



What you can do to help!



Photo by Tanvi Vaidyanathan/Project Seahorse

The economic, social, and ecological impacts of trawling are outlined in the introductory document of this toolkit. Many challenges associated with trawling can be addressed by multiplier organizations such as NGOs, regional governments, and citizens groups. Together, these actions, taken at a smaller level, can make a difference in the goal of achieving more sustainable fisheries in India (and globally). It has been shown that community engagement can help attain conservation goals.

Individuals and groups that want to insist on better management need to marshal scientific arguments for decision-makers. When presenting the goal of reducing biomass trawling to the government, it is vital to raise ecological, social, economic, and governance concerns in a context of intergenerational equity. The ultimate intent of all such interventions is to mobilize the government to improve the management of fisheries across regions, whether with a single port authority or a national government agency. Either way, it is important that supporting scientific information be shared and that the importance of sustainable fisheries is presented in an economic sense.



An initial approach requires that we invest time and energy up front to **build personal relationships** with decision-makers. An understanding at a one-to-one level lends itself to more time and effort being spent by decision-makers, in the future, in support of our causes. Moreover, the ability to compromise in relationships with policy-makers is important as, over time, it helps build trust and shared commitment between all parties.

It is key to be able to provide **sound scientific knowledge** as evidence for conservation perspectives. The introductory documents in this toolkit provide great building blocks and general background information on the topic.

It is very important that, through policy decisions, we work towards positive outcomes in ecological, social, and economics aspects of key issues. While we know that ecologically bottom trawling is devastating, the loss of economic stability for the regional fishermen may end up being more important. As a result, it is valuable to be able to present **region-specific socioeconomic solutions** as alternatives to trawling practices. The role of **intergenerational equity** can also be an important argument to present as it incorporates opportunities for the future of the region.

In summary, both multiplier organizations and keen citizens have the ability to make a difference within their regional government's policy process. Through close relationships scientific results and socioeconomic solutions that tackle intergenerational equity can be presented.