FISHERIES & COASTAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF BALOCHISTAN



**DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT**

***May 2024 – February 2025***

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report comprehensively reviews the Fisheries & Coastal Development Department’s progress from May 2024 to February 2025. It highlights key governance, policy development, environmental conservation, infrastructure enhancement, and employment generation achievements. The department has made significant strides in strengthening institutional capacity, improving regulatory enforcement, and fostering sustainable fisheries and coastal development.

One of the department’s major achievements has been successfully executing administrative and policy reforms aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and operational efficiency. The Balochistan Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy 2025-2035 is a significant initiative that creates a strategic framework for responsible fisheries management, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. Additionally, the Balochistan Marine Fisheries Patrolling Rules, 2023, have been crucial in combating illegal fishing activities, leading to a 50% drop in illegal trawling and improved surveillance within Balochistan’s territorial waters.

To bolster marine conservation and develop fisheries, the department has implemented stock-based licensing, vessel registration systems, and improved monitoring mechanisms. The creation of 20 new freshwater fish sanctuaries and rehabilitation programs for native species highlights the department’s commitment to environmental protection.

Infrastructural development has been a key focus, with considerable progress made in tourist resorts, beach parks, tourist attraction sites, the rehabilitation of fish harbours, the establishment of boat-repair workshops, and the development of model fish markets. The Three-Year Freshwater Fish Production Program and the Garok Kharan Fish Hatchery represent significant steps towards promoting inland fisheries and ensuring sustainable resource use.

Capacity-building efforts, including specialised training programs conducted nationally and internationally, have strengthened the technical expertise of fisheries officers. These initiatives have improved fisheries stock assessment, aquaculture management, and seafood safety, aligning Balochistan’s fisheries sector with global best practices.

The department has also prioritized employment generation, particularly for coastal communities. Through the Korean Seasonal Workers Program, new overseas employment opportunities have been created, with the first group of trained workers set for deployment in March 2025. The Balochistan Fisher folk Welfare Fund further provides financial support for boat and net repairs, emergency relief, and training, enhancing the socio-economic resilience of fisher folk.

Furthermore, intergovernmental collaboration has strengthened regulatory enforcement. At Balochistan’s request, the Sind Government banned illegal trawling. These initiatives have been vital in protecting marine resources and ensuring livelihoods.

To conclude, the Fisheries and Coastal Development Department is striving to effectively implement strategic interventions that will transform the fisheries sector in Balochistan. To this end, the department aims to broaden its policy initiatives, increase technological adoption, and promote public-private partnerships to ensure sustainable fisheries management, environmental conservation, and long-term socio-economic development.

# INTRODUCTION

The Fisheries and Coastal Development Department of the Government of Balochistan is responsible for the sustainable management, conservation, and development of the province's coastal and marine resources. The department recognises the economic and ecological significance of Balochistan’s coastline and plays a crucial role in promoting responsible fisheries, enhancing coastal tourism, and implementing integrated coastal zone management strategies.

The department's main functions include developing and promoting marine and inland fisheries, establishing hatcheries and model farms in collaboration with the private sector, and supplying high- quality fish seed to support inland aquaculture. To ensure the long-term sustainability of aquatic habitats, the department actively works to rehabilitate marine and inland ecosystems affected by overexploitation and environmental degradation.

In line with global advancements in the fisheries sector, the department introduces modern fishing technologies, oversees the upgrading of wooden fishing boats to meet international standards, and facilitates the transition to fiberglass boats. It also regulates and manages fish markets, monitors illegal trawling activities, and ensures the protection of local fishermen’s interests through an enforcement force. Additionally, it collaborates with national and international organisations and Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water, and Marine Sciences (LUAWMS) to conduct research and enhance fisheries practices.

