

Dhowr - A revisit to the design and operation of indigenous machinery in fishery technology

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Majority of the non-motorised fishing craft in Karnataka are wooden, operated mainly from beach landing centers which hardly have any berthing facility. These boats operate on daily basis and are hauled on to the beach using human labour after the day's operation, to protect it from fouling organisms. But the change in beach profile due to changing weather conditions makes it extremely cumbersome for hauling the boat manually. A wooden winch for hauling the boat was developed by the fishermen of Dakshina Kannada, nearly five decades back. Though the device was accepted, it was not much popularized. The fishermen in *Keni* village of Uttar Kannada district worked further on this device and came out with a modified manually working wooden winch/capstan named '*Dhowr*'. The details of the materials used and cost of construction was collected from fishermen of selected fishing villages of Uttara Kannada District. Local fishermen who use this traditional winch/capstan were interviewed at random in each taluk (n=40). The exploratory case study design was used where a systemic semi-structured approach that employs a

combination of methods to assess and understand a situation was used with the help of local people to document the details of the winch. The work gives the description of the winch, its different parts and the benefits to the fishermen when they use it. Effort has been taken to document and report for the first time, the use of such unique, eco-friendly wooden capstan, "*Dhowr*" which is in operation in traditional beach landing fishing villages of Karnataka.