

PRESS NOTE

A draft Notification for **A&N Islands Marine Fishing Regulations, 2026** has been prepared by the Directorate of Fisheries, A&N Administration and uploaded in the official website of A&N Administration <https://andamannicobar.gov.in/> seeking suggestions/comments/inputs from General Public, Fisheries Stakeholders, Fisheries Institutes, various Departments of A&N Administration etc.

All valuable comments/suggestions/inputs may be submitted either in writing to Directorate of Fisheries, A&N Administration, Mohanpura, Sri Vijaya Puram or through email at dirfish.and@nic.in within a period of **30 days** from the date of publication of this Press Note in the Daily Telegrams, A&N Islands.

FORMAT FOR SENDING THE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Sr. No.	Name and Address of the organisation/person, contact number and Email	Relevant section/Sub-section in the draft notification on which comments are being provided	Comments/suggestion	Rationale/Remarks


Assistant Director of Fisheries (HQ-I)



File No.: M-13/10/2022-ADF(HQ-II)-Fisheries-FISH_AN/7/912
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES
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Dated, the 22 June, 2026

Copy to:

1. The Chief Editor, The Daily Telegrams, Sri Vijaya Puram with the request to publish the above Press Note for 02 consecutive days.
2. The Chief Editor, Dweep Samachar Sri Vijaya Puram with the request to publish the above Press Note for 02 consecutive days.
3. The Public Relation Officer, DIPT with the direction to publish the Press Note in the local newspapers.
4. The News Editor, All India Radio, Sri Vijaya Puram with the request to broadcast the Press Note in the Pradeshik Samachar for 02 consecutive days.
5. The Programme Executive, Doordarshan Kendra, Sri Vijaya Puram with the request to broadcast the Press Note in the Dweep Darpan Programme for wide publicity.
6. The Executive Officer, SOVTECH, DBRAIT Campus, Old Pahargaon, Sri Vijaya Puram for uploading the Press Note along with the draft Notification for A&N Islands Marine Fishing Regulations, 2026 in the official website of A&N Administration i.e. <https://andamannicobar.gov.in/> for 30 days.
7. Shri K Rajan, IT Analyst, Directorate of Fisheries with the direction to coordinate with SOVTECH for uploading the press note along with draft Notification in the official website of A&N Administration.



8. The Chief Executive Officers, Zilla Parishad (South Andaman/N&M Andaman) for kind information and wide publicity.
9. The Chairperson, Tribal Council, Car Nicobar/Nancowrie/Kamorta/Katchal/Chowra/Teresa and Great Nicobar for kind information and wide publicity.
10. The Executive Officer, Panchayat Samities, Diglipur, Rangat, Mayabunder, Prothrapur, Ferrargunj, Little Andaman and Campbell Bay for wide publicity through Gram Panchayats under their respective jurisdiction.
11. The Deputy Director of Fisheries (N&M Andaman/South Andaman) for information and necessary action.
12. The Assistant Directors of Fisheries, Zonal Fisheries Office, (N&M Andaman/South Andaman/Nicobar) for information and wide publicity through respective Fisheries Sub-Stations.
13. Notice Board of Directorate of Fisheries, Sri Vijaya Puram,

Copy also forwarded to:

1. Sr.P.S to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Lok Niwas, Sri Vijaya Puram.
2. P.S to Chief Secretary for kind information of Chief Secretary, A&N Administration.
3. P.S to Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Fisheries) for kind information of Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Fisheries), A&N Administration.
4. P.S to Secretary (Fisheries) for kind information of Secretary (Fisheries), A&N Administration.
5. P.A to Director of Fisheries for kind information of Director of Fisheries, A&N Administration.


Assistant Director of Fisheries (HQ-1)

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Marine Fishing Regulation, 2026.

No.....of 2026

Promulgated by the President in the Seventy Ninth Year of the Republic of India.

A Regulation to provide for the promotion of sustainable development and management of fisheries in the Union territory of A&N Islands and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Article 240 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to promulgate the following Regulation made by her;

CHAPTER-I

PRELIMINARY

Short title, extent and commencement;

1. (1) This Regulation may be called the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Marine Fishing **Regulation, 2026.**

(2) It extends to the whole of the Union territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Administrator may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Regulation and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Regulation shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

Definitions

2. In this Regulation, unless the context otherwise requires, -

- a. **"Adjudicating officer"** means an officer authorized by the Administrator, by notification under sub section 2 of section 15;
- b. **"Administration"** means the Administration of the Union territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(c) **"Administrator"** means the Administrator of the Union territory of the

Andaman and Nicobar Islands appointed by the President under article 239 of the Constitution;

(d) "**Appellate Authority**" means an Authority appointed by the Administrator by notification under sub-section (1) of Section 17

(e) "**Authorized officer**" means an officer appointed by the Administrator, by notification under section 3;