In addition to fisheries, the department contributes to coastal development by establishing tourist resorts, lookouts, attractions, service areas and amenities for travellers and visitors, floating jetties, marine parks, theme parks, and protected coastal areas. It promotes eco-tourism, particularly around Gaddani, Astola Island, Kund Malir, Miani Hor, Ormara, Gwadar, and Jiwani, while improving coastal infrastructure by managing harbours and small ports. Moreover, the department issues fishing licenses, regulates sports fishing, enforces seasonal fishing bans, and ensures safety at sea through search and rescue operations.

Through these initiatives, the Fisheries and Coastal Development Department aims to balance economic growth, environmental sustainability, and the welfare of local fishing communities, making it a vital entity in Balochistan’s socio-economic landscape.

The coastline of Balochistan province spans 770 km, and the province’s maritime area exceeds 17000 sq-km (excluding internal waters), which is nearly equal to the size of Kuwait. Over 70% of the coastal population relies on the fishery sector for their livelihood. The reported catch in the province is 137,950 metric tons (valued at Rs 82.8 billion), while the unreported and illegal catch exceeds 325080 metric tons (valued at Rs 195 billion), accounting for around 70% of the total catch. Illegal fishing is mainly conducted by Sind-based trawlers that employ prohibited Gujja nets, harming marine life and leading to a rapid decline in valuable demersal species. In 2015, the Fisheries Resource Appraisal Project indicated a continued decline of valuable fish stocks by up to 90% and recommended effective policies and practices to reduce fishing efforts to rebuild the fish stock. The provincial government prohibited the issuance of licenses to trawlers equipped with Gujja nets back in 1971. However, the Sind Government continued to issue licenses to such trawlers within its jurisdiction up to 12 nautical miles. Recently, in October 2024, the Sind government also banned this practice through a Cabinet decision, though enforcement remains questionable. These trawlers encroach from Sindh and federal territorial waters into Balochistan’s territory, causing frustration and even agitation among local fisher folk. While the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency is tasked with curbing illegal fishing practices beyond 12 nautical miles, minimal efforts have been observed in this respect. This unauthorised and illegal fishing poses a growing concern for the provincial government and the local community.

Fisheries contribute 10% to the national GDP of major fish-producing countries, while in Pakistan, it accounts for only 0.32%. Global fish production stands at 186.6 million metric ton, whereas Pakistan produces merely 0.7 million metric ton, ranking the country 35th in the world. Many countries have made significant investments in both marine and inland aquaculture, employing new technologies such as shrimp farming, cage culture, biofloc, pen culture, and processing. However, despite its enormous potential for economic returns and job creation, the development of the fishery sector has been a low priority in Balochistan. Now is the right time to harness fishery resources. The Fisheries and Coastal Development has initiated new efforts focused on improved governance, promoting biodiversity, sustainable fishing, and exploring alternative modern fishing techniques and practices, as outlined in the report.

# Institutional Improvement

## Administrative Reforms

The Fisheries and Coastal Development Department has initiated important administrative reforms to improve institutional efficiency, ensure accountability, and foster a culture of professionalism within the organisation. The following key measures have been implemented:

#### Strengthening Internal Oversight and Accountability

To ensure that the department effectively discharges its obligations, weekly internal progress review meetings are conducted under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Fisheries & Coastal Development Department. These meetings provide a structured forum for evaluating ongoing projects, resolving administrative and operational challenges, and ensuring that departmental objectives are met efficiently. The review mechanism fosters a culture of transparency, accountability, and continuous performance improvement.

#### Development of Terms of Reference (TORs) for All Positions

A comprehensive Terms of Reference (TORs) framework has been established for all departmental positions and designations. This initiative ensures that every employee has a clearly defined scope of work, allowing them to carry out their responsibilities effectively. By aligning job expectations with departmental objectives, this initiative boosts productivity, lessens uncertainties in task execution, and guarantees that each role contributes meaningfully to the department’s strategic goals. Designating responsibilities and accountabilities over nine months has considerably enhanced employees' performance.

