

## **Plea to stop new licences for fishing vessels**

### **Licensing scheme for fishing gear, boat building yards mooted**

A panel of experts, which drafted a national action plan for the sustainability of marine fisheries, has called for stopping registration of new fishing vessels in Indian waters to solve the problem of overcapacity. Aimed at implementing the Sustainable Development Goal-14 of the United Nations in India, the experts also recommended a licensing scheme for fishing gear and boat building yards too.

Formation of marine parks, community reserves and no-take zones are some of the other major recommendations in the action plan.

A demand for imposing Minimum Legal Size (MLS) restrictions on all coastal States and Union Territories uniformly to avoid juvenile fishing has been included in the action plan.

The action plan also includes an urgent call to finalise Ocean Regulation Management Act to bring uniformity in fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).