(f) "**Fish**" includes all aquatic flora and fauna, live or dead, excluding the species covered under the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972;

(g) "**Fisheries Department**" means the Department of Fisheries in the Union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(h) "**Fishery officer**" means an officer of the rank of Assistant Fisheries Guard but not above the rank of Assistant Fisheries Development Officer in the Department of Fisheries or any other officer of the Administration or the Central Government, as may be appointed by the Administrator by notification in the Official Gazette;

(i) "**Fishing**" means searching for or trailing or pursuing fish, catching or taking or harvesting or culture of fish by any method including recreational and sport fishing;

(j) "**Fishing gears**" in relation to fishing, includes implements, nets, hooks and lines, cages, traps harpoons but does not include the explosives, poisons and chemicals or any other device of mass destruction;

(k) "**Fishing vessel**" means a ship or a boat whether or not, fitted with mechanical means of propulsion which is engaged in sea fishing or allied activities and includes wooden or fiber reinforced plastic canoes, dinghies, sailing vessel, catamaran, country craft and the like.

(l) "**Port**" means the place such as port, fishing harbour, wharf, pier, dock, jetty and fish landing centre where landing or berthing facilities have been provided for fishing vessels and their adjoining areas set apart for repair yards, fuel and ice supply installations, auction hall, fish processing plant and within such limits as may be notified by the Administrator from time to time;

(m) "**Prescribed**" means prescribed by rules made under this Regulation;

(n) "**Registered fishing vessel**" means a fishing vessel registered under the **Merchant Shipping Act, 1958** or under **Section 6 of the Regulation**;

(o) "**Specified area**" means such area or areas in the sea, land, lagoon and internal waters around the Union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, but not beyond the territorial waters, as may be notified by the Administrator;

(p) "**Fish aggregating device**" means man-made drifting or anchored buoys or raft or boats or any other object with or without light connected to it, so as to attract and aggregate fishes and other organisms;

(q) "**Fisheries**" means fishing and fishing related activities and includes **culturing, harnessing, conservation, research, recreation and management** thereof;

(r) "**Fishing related activities**" includes culturing, collection, landing, packaging, marketing, processing, preserving, or live transportation of fish, transshipping or transporting of fish that have not been previously landed at port, **establishing and operating a temporary Offshore Platform**, and such other fisheries activities **as prescribed by the Administrator**;

(s) "**Master**" means any person, by whatever name called, having command or charge of the fishing vessel;

(t) "**Owner**" in relation to a fishing vessel, means the person in whose name the fishing vessel is registered under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958;

(u) "**Notification**" means a notification published in the Official Gazette and the expressions "notify" or "notified" shall be construed accordingly;

(v) "**Official Gazette**" means the Official Gazette of the Union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(w) "**Territorial waters**" shall have the same meaning as referred to in section 3 of the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976;

(x) "**Union territory**" means the Union territory of Andaman & Nicobar

Islands.

Authorization of officers

3. The Administrator may, by notification, authorize, –

(a) any officer of the Administration, not being an officer below the rank of a Gazetted officer; or

(b) any officer of the Central Government, not being an officer below the rank of a Gazetted officer, with the consent of that Government, to exercise the powers conferred on, and discharge the duties imposed upon, as an Authorized officer in such area as may be notified.

**CHAPTER-II
REGULATION OF FISHING**

Power to regulate, restrict or prohibit certain matters within specified area.

4. (1) The Administrator, may, having regard to the provisions of sub-section (2), by order notified in the Official Gazette, regulate, restrict or prohibit-

(a) the fishing in any specified area by such class or classes of fishing vessels as may be prescribed; or

(b) the number of fishing vessels which may be used for fishing in any specified area; or

(c) the catching in any specified area of such species of fish and for such period as may be specified in the notification; or

(d) the use of such fishing gear or **engine power or fish aggregating devices** in specified area;

(e) fishing in any specified area during such period of day or night as may be prescribed.

(f) fishing and fishing related activities in respect of such size in specified area;

(g) juvenile fishing and fishing related activities in specified area.

Explanation.— For the purposes of this clause, the expression “**juvenile fishing**” means fishing of a young fish or organism that has not reached sexual maturity and not yet capable of breeding;

(h) the size including the **size of the mesh of fishing nets**;

(i) the **use of dynamites or any other explosive substances**, poisons or noxious chemicals, or destructive materials or any destructive methods for fishing; and

(2) In making an order under sub-section (1), the Administrator shall have due regard to the following matters, namely: -

(a) the need to protect the interest of different sections of persons engaged in fishing, particularly those engaged in fishing by using traditional fishing crafts such as catamaran, country craft, canoe or dinghy;

(b) the need to conserve fish and to regulate fishing on a scientific basis;

(c) the need to maintain law and order in the sea;

(d) the need to lease any specified area surrounding the islands to conserve the fish or shellfish or to culture the fish or shellfish:

(e) the need to lease out right to fish in the territorial waters for fish culture and harvest; and

(f) any other matter as may be prescribed.