#### Enforcing Punctuality and Attendance

A robust attendance monitoring system has been introduced across all departmental offices to maintain discipline and punctuality. Daily attendance checks ensure that all employees adhere to official working hours. This initiative has significantly improved work ethics, reduced absenteeism, and reinforced a professional work environment, ultimately contributing to better service delivery and departmental efficiency.

#### Human Resource Development

To ensure career progression and enhance employee motivation, two Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meetings were held to facilitate the promotion of employees from BPS-1 to BPS-16. The promotions were based on merit, service tenure, and performance evaluations in accordance with established government policies. This initiative has boosted workforce morale, encouraged professional development, and ensured that deserving employees are recognised for their contributions. Employees are acknowledged for their punctuality, performance, and achievements through awards such as certificates for the most punctual employee and appreciation letters.

#### Employment

In accordance with government policies aimed at providing financial relief and employment security to the families of deceased employees, thirty appointments have been made to fill vacant positions under the deceased employees' quota. This initiative ensures that the dependents of deceased government employees receive fair employment opportunities, fostering social security and stability for affected families.

Furthermore, over 400 vacant positions have been advertised for various categories, and the process will soon be completed. This will enhance the department’s manpower and improve performance efficiency. In addition, employment for various other positions has been sent to the Balochistan Public Service Commission.

Through these administrative reforms, the Fisheries and Coastal Development Department is building an efficient, transparent, and accountable governance structure that will support its mandate of sustainable fisheries development and coastal management.

## Continuous Professional Development

The Fisheries Department of Balochistan is dedicated to enhancing the professional capacity of its workforce through specialised training programs. Recognising the significance of technical knowledge and skill development in sustainable fisheries management, the department has actively enabled training opportunities for its employees. These programs have equipped participants with advanced methodologies in fisheries assessment, aquaculture, and sustainable resource management, significantly contributing to the department’s operational efficiency and long-term development goals.

#### Six-Day Training on Fisheries Stock Assessment – Thailand

Location: Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand Date: 27 January 2025 – 1 February 2025

Participants: Five officers (Assistant Directors, Marine Biologists, and Research Officers)

***Purpose*:** The training sought to equip participants with a comprehensive knowledge of fisheries stock assessment techniques, including Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA), biological sampling, surplus production models, and fish population dynamics.

***Impact:*** The training improved officers' ability to carry out scientific stock assessments, supporting sustainable fisheries management. It also introduced modern aquaculture techniques suitable for Balochistan’s marine ecosystem, encouraging responsible fishing practices and resource conservation. The knowledge gained is aimed at enhancing fisheries policy formulation and implementation in the province.

#### Ten-Day Refresher Training on Aquaculture – Pakistan

Location: Fisheries Research & Training Institute (FR&TI), Lahore Date: 14 October 2024 – 23 October 2024

*Participants*: Multiple officers from the Fisheries Department

***Purpose****:* The training concentrated on contemporary aquaculture techniques, such as Biofloc Technology (BFT), cage fish farming, shrimp culture, and genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) cultivation. It also included feed formulation, management of fish diseases, and quality control in laboratory environments.

***Impact:*** Officers gained hands-on experience in sustainable aquaculture practices, which are essential for increasing fish production and ensuring food security in Balochistan. The training also emphasised biodiversity conservation strategies and fisheries management, which will contribute to enhancing the province's inland and marine fishery resources.

#### Establishment of Fisheries Post-Harvest Curriculum and Training of Master Trainers

***Objective***: A specialised post-harvest fisheries curriculum was created to standardise training and ensure effective knowledge sharing among fisheries inspectors.

### Key Topics Covered

* + - * Fish harvesting techniques
      * Processing, storage, and transportation
      * Marketing and value chain analysis
      * Sustainable practices and regulatory compliance

### Implementation

Five master trainers were trained at a dedicated training session in Gwadar on January 16 and 17, 2025.

These master trainers are now tasked with passing on this knowledge to other fisheries inspectors across Balochistan, ensuring better post-harvest handling and adherence to food safety standards.

