

## Fishermen Legal & Regulatory Framework Awareness Workshop



Fishermen Legal & Regulatory Framework Awareness Workshop was organized on August 8, 2014 at Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar. This workshop was organized by Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (GNLU) in collaboration with Police Department, Govt. of Gujarat where 333 fishermen from different districts of Gujarat participated.

This seminar had the esteemed presence of Shri P C Thakur (IPS), Director General of Police, Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N Patel, Director, GNLU and Inspector General of Indian Coast Guard Shree Kuldeep Singh and DIG Subhash Trivedi (IPS).



During the workshop 6 lectures were delivered by the Professors of law (Maritime Security Law and Coastal Regulation Zone), experts from Gujarat Police delivered the talk on coastal security, Dr. P C Malli spoke on Gujarat Fisheries Act and Comdt. Devansh Trivedi spoke on the Do's and Don'ts for the fishermen when at sea and discussed success stories and best practices.

The workshop became the platform for discussion of vital issues like:

- Legal aspects of maritime security with an event-based study
- Coastal Regulatory Framework and issues concerning territorial waters
- Implementation of Fisheries Act, 2003

- The ways and means of assistance to fishermen by Coast Guard
- Cooperation between fisheries and Marine Police

Shri P C Thakur (DG of Gujarat Police) & DIG Subhash Trivedi (IPS) stressed on the following aspects:

- Colour Code
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Life Jacket
- Bio- Metric Card
- Transponder

Prof. Bimal N Patel, Director, GNLU addressed each and every concern of the fishermen pertaining to Fisheries, Coast Guard, Marine Police and the legal complexities surrounding it in the most simplest of terms which was well received by the fishermen.

Capt. Kalpesh Rawal mentioned that the fishermen are the first line of surveillance (be the eyes & ears for security agencies). He suggested that they must use and carry all fishing clearance documents and personal identity documents. He further advised that the fishermen must refrain from venturing in to No Fishing Zones / Prohibited Zones and must pay heed to the warnings issued by the units on patrol. They should use proper and authorised fishing gear, carry safety / survival gears catering for everyone onboard. He firmly cautioned that they should not misuse / block MMB CH-16 and use all electronic navigational / communication equipment judiciously.

Fishermen who gathered here from various districts of Gujarat were overwhelmed to learn about legal issues and were hopeful for such good cooperation in future. They expressed their gratitude for such initiatives leading to awareness on legal issues concerning the sea.