Prohibition on use of fishing vessels in contravention of any order made under section 4

5. No owner or master of a fishing vessel shall use, or cause to allow such vessel to be used, for fishing in any manner which contravenes an order made under section 4:

Provided that nothing in such order shall be construed as preventing the passage of any fishing vessel from, or to, the shore,

through any area whether specified area or otherwise:

Provided further that the passing of such fishing vessel through any specified area shall not, in any manner, cause any damage to any fishing nets or tackles belonging to any person who engages in fishing in the specified area by using any traditional fishing craft such as catamaran, country craft, canoe or dinghy in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.

CHAPTER III

6. Registration of Fishing Vessels Including Sport Fishing Vessels

1. No owner of a vessel, other than a fishing vessel or sport fishing vessel registered under MS Act, shall use or cause the vessel to be used for the purpose of fishing in specified area, unless such vessel is registered as a fishing vessel under this regulation.
2. Every application for registration of a vessel as a fishing vessel or sport fishing vessel shall be made by the owner thereof to the Authorized Officer in such form, manner, fees and requirements as may be prescribed.
3. No vessel other than a registered fishing vessel, shall be entitled to apply for license under Section 7.

CHAPTER IV

7. Licensing of fishing vessels and fishing related activities

7.(1) The owner of a fishing vessel shall make an application to the authorized officer for the grant of license under sub-section (2) for using such a fishing vessel for fishing and fishing related activities in any specified area.

(2). No person shall, after the commencement of this Regulation, undertake fishing or its related activities in any specified area without a valid licence issued under this sub-section.

(3). The authorized officer shall have the power to issue licence for using fishing vessel under this section.

(4) Nothing contained in this section shall apply to a fishing vessel, which was being used for fishing immediately before the commencement of this Regulation, for such period as may be notified by the Administrator.

(5) No person shall establish or operate any offshore platform without a valid licence.

Explanation. –For the purposes of this sub-section and sub-sections (7), (8), (10), (13) and (14) the expression “**Offshore platforms**” means temporary platforms established within the territorial waters including internal waters for collection, processing, transshipment of fish or any other fishing related activities including the temporary berthing of fishing vessels.

Provided that a licence granted for an offshore platform under this section shall be valid only for the period specified therein and shall not confer any permanent right, title, interest or occupancy over the sea area. The licensee shall remove the offshore platform upon expiry, suspension or cancellation of the licence unless otherwise permitted under any law for the time being in force.

(6) The authorized officer shall have the power to issue licence for operating an offshore platform under this section.

(7) Any person desirous of establishing or operating an offshore platform shall make an application to the authorized officer for **the grant of a licence.**

(8) Every application under sub-section (1) or sub-section (8) shall be in such form, contain such particulars, and be accompanied by such fee, as may be prescribed.

(9) The Authorized officer may, after making such inquiry as he may deem fit and having regard to the matters referred to in **sub-section (12)** or sub-section (13), as the case may be, either grant or refuse to grant a licence to the owner of a fishing vessel for use of his fishing vessel for fishing or its related activities or to the applicant who is desirous of establishing or operating an offshore platform, as the case may be:

Provided that if the authorized officer refuses to grant a licence

under this section, he shall record his reasons for such refusal in writing, which shall be communicated to the applicant, in such form, manner and within such time as may be prescribed.

(10) A license granted to a fishing vessel under **sub-section (10)** shall provide the specified area within which such fishing vessel may be permitted for fishing or fishing related activities, as the case may be.

(11) In granting or refusing to grant a licence to a **fishing vessel for fishing** or fishing related activities under **sub-section (10)**, the authorised officer shall have regard to the following, namely:—

- (a) sea safety, communication systems, transponders and insurance for such class or classes of fishing vessel;
- (b) condition of the fishing vessel including the accessories and fishing gear with which it is fitted;
- (c) maintenance of law and order at sea;
- (d) the matters related to public interest and national security;
- (e) compliance of the fishing vessel to any notification made under section 5; and
- (f) any other matter as may be prescribed.

(12) In granting or refusing to grant a licence for establishing or operating an offshore platform, as the case may be, under sub-section (10), the authorized officer shall have regard to the following, namely:—

- (a) sea safety conditions of the offshore platform;
- (b) suitability of the location;
- (c) communication systems onboard the platform;
- (d) maintenance of law and order at sea;
- (e) matters related to public interest and national security;
- (f) obtaining necessary statutory clearances under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986; Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- (g) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as applicable; and
- (h) any other matter as may be prescribed.