#### Development of Fisheries Laboratory Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Training

***Objective:***To establish standardised fish quality analysis methods in fisheries laboratories throughout Balochistan, ensuring compliance with international food safety and regulatory standards.

### Key SOPs Developed

* + - * Sampling techniques for fish quality assessment
      * Microbiological and chemical analysis of seafood products
      * Sensory evaluation methods for fish freshness
      * Compliance protocols with international seafood safety regulations

### Implementation

A dedicated training session on laboratory SOPs took place on 10th and 11th February 2025 for fisheries officials. Participants developed skills in scientific analysis techniques, ensuring that Balochistan’s seafood products meet quality assurance standards for domestic and international markets.

### Contribution to Departmental Progress

These capacity-building initiatives have greatly enhanced the department’s technical skills in fisheries management, aquaculture, post-harvest practices, and seafood safety. The trained officers and master trainers are now actively using their expertise to boost fisheries governance, enhance resource use, and promote sustainable practices. Looking ahead, the department remains committed to expanding training programs and embracing innovative solutions further to advance fisheries development and food security in Balochistan.

# Regulatory Framework

To enhance the Fisheries and Coastal Development Department in line with international best practices, fulfil obligations under various international treaties and conventions, and ensure its contribution to both the provincial and national economy, the fisheries department, in collaboration with the FAO, IFAD, and the GLLSP project, has developed the inaugural Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy titled **“Balochistan Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture** **Policy 2024-2034,"** which has been officially approved by the Provincial Government. A brief overview of the Policy is as follows:

## Balochistan Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy 2024-2034

#### Objectives/Aim/Purpose of the Policy:

The overarching aim of the Balochistan Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy is to guide the responsible use, sustainable management, and resilient development of the underutilized potential of fisheries and aquaculture resources in Balochistan. The specific objectives are as follows:

* + - * Optimally harness the provincial potential of fisheries and aquaculture for food security, exports, and income growth.
      * Ensuring responsible use of fish stocks on the principle of maximum sustainable yield.
      * Protecting fish habitats and ecosystems to ensure environmental security and genetic diversity.
      * Promoting sustainable marine fishing, both small and large scale, using environmentally friendly gear.
      * Establishing and improving sustainable aquaculture farming to provide alternative livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural fish stocks.
      * Enhancing local income and export revenues.
      * Promoting inland fisheries and aquaculture in freshwater wetlands and dams.
      * Supporting the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, including those led by women.
      * Building sturdy infrastructure to bolster fisheries and aquaculture.
      * Improving the market competitiveness and consumer satisfaction of Balochistan’s fisheries

Products.

* + - * Incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring fair, safe, and decent working conditions.

#### Key Features of the Policy

* + - * Governance and Institutional Strengthening: The establishment of a Directorate-General for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Quetta aims to enhance governance and institutional capacity.
      * Regulatory Framework: The creation of rules, procedures, and legal measures to manage access to freshwater fisheries and promote sustainable practices.
      * Scientific and Ecosystem-Based Approach: Conducting a comprehensive scoping study to assess and manage fishery resources using modern technologies, ecosystem-based techniques, and best practices.
      * Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement: Identifying stakeholders and implementing capacity-building programs for government departments, fishers, and private entities.
      * Ecosystem Conservation: Rehabilitation schemes for native fish species, the establishment of 20 new freshwater fish sanctuaries, and the encouragement of responsible use of marine resources.
      * Value Chain Development: Enhancing the fisheries and aquaculture value chain by improving harvesting, handling, storage, and marketing techniques.
      * Public-Private Partnerships (PPP): Promoting investment and collaboration in aquaculture, such as cage culture and corporate aquaculture farms.
      * Data Collection and Monitoring: Creating a digital repository for fisheries data and enhancing monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) systems.

