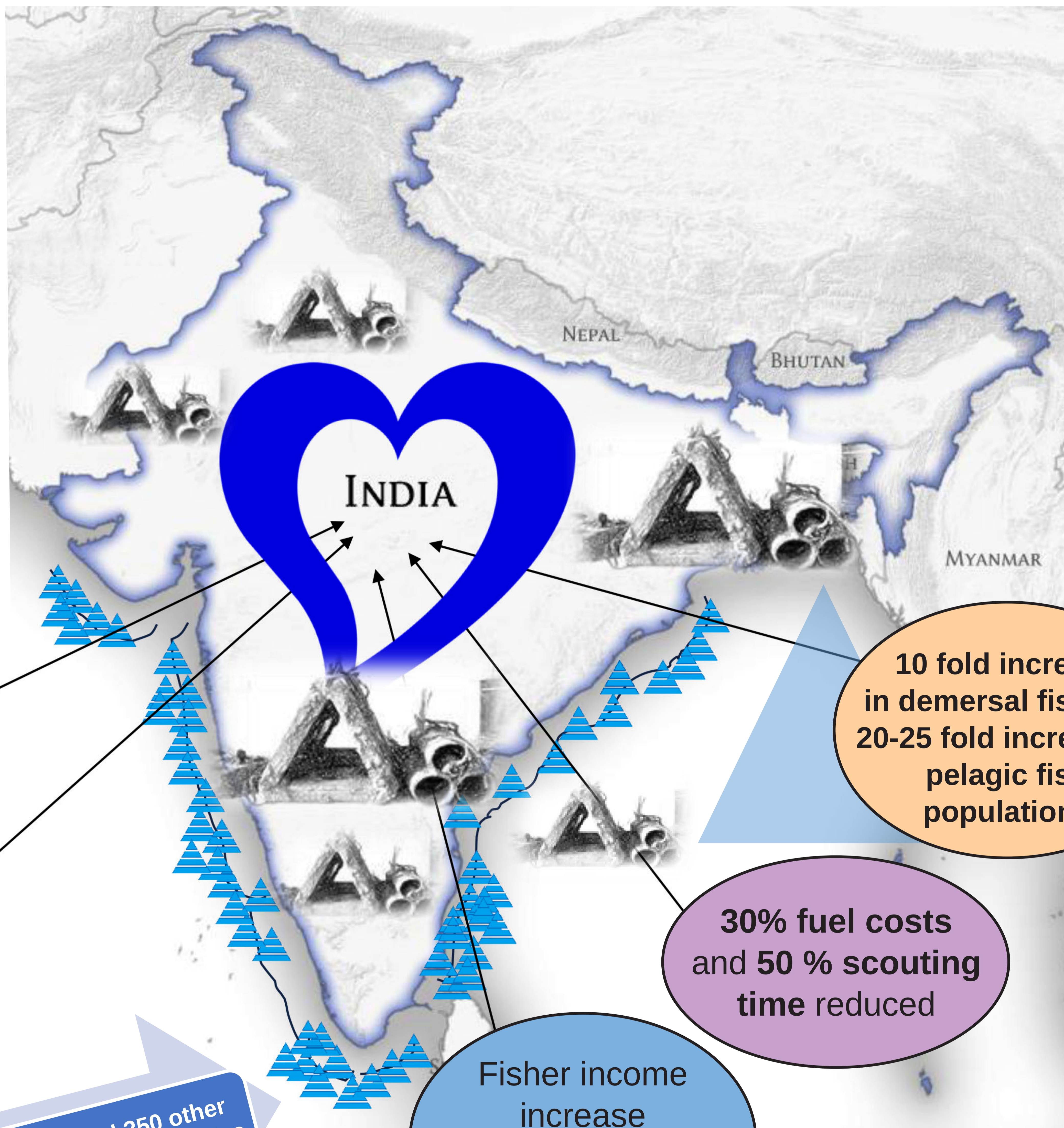


Joe K Kizhakudan*, Shoba Joe Kizhakudan, Remya L, Narayanakumar R, Dineshbabu A P, Suresh V V R and A Gopalakrishnan

Artificial reefs are sheltered manmade structures, placed on the sea bed as a substitute for natural habitats and serve multiple functions such as fish production, conservation, protection, upwelling, recreation, breeding and nursery.

75% of India's marine fishers population are small scale fishers primary objectives of PMMSY is to **double the income of the fishers.**

Department of Fisheries, Government of India intends to assist the States/Union Territories under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** scheme for installation of artificial reefs and for undertaking sea ranching activities in their coastal waters in 3477 villages/sites



600 Ha area to be covered under the OECM habitat restoration

2 lakhs fishers directly and 4 lakhs indirectly benefitted

10 fold increase in demersal fish and 20-25 fold increase in pelagic fish populations

30% fuel costs and 50% scouting time reduced

Fisher income increase
Rs. 50,000 - 1,00,000 /year

Increase production of 30 commercial and 250 other varieties of marine fauna and conserves many species

Coastal fisher folks to reduce investment costs, operation costs and save on energy and time to catch more good quality and quantity of fishes in a more sustainable manner with equal importance to increased biodiversity and conservation.

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