(13) The license granted under this section shall be in such form, manner, time and be subject to such conditions, as may be prescribed:

Provided that different fee and different amounts by way of security may be prescribed in respect of licenses for different classes of fishing vessels used for fishing and fishing related activities and for different classes of offshore platforms and installation therein.

(14) The licence granted under this section shall be valid for the period specified therein or for an extended period, not exceeding such intervals

of period as may be prescribed.

(15) Every application for extension of the licence period shall be made in such form, contain such particulars, and be accompanied by such fee, as may be prescribed.

(16) Subject to the rules that may be made in this behalf, the authorized officer may, by order, vary or amend a licence or the conditions of a licence granted under this section:

Provided that before varying or amending a licence or its conditions under this section, the authorized officer shall provide the licence holder an opportunity of being heard and shall record the reasons for such variation or amendment in writing.

Prohibition of fishing by using fishing vessels which are not licensed

8. No person shall, after the commencement of this Regulation, carry on fishing in any specified area using a fishing vessel, which is not licensed under section 6:

Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to a fishing vessel, which was being used for fishing in such area immediately before the commencement of this Regulation, for such period as may be specified by the Administrator, by notification in the Official Gazette.

Cancellation, suspension and amendment of licences.

9.(1) If the Authorized Officer is satisfied, either on a reference made to him in this behalf or otherwise, that-

- a. licence granted under section 6 has been obtained by misrepresentation as to an essential fact; or
- b. the holder of a licence has, without reasonable cause, failed to comply with the conditions subject to which the licence has been granted or has contravened any of the provisions of this Regulation or any order or rule made there under.

Then, without prejudice to any other penalty to which the holder of the license may be liable under this Regulation, the authorized officer may, after giving the holder of the license a reasonable opportunity of showing cause and being heard, cancel or suspend the license or forfeit the whole or any part of security, if any, furnished for the due performance of the conditions subject to which the license has been granted.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section and without prejudice to any other penalty to which the license holder may be liable under this Regulation, the Administrator may, for the protection of the public interest or for maintenance of law and order, cancel a license granted under section 6.

10. Information to be given about movement of fishing vessels: Where a licensed fishing vessel moves from the area of one port to the area of another port, for fishing in that area, the owner of such fishing vessel shall give information to that effect, in the prescribed manner, to the authorized officer by whom such fishing vessel was registered and also to the port authority / Incharge having jurisdiction over the area to which such fishing vessel moves.

Returns to be furnished by owner of registered fishing vessels.

11.(1) Every owner or Master of a licensed fishing vessel shall furnish such information relating to fishing operations viz. catch, fishing effort, voyage details and such other particulars, in such form, manner and at such intervals as may be prescribed.

*Provided that **different reporting requirements may be prescribed for different classes of fishing vessels, fishing related activities and specified areas.***

*Provided further that the Administrator may, having regard to the nature of fishing operations, availability of electronic monitoring systems, communication devices, vessel monitoring systems, or any other digital platform, **exempt any class or classes of fishing vessels from furnishing voyage reports or prescribe simplified reporting requirements.***

(2) Voyage reports shall be required only for such class or classes of fishing vessels and at such intervals as may be prescribed.

(3) The Authorised officer may, at any time, without prior notice, inspect any fishing vessel or call for such records or information as may be necessary for verifying compliance with the provisions of this Regulation, rules, notifications or orders made thereunder.

Appeal against order refusing grant of license, registration, etc.

12. (1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the authorized officer refusing to grant license to a fishing vessel or offshore platform or cancelling, suspending, varying or amending such license, or forfeiting of any security furnished, as the case may be, may, within a period of thirty days from the date on which the order is communicated to such person, prefer an appeal to the adjudicating officer, in such form and manner as may be prescribed:

Provided that the adjudicating officer may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days, if he is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal within such time.

(2) On receipt of an appeal under sub-section (1), the adjudicating officer shall, after giving the parties an opportunity of being heard, pass such order, thereon as he deems fit, as expeditiously as possible and in any case before the expiry of three months from the date of presenting the appeal before him.

Powers and duties of fishery officers.

13. Every fishery officer shall assist the authorized officer in the discharge of his duties and may

(a) interpose for the purpose of preventing, and shall to the best of his ability prevent, the commission of an offence punishable under this Regulation;

(b) enter into any vessel or premises, for inspecting fishing implements or fish therein and check the possession of the fishing license and registration of the vessel;

c) conduct field verification of the fishing implements and crafts available with the parties who have applied for fishing license; and

(d) on knowing the design of any person to commit an offence punishable under this Regulation, bring the same to the notice of the authorized officer.

Power to enter and search fishing vessels.

14. If the authorized officer has, either on receipt of a report of the fishery officer or otherwise, reason to believe that any fishing vessel is being or has been used in contravention of any provision of his Regulation or of any order or rule made thereunder or of any of the conditions of the licence, he may enter and search such vessel and impound the vessel and seize the fish and fishing gear found in it.