#### Impact of the Policy

* + - * Economic Growth and Job Creation: By adopting sustainable practices and investing in the fisheries sector, Balochistan aims to increase its export-based macroeconomic contribution to over $4 billion per annum within 15-20 years. During this period, it will also create over 13,000 jobs in the province, supporting the livelihoods of over 50,000 people.
      * Livelihood Improvement: The policy seeks to enhance income generation, create job opportunities, and improve social well-being, particularly for coastal and inland fishing communities.
      * Food Security and Nutrition: The increase in per capita availability of fish and aquaculture products is likely to enhance food security and nutritional outcomes.
      * Environmental Sustainability: Conservation measures and efforts to rebuild fish stocks will help maintain fish populations, protect marine ecosystems, and reduce overfishing.
      * Gender Inclusion and Social Protection: The policy promotes women’s participation in

Fisheries-related enterprises and establishes protections for fishers and aquaculture workers.

#### Future Course of Action (Rules, Legislative Acts)

* + - * Enactment of Legislative Instruments: The policy emphasises periodic reviews and amendments to existing laws (currently in process and being vetted by the Law Department), including:
      * Balochistan Sea Fisheries Ordinance, 1971 (amended 2022).
      * Balochistan Fisheries Ordinance, 1961 and its rules.
      * Pasni Fisheries Harbour Authority Ordinance, 1983.
      * Balochistan Coastal Development Authority Act, 1998.
      * Institutional Reforms: Establishment of a Directorate to oversee the management and maintenance of fish harbours, jetties, and marine infrastructure.
      * Licensing and Regulations: The implementation of a stock-based licensing system, the registration of fishing vessels, and the establishment of an integrated digital register for monitoring fisheries operations.
      * PPP and Investment Facilitation: Creating a framework for large-scale aquaculture and corporate farming initiatives using Build-Operate-Transfer (BoT) schemes.
      * Gender and Labour Laws: Incorporating gender and labour rights protections into fisheries governance, which includes prohibiting child labour and establishing workplace safety standards.

## Other significant policy development

#### Balochistan Fisher folk Welfare Fund Disbursement Policy 2024

To ensure the well-being of the fisherfolk community, the department developed and announced

the “Balochistan Fisherfolk Welfare Fund Disbursement Policy 2024." The details are as follows:

#### Objectives/Aim/Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide financial assistance for the welfare of fisher folk by:

* + - * + Establishing the Balochistan Fisheries Welfare Fund.
        + Ensuring the transparent and fair distribution of funds via the Balochistan Fisher folk Welfare Committee.
        + Launching and implementing welfare schemes to enhance the socio-economic conditions of fishing communities.
      1. ***Key Features of the Policy***

### Establishment of the Balochistan Fisheries Welfare Fund

* + - * + A non-lapsable fund was established to support fisher folk.
        + It is funded through government grants, voluntary donations, fines from fisheries violations, and investment income.
        + All fines collected under the Balochistan Sea Fisheries Ordinance 1971 will be put into this fund.

### Formation of the Balochistan Fisher folk Welfare Committee

* + - * + Accountable for the fair and effective distribution of funds.
        + Includes representatives from government, social welfare, finance, fishing associations, and local administration.
        + Meets at least four times annually to approve and oversee fund distribution.

### Transparent Fund Management

* + - * + Quarterly meetings and stringent financial oversight ensure equitable fund distribution.
        + Quorum and voting processes to guarantee equitable decision-making.
        + Routine financial reporting and audits.

### Execution of Welfare Schemes

* + - * + The Fisheries Department will implement welfare schemes under the oversight of the committee.
        + This includes education, healthcare, livelihood support, insurance, and disaster relief programs.
      1. ***Impact of the Policy***

### Improved Welfare of Fisher folk

* + - * + Direct financial assistance for boat and net repairs, income support, and emergency relief.
        + Social security and insurance coverage are essential for financial stability.

### Capacity Building and Livelihood Enhancement

* + - * + Training programs for fishers in modern fishing methods, financial literacy, and alternative livelihoods.
        + Assistance for equipment upgrades and the adoption of technology.

