c. Fish shall be transported to nearby markets/stalls/designated areas through the sanitized vehicles for which necessary pass/permission shall be issued by the district authorities.
- d. The auctioning/selling of fish shall be carried out at the designated sites/areas as decided by the district authorities where hygienic conditions and maintenance of social distancing are ensured.
- e. Minimum handling of fish has to be carried out and the persons engaged in marketing and selling shall adhere to proper sanitation/ hygienic methods as prescribed by the local food safety department.
- f. Fish vendors/retailers shall restrict their movement from one area to other distant areas so as to avoid contamination. The outlets/ shops should be disinfected on a daily basis.

The above list is not exhaustive and the District Administration in consultation with Fisheries Department and stakeholders may include such other appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the advisories issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and Government of Nagaland.