Custody of fishing vessels and disposal of seized fish

15.(1) The authorised officer shall keep the fishing vessel impounded under section 13, in such place and in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) In the absence of suitable facilities for the storage of the fish-seized, the authorised officer may, if he is of the opinion that the disposal of such fish is necessary, dispose of such fish and deposit the proceeds thereof in the prescribed manner in the office of adjudicating officer.

CHAPTER-V ADJUDICATION

16.(1). Where any authorized officer has reason to believe that any fishing vessel is being, or has been, used in contravention of any of the provisions of this Regulation, or of any rule or order made thereunder or of any of the conditions of the licence, he shall make a report thereof to the adjudicating officer.

(2) The **adjudicating officer** referred to in sub-section (1) shall be any officer of the Department or Central Government, not below the rank of Deputy Director of Fisheries authorized by the Administrator, by notification, to exercise the powers conferred on, and discharge the duties imposed upon, by this Regulation for such areas as may be specified therein.

(3) The adjudicating officer appointed under sub-section (2) shall be at least one rank above the rank of authorized officer.

(4) The adjudicating officer shall hold an inquiry into the matter mentioned in the report in the prescribed manner after giving all the parties concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(5) The authorized officer may seize any fishing gear or fish aggregating devices as are prohibited for use under section 4, if he has found such fishing gear or fish aggregating devices onboard the fishing vessel, or used for the purpose of fishing or its related activities and shall submit a report to the adjudicating officer within seven days from the date of such seizure.

(6) Upon receipt of the report from the authorized officer, the adjudicating officer shall hold an inquiry into the matter mentioned in the report in such manner as may be prescribed, and after being satisfied that a contravention has been committed, shall issue a notice to the owner or Master of the fishing vessel requiring him to show cause as to why penalty should not be levied or other action should not be taken against him under this Regulation:

Provided that the adjudicating officer shall along with such notice, provide a copy of the report submitted by the authorized officer under sub-section

(1) and all other relevant material to the owner or Master of the fishing vessel, as the case may be:

Provided further that any fishing vessel seized or fishing gear seized under section 13, shall be released if no notice under this sub-section is issued within a period of fourteen days from the date of seizure of such fishing vessel or fishing gear.

(7) The owner or Master of the fishing vessel, as the case may be, may at any time, before or after the issuance of a notice under sub-section (4), may make an application before the adjudicating officer for release of the fishing vessel seized under section 13, and the adjudicating officer shall release such seized fishing vessel upon the owner or Master, as the case may be, furnishing a security deposit in the form of bond or such other form, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed:

Provided that any such bond furnished shall automatically stand discharged, if no notice under sub-section (4) is issued within a period of fourteen days from the date of seizure of such fishing vessel:

Provided further that if no application for release is made by the owner or Master, as the case may be, in respect of any seized fishing vessel within a period of six months from the date of receipt of a notice under sub-section (4), the adjudicating officer shall declare the seized fishing vessel as abandoned and upon such declaration, the fishing vessel shall vest with the Administration, free from all encumbrances and such fishing vessel may be disposed of by the Administration in such manner as may be prescribed.

(8) The owner or Master of a fishing vessel, who has received a notice under sub-section (4), shall file his reply before the adjudicating officer within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of such notice.

(9) The adjudicating officer shall, upon considering the reply of the owner or Master of the fishing vessel who has received a notice under sub-section (4), if any, placed before him and after providing an opportunity of being heard to such owner or Master, either pass an order in accordance with section 16 or dismiss the proceedings, as the case may be:

Provided that any fishing vessel seized and released pursuant to an application made under sub-section (7) shall be liable to be seized by the adjudicating officer under section 14, in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided further that any fishing gear seized under section 13 shall be liable to be dealt with in such manner as provided in section 14:

Provided also that in respect of any fishing vessel seized under section 13, in respect of which any security deposit in the form of bond or such other form is furnished by the owner or Master of the fishing vessel shall automatically be discharged upon dismissal of the proceedings:

Provided also that any fishing gear seized under section 13 shall be released upon dismissal of the proceedings.

Penalty

17.(1) The adjudicating officer shall, after the inquiry under sub-section (4) of section 15, decide whether any persons has used, or caused or allowed to be used, any fishing vessel in contravention of any of the provisions of this Regulation or of any rule or order made thereunder or any of the conditions of the licence, and any such person, on being found guilty by the adjudicating officer, shall be liable to such penalty not exceeding, -

(a) impose a **penalty** on such owner or Master, as the case may be, of not more than **ten thousand rupees** in case of a fishing vessel of less than twelve metres in length and seize the fishing vessel along with its catch, fishing gear, equipment, stores or cargo onboard for a period up to six months or till the time a valid licence is presented to the adjudicating officer, by the owner or Master, whichever is earlier;