### Disaster and Emergency Assistance

* + - * + Funding for rapid responses to natural disasters, accidents, and climate-related events impacting fisher folk.

### Market and Industry Development

* + - * + Price support mechanisms to stabilize fish product pricing.
        + Research and development to promote sustainable fishing practices.

#### The Balochistan Marine Fisheries Patrolling Rules, 2023

Balochistan has been grappling with the ongoing problem of illegal trawling, which has intensified over the past two decades. To tackle this issue, the fisheries department has taken a significant step in bolstering its patrolling efforts through the introduction of “The Balochistan Marine Fisheries Patrolling Rules, 2024.” A brief overview is as follows:

#### Objectives/Aim/Purpose of the Rules

The primary aim is to regulate patrolling activities in the waters of Balochistan to ensure the protection and conservation of marine resources. The rules also aim to monitor and prevent illegal fishing activities within the province's territorial waters.

* + - 1. ***Key Features of the Rules***

### Patrolling Mechanism

* + - * + An appointed authority oversees marine patrols.
        + Vessels and equipment will be assigned for enforcement.
        + Inspection protocols are set up for suspected illegal fishing activities.

### Enforcement Measures

* + - * + Violations, including illegal fishing gear, unauthorised vessels, and environmental damage, carry severe penalties and fines.
        + Patrolling officers are permitted to board, inspect, and seize vessels involved in illegal activities.
        + Surveillance will occur through Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and physical patrolling.

### Interagency Coordination

* + - * + Collaboration among the Fisheries and Coastal Development Department, Maritime Security Agency, and Law Enforcement Agencies.
        + Legal framework for prosecuting violators under the Balochistan Sea Fisheries Ordinance 1971.

***2.2.3.2 Impact of the Rules***

### Strengthened Marine Law Enforcement

* Prevents illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities.
* Minimises overfishing and harm to marine biodiversity.
* Enhanced Protection for Fisherfolk
* Guarantees legal compliance for fisherfolk, protecting their rights and livelihoods.
* Support sustainable fisheries management.

### Environmental Conservation

* Safeguards marine ecosystems against harmful fishing practices.
* Promotes the use of sustainable fishing practices.

# Development Projects and Activities

The Fisheries and Coastal Development Department has achieved significant progress in implementing its development portfolio, ensuring the effective use of allocated funds and the timely completion of projects. This section offers an overview of key financial accomplishments, major development initiatives, schemes’ status, and expenditures.

## Financial Performance & Budget Utilization

The department has successfully resumed work on its ongoing projects and has utilised a considerable portion of its development budget to ensure the smooth operation of these initiatives.

#### Key Financial Highlights

Total Allocated Budget: PKR 1280.658 million

Total Releases: PKR 777.34 million (60.70% of final budget) Utilized Budget: PKR 161.473 million (12.60% of final budget) Expenditure vs Released Budget: 20.77%

Total Development Schemes: 19 projects

Strategic financial planning has been utilised to optimise resource allocation and tackle the challenges of cost revision and modification, ensuring that projects continue without significant disruptions.

## Major Achievements in Development Schemes

### Ongoing Projects

The projects listed below have achieved significant financial and physical progress:

* ***Boat Repair Workshops*:** Complete physical advancement for five workshops; scheme concluded.
* ***Rehabilitation of Pasni Harbour***: The tendering process has been completed and is expected to commence soon.
* ***Feasibility Study for Approved Fish Landing Sites***: Tender awarded and work underway.
* ***Three-Year Freshwater Fish Production Program***: 90% physical progress and 87% financial progress, designed to promote sustainable inland fisheries.
* ***Establishment of a fish hatchery in Garok Kharan***: 10% physical progress has been made; early development work is ongoing.
* ***Development of Eco-Tourism and Construction of a Tourist Resort***:
* After a two-year pause, work has resumed. The aim is to partially operationalise the Jiwani, Gwadar, and Kund Malir resorts by June 2025, utilising the current financial year’s budget.
* ***Establishment of Beach Parks*:** After a pause of about two years, work has recommenced. The aim is to finish six beach parks by June 2025.
* ***Establishment of Tourist Attraction Sites***: After a two-year halt, work has resumed with the aim of completing all 16 sites by June 2025.
* ***Establishment of Service Areas*:** After a break of about two years, work has resumed at the Gaddani site. A revised PC1 has been submitted for tender at other locations, and soon work will commence at the intended sites.
* ***Establishment of Floating Jetties*:** Work has resumed after a halt of around two years. A third party has vetted the designs, and then the work will commence.
* **Master Planning of the Balochistan Coastline**: The Master Plan is set for completion by

