

## **SWOT Analysis**

### **Strength**

- An EEZ encompassing 0.6 million sq. kms., which is nearly 30% of Indian's EEZ.
- The aggregate coastline is 1,912 kms, which is nearly 25% of Indian total coastline.
- Vast magnitude of fishery resources including coastal pelagic, demersal and offshore and deep-sea fishes to the tune of 2.435 lakh tonnes, as exploitable potential.
- Relatively unpolluted coastal waters for developing coastal aquaculture for seafood production for domestic and export markets.
- Availability of high value marine seafood such as shrimps, lobsters, crabs, sea cucumbers and fishes such as tuna, groupers and snappers etc.
- Scope for direct export of valuable food fishes like tuna, grouper and ornamental fishes.

### **Weaknesses**

- Remoteness of the islands – more than 1000 km. from Indian mainland.
- Inaccessibility of many coastal areas especially on the western sides of the islands restricting the development mainly to eastern sides of the islands coasts.
- Lack of indigenous expertise / technologies and lack of trained personnel.
- Lack of local capacity for capital investment on high cost ventures.
- Lack of infrastructure for large scale fishing and coastal / offshore aquaculture.
- Lack of reliable database on the magnitude and dynamics of exploitable and cultivable aquatic resources.

- Inadequate processing and marketing infrastructure.
- Lack of comprehensive policy for fishing promotion and regulation for sustainability.

### **Opportunities**

- Grossly under-exploited marine fishery resources giving scope for enormous commercial exploitation avenues.
- Vast tuna fishery potential, major part of which can be exported.
- Availability of pollution free areas suitable for cage culture, hitherto an unexplored enterprise even in the mainland India.
- Possibility of producing high-value black pearls and production of similar products from important bivalve/gastropod molluscs.
- Scope for export trade on marine ornamental fishes.
- To provide employment opportunities in the fisheries sectors.
- Scope for development of tourism due to the availability of choice seafood and sport fishing.

### **Threats**

- Poaching by foreign fishing vessel.
- Possible over-exploitation of specific resources through target fishing.
- Salination of ground water resources due to coastal aquaculture activities.

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