(b) impose a **penalty** on such owner or Master, as the case may be, of not more than **twenty-five thousand rupees** in case of a fishing vessel of equal to or more than twelve metres in length and seize the fishing vessel along with its catch, fishing gear, equipment, stores or cargo onboard for a period of not more than six months or till the time a valid licence is presented to the adjudicating officer, by the owner or Master, whichever is earlier:

Provided that upon presentation of a valid licence by the owner or Master of the fishing vessel before the expiry of six months, the adjudicating officer shall release the vessel, in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided further that upon the expiry of six months, if no valid licence has been presented before the adjudicating officer, the adjudicating officer shall declare that the seized fishing vessel as abandoned and upon such declaration, the fishing vessel shall vest with

the Administration, free from all encumbrances and such fishing vessel may be disposed of by the Administration in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) If the adjudicating officer, after following the procedure under section 12, is satisfied that any owner or Master, as the case may be, has used or caused or allowed to be used any fishing vessel in contravention of the provisions of this Regulation, other than sub-section (1) of section 6 or of any order, notification or rules issued or made thereunder or any of the conditions of the license granted under section 6, he shall by an order—

(a) impose a penalty on such owner or Master, as the case may be, of **not more than five thousand rupees** in case of a fishing vessel of less than twelve metres in length and **not more than ten thousand rupees** for a fishing vessel equal to or more than twelve metres in length for the **first contravention**;

(b) impose a penalty on such owner or Master, as the case may be, of **not more than ten thousand rupees** in case of a fishing vessel of less than twelve metres in length and **not more than twenty thousand rupees** for a fishing vessel equal to or more than twelve metres in length for the **second contravention**;

(c) impose a penalty on such owner or Master, as the case may be, of **not more than twenty thousand rupees** in case of a fishing vessel of less than twelve metres in length and **not more than forty thousand rupees** for a fishing vessel equal to or more than twelve metres in length for a **third contravention**;

(d) **suspend the licence of the fishing vessel for a period of one month** and impose a penalty of not more than forty thousand rupees for a vessel of less than twelve metres in length and not more than eighty thousand rupees for a fishing vessel equal to or more than twelve metres in length for a fourth contravention; or

(e) **cancel the licence of the fishing vessel** and forfeit any security deposit made by the licence holder for any subsequent contravention:

Provided that no licence shall be suspended or cancelled by the adjudicating officer without providing an opportunity of being heard to the licence holder.

(3) Without prejudice to any penalty that may be imposed under the preceding sub-sections, if the adjudicating officer, after following the procedure under section 15, has sufficient reason to believe that fishing gear seized under sub-section (5) of section 15 was used in contravention of any provisions of this Regulation, he shall direct the authorized officer to destroy such gear beyond use before two independent witnesses, by adopting such procedure as may be prescribed.

Explanation.— For the purposes of this section, the expression “metres in length” means the overall length of the fishing vessel.

18.(1) The Administrator may, by notification, appoint an Appellate Authority for hearing the appeals against the orders of the adjudicating officer.

(2) The Appellate Authority referred to in sub-section (1) shall be any officer not below the rank of Director of the Administration.

(3) Any person aggrieved by an order of the adjudicating officer may, within a period of thirty days from the date on which the order is communicated to him, prefer an appeal to the Appellate Authority, having jurisdiction to hear such appeal:

Provided that the Appellate Authority may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days of communication of the order, but not after the expiry of sixty days from the date aforesaid, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring an appeal within such time

(4) No appeal under this section shall be entertained by the Appellate Authority unless the appellant has, at the time of preferring the appeal, deposited a sum equal to fifty per cent. of the amount of penalty imposed, if any, under the order in respect of which an appeal has been filed.

Provided that on an application made by the appellant in this behalf, the Appellate Authority may, if it is of the opinion that the deposit to be made under this sub-section shall cause undue hardship to the appellant, by order in writing, dispense with such deposit either in part or full, subject to such conditions as it may deem fit

(5) On receipt of an appeal under sub-section (3), the Appellate Authority may, after making such inquiry as it deems fit and after giving the parties concerned an opportunity of being heard, confirm, modify or set aside the order in respect of which an appeal has been preferred and the decision of the Appellate Authority shall be final and binding on the parties.

(6) If the sum deposited by way of penalty under sub-section (4) exceeds the penalty directed to be paid by the Appellate Authority, the excess amount, or if the Appellate Authority sets aside the order imposing penalty, the whole of the sum deposited by way of penalty, shall be refunded to the appellant.

19. The Appellate Authority may call for and examine the records of any order passed by an adjudicating officer and against which no appeal has been preferred under section 15, for the purpose of satisfying itself as to the legality or propriety of such order or as to the adherence to the procedure and pass such order with respect thereto as it may deem fit:

Provided that no such order shall be made without giving the person affected an opportunity of being heard in the matter.