June 2025 to enable the project’s completion.

* ***Model Fish Market Pasni*:** Work has resumed after a halt of over one year. The scheme aims to be completed by June 2025.
* ***Fisheries Training Center****: Work* was stopped due to various reasons, such as the old rates and security forces occupying the building. A revised PC1 has been submitted to complete the remaining work and operationalise the FTC through engaging private providers. The MoU has been signed.

### NEW PROJECTS

* ***Three-year Freshwater project****:*
* The physical and financial work is over 87% complete.
* ***Procurement of Patrolling Boats****:* The RFP has been advertised, and the boat is expected to be delivered by May 2025.
* ***Provision of missing facilities****:* Work is ongoing across various sites.
* ***Establishment of offices****:* Progress is underway at various sites.
* ***Establishing workshops****:* Work is ongoing at various sites.

## Strategic Initiatives for Future Development

To ensure smooth execution and timely completion of projects, the department has put in place the following strategic measures:

* Enhancing Project Monitoring and Execution: Improved coordination with executing agencies through regular progress review meetings.
* Optimising Resource Allocation: Efficient financial management to avoid delays and enhance development impact.
* Ensuring complete utilisation of funds: Prioritising projects with significant socio-economic impact to achieve fiscal year targets.

The Fisheries and Coastal Development Department has performed well in executing its development agenda. Major projects are progressing effectively, and strategic measures are in place to tackle financial and operational challenges. Looking ahead, the department aims to improve execution efficiency, optimise resource allocation, and speed up the implementation of all schemes to achieve sustainable coastal and fisheries development in Balochistan. To facilitate the reappropriation of funds, a four-month utilisation plan has been developed and submitted to the P&D Department.

# Anti-trawling operations

Illegal trawling poses a major threat to marine biodiversity, sustainable fisheries, and the livelihoods of local fishermen in Balochistan. To tackle this escalating issue, the Fisheries & Coastal Development Department has ramped up its enforcement measures through rigorous patrolling and legal action against offenders. This report offers a detailed overview of anti-trawling operations carried out across various coastal districts from April 2024 to February 2025. The findings emphasise the department’s efforts in reducing illegal fishing activities, ensuring regulatory compliance, and collaborating with local stakeholders to promote sustainable marine resource management.

## Office-wise Summary of Anti-Trawling Operations (April 2024 - February 2025)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OFFICE** | **NO. OF TRAWLERS SEIZED** | **DETAILS & REMARKS** |
| Pishukan | 0 | Patrolling operations conducted daily for 8-10 hours. No trawlers  seized in 2024-25. |
| Jiwani | 7 | Patrolling teams conducted shift- wise operations. Seized vessels include Al Saddam-1, M. Shafi, Al-Qasimia, Al Madina 2, Al  Madina 1, Sufi, Al Mehboob Ali. |
| Gwadar | 3 | Daily 8-10 hour operations against illegal fishing. Seized vessels include Al Shehzad 1, Ezzatullah,  Behr-e-Shehzad. |
| Ormara | 7 | Three patrolling teams deployed. Seized vessels include Beher al Haseeb, Al Shehzad, Al-Kainat Madina, Al Hasib, Al Madin, and  two unidentified vessels. |
| Pasni | 16 | Day and night operations against Karachi-based trawlers. Seized vessels include Ghulam Mustafa, Hamd O Sana, Al Mubhashar, Al Nasir, Al Razzaque, Noor E Karam, Masha Allah, Naaz O Rehmat, Fayyaz Gul, Nigah E Karam, Al Hassan, Al Zainab, Al Khaibar, Al Laila, Ali Dost, Al  Saif. |
| Surbandar | 0 | No trawlers seized. However, patrolling teams conducted daily operations. Over 340 illegal fishing licenses canceled and harmful nets (Say Thak) banned in coordination with local  fishermen. |
| Lasbella & Hub | 2 | Two trawlers were apprehended  in December 2024 and January 2025; cases are under trial. |