20. The adjudicating officer and the Appellate Authority shall, while holding an inquiry, have all the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 for the purposes of —

- a. summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses;
- b. requiring the discovery, inspection and production of documents;
- c. requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
- d. receiving evidence on affidavits; and
- e. issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.
- f. any other matter as may be prescribed.

Contravention by companies

21.(1) Where a person committing contravention of any of the provisions of this Regulation or any rule or order made thereunder or any of the conditions of a licence granted under it is a company, every person who, at the time the contravention was committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the contravention and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment, if he proves that the contravention was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such contravention.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where a contravention under this Regulation or any rule or order made thereunder or any of the conditions of a licence granted under it has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall be deemed to be guilty of that contravention and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation - For the purposes of this section, -

- a. "company" means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and
- b. "director", in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

CHAPTER VI

MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (adopted from LMFR 2026)

22. (1) The Administrator, shall, in consultation with the Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police and such other authorities, as he may deem fit, notify the monitoring, control and surveillance measures for implementation of the provisions of this Regulation:

Provided that different levels of monitoring, control and surveillance measures may be prescribed for different classes of fishing vessels and different specified areas.

(2) Every owner or Master of a fishing vessel and every fisherman and member of the crew onboard a fishing vessel shall carry such proof of his identity including fishing licence and Aadhaar number or any other alternate and viable means of identification, as may be notified by the Administrator.

Explanation.— For this sub-section, the expression “Aadhaar number” means the twelve digit unique identification number of an individual generated by the Unique Identification Authority of India, under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

(3) Every owner or Master of the fishing vessel licensed under this Regulation, as the case may be, shall keep and maintain onboard such

fishing vessel, communication and positioning systems or devices, and ensure that such systems and devices are in working condition before every voyage at all times when the fishing vessel is at sea:

Provided that any class or classes of fishing vessels may be exempted, from keeping and maintaining onboard, such systems or devices, in such manner as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER VII MISCELLANEOUS

Exemptions

23.(1) Nothing contained in this Regulation shall apply to survey vessels belonging to

- (a) the Central Government;
- (b) a State Government;
- (c) a Public undertaking.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this sub-section, "public undertaking" means any company or corporation owned or controlled by the Central Government including a Union territory Administration or by a State Government,

(2) If the Administrator is of the opinion that, having regard to the purposes of this Regulation, it would not be in the public interest to apply all or any of the provisions of this Regulation to any class of classes of fishing vessels used for fishing in any specified area or areas, he may, by notification in the Official Gazette, exempt, subject to such conditions as he may think fit to impose upon such class or classes of fishing vessel used for fishing in such specified area or areas, as he may specify in the notification, from the operation of all or any of the provisions of this Regulation.

Provided that no notification under this sub-section shall remain in force for more than six months at a time.

Protection of action taken in good faith

24.(1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Administrator or any officer or authority for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Regulation or any order or rule made thereunder.

(2) No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Administrator or any officer or authority for any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Regulation or any order or rule made thereunder.

(3) All amounts, penalties and other sums required to be paid under this Regulation or any order, notification or rules issued or made thereunder, may be recovered by the Administration by distress and sale of any property of the person from whom the same are due, or as an arrear of land revenue.

Measures to ensure sustainable fishing and fishing related activities

25. (1) The Administrator may, by notification, provide for such measures as may be necessary to ensure **sustainable fishing and fishing related activities** within the Union territory of A&N Islands.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred under sub-section (1), the Administrator may, by such notification, establish or designate such planning tools, mechanisms, committees, advisory bodies or other institutional frameworks, as may be prescribed, for the purposes of— .

- (a) regulating, monitoring or managing fishing and fishing-related activities;
- (b) conserving and protecting marine resources, habitats and ecosystems;
- (c) ensuring adherence to scientific, seasonal, species-specific, or area-based sustainability norms;
- (d) implementing, enforcing, or operationalizing any guidelines, codes of practice, schemes or management plans formulated under this Regulation or under any other law for the time being in force.

(3) The constitution, powers, functions, duties and procedures of the tools, mechanisms or bodies established or designated under sub-section (2), and the norms, criteria, or standards to be followed by them, shall be such as may be prescribed.

(4) All measures notified under this section shall be consistent with the objectives of **sustainable utilization, scientific management, conservation of marine wealth, and long-term ecological security** of the Union territory of A&N Islands.

(5) The Administrator may, by notification, issue a policy for leasing of land, lagoon and sea areas within the territorial waters for the promotion of culture fisheries, including Mariculture.

Power to make rules.

26. (1) The Administrator may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Regulation.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely: -

- (a) to regulate, restrict or prohibit the matters under clauses (a),(d),(e) of sub-section (1) of section 4 and the matters to be considered by the Administrator under clause (f) of sub-section (2) thereof,
- (b) the form of the application for grant of licence under sub-section (1), the particulars which it shall contain and the fees which shall accompany it under subsection (9) of section 6;
- (c) the form, manner and time for communicating the refusal to grant licence under the proviso to sub-section (10) of section 6;
- (d) the matters to be considered by the authorized officer in granting or refusing to grant a licence under clause(d) of sub-section (4) of section 6;
- (e) the different fee and different amount of security for different classes of fishing vessels and offshore platforms under the provision to sub-section (14) of section 6;
- (f) the form of **application for registration of a vessel** as a fishing vessel or sport fishing vessels under the Regulation and manner, fees and requirements for registration under sub-section (2) of section 6
- (g) the procedure to be followed in varying or modifying a licence under subsection (2) of section 8;
- (h) the manner in which the information relating to movement of a fishing vessel from the area of one port to another port shall be given under section 9;
- (i) the time and manner in which returns by the owner of a licensed fishing vessel shall be furnished under section 9;
- (j) the manner in which appeal shall be preferred before the adjudicating officer under sub-section (1) of section 11;
- (k) the intervals of period for extension of the period of licence under sub-section (15) of section 6;
- (l) the form, particulars and fee for extension of the licence period under sub-section (16) of section 6;
- (m) the form and manner of information to be furnished by the owner of fishing vessel to the authorized officer and port authority under section 9;
- (n) the form, manner and intervals of voyage report to be furnished by the owner of the licensed fishing vessel to the authorized officer under sub section (1) of section 10;
- (o) the form and manner of preferring an appeal to the adjudicating officer under sub-section (1) section 11;
- (p) the time for submission of report by the authorized officer to the

adjudicating officer under sub-section (1) of section 15;

(q) the form and manner of report to be prepared by the authorised officer for submission to the adjudicating officer for contravention of provisions of this Regulation under sub-section (1) of section 15;

(r) the place and the manner in which an impounded fishing vessel shall be kept under sub-section (1) of section 14 and the manner in which the proceeds of the seized fish disposed off shall be deposited with the adjudicating officer under sub-section (2) of that section;

(s) the procedure of the inquiry by the adjudicating officer under sub-section (2) of section 15;

(t) the matters to be prescribed under clause (f) of sub-section (1) of section 19;

(u) the form, manner, time and conditions for grant of licence under sub-section (14) of section 6;

(v) any other matter referred to in clause (f) of sub-section (12) of section 6;

(w) any other matter referred to in clause (g) of sub-section (13) of section 6;

(x) the manner of holding inquiry by the adjudicating officer under sub-section (4) and (6) of section 15;

(y) the conditions for release of seized fishing vessels by adjudicating officer under sub-section (7) of section 15;

(z) the manner of disposal of the fishing vessel by the Administration under the second proviso to sub-section (7) of section 15;

(aa) the manner of seizure by adjudicating officer for contravention of section 14 under the proviso to sub-section (9) of section 15;

(ab) the different levels of monitoring, control and surveillance measures for different classes of fishing vessels and different specified areas under the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 21;

(ac) the procedure for destruction of fishing gear seized by the adjudicating officer under sub-section (3) of section 16

(ad) the matters to be prescribed under clause (f) of section 19;

(ae) the manner of exemption of the class or classes of fishing vessels from keeping and maintaining onboard communication and positioning systems or devices under the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 21;

(af) any other matter referred to in clause (g) of sub-section (13) of section 6;

(ag) the manner of release of the fishing vessel by the adjudicating officer under first proviso to clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 16;

(ah) the manner of disposing of fish vessel by the Administration under second proviso to clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 16;

(ai) the manner of disposal of fish and deposition of the proceeds thereunder under sub-section (2) of section 14;

(aj) Any other matter in respect of which provision is to be, or may be, made by rules under this Regulation.

(3) Every rule made under this regulation shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

Power to remove difficulties.

27.(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this regulation, the Administrator may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Regulation as may appear to him to be necessary for removing the difficulty.

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of three years from the commencement of this Regulation.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

Repeal and savings.

28.(1) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Fisheries Regulation, 2003 is hereby repealed.

(2) The repeal of the said Regulation shall not affect-

(a) revive anything not in force or existing at the time at which the repeal takes effect;

(b) The previous operations of the said Regulation or anything done or suffered thereunder; or

(c) any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued, or incurred under the said Regulation; or

(d) any penalty, forfeiture or punishment imposed in respect of any offence committed against the said Regulation; or

(e) any investigation, legal proceedings or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment as aforesaid, and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if the said Regulation had not been repealed.

(f) affect any notification, order, appointment, certificate, notice, receipt, application made, or license granted, which is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Regulation; and the same shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Regulation;

(3) The mention of particular matters referred to in sub-section (2) shall not be held to prejudice or affect the general application of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, with regard to the effect of repeal.