#### Cumulative Analysis of Anti-Trawling Operations

Total Trawlers Seized: 35

Most Active District: Pasni (16 trawlers have been seized)

Least Activity: Pishukan & Surbandar (No trawlers seized, but patrols and enforcement actions conducted)

#### Legal Enforcement

* More than 340 illegal fishing licences have been cancelled in Surbandar.
* Strict enforcement of the ban on harmful fishing nets to safeguard marine life.
* Cases in trial for trawlers seized in Lasbella and Hub.

#### Key Observations

* + - * Significant progress has been made in reducing illegal fishing activities along Balochistan’s

coastline.

* + - * Strict patrolling and engaging with local fisherfolk have resulted in better compliance with fishing regulations.
      * Legal actions are underway against illegal fishing offenders.

#### Measures to enhance patrolling and/or anti-trawling capacity

The transformation of the fisheries patrolling force is underway, and the key initiatives are as follows:

* + - * Training of 300 personnel from the Pakistan Navy is currently in progress.
      * New uniforms, shoes, and protective equipment are being procured.
      * The setup for effective communication via VHF is underway, involving the establishment of control rooms and wireless sets.
      * The VMS installation and the operationalisation of the control room at Surbandar are underway.
      * Four patrolling boats and one sea ambulance, acquired from vendors in 2019/20, will soon be added to the fleet.
      * Repairs on all small patrol boats and gunboats are underway.
      * Two medium-sized boats are being procured. One boat is expected to be delivered by May 2025.

# Employment Generation for Coastal Districts’ Residents

The Fisheries and Coastal Development Department is actively working to create employment opportunities for residents of coastal districts in Balochistan. The department acknowledges the economic challenges these communities face and has initiated measures to expand job opportunities both within Pakistan and internationally.

As part of this initiative, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with the Government of the Republic of Korea to enable Balochistan’s participation in the Korean Seasonal Workers Program. This collaboration aims to provide skilled labour from Balochistan’s coastal districts with international employment opportunities, fostering economic growth and enhancing livelihoods.

## Key Aspects of the MOU

* ***Bilateral Cooperation***: The agreement enhances Pakistan-Korea labor relations, facilitating a structured exchange of workforce talent.
* ***Employment Opportunities*:** The program offers temporary jobs to workers, especially those from fisheries and agricultural backgrounds.
* ***Skill Development:***Participants receive pre-departure training to ensure they meet the technical and cultural requirements for working in South Korea.
* ***Economic Impact****:* Remittances sent back by seasonal workers will boost household incomes and support the local economy in the coastal districts of Balochistan.
* ***Worker Welfare****:* The MOU guarantees that workers receive legal protections, fair pay, and suitable living conditions throughout their employment period in Korea.

## Deployment and Training Progress

In accordance with the agreement, the Fisheries Department has successfully trained 20 workers who are set to depart in March 2025 to commence their employment in South Korea. The training emphasised technical skills, language proficiency, workplace ethics, and cultural adaptation to ensure a smooth integration into the Korean workforce.

Furthermore, an additional 26 workers will undergo training in the upcoming week, ensuring that more individuals from Balochistan’s coastal districts can benefit from this initiative.

This partnership represents a significant milestone in the department’s efforts to create employment and enhance the socio-economic conditions of coastal communities. By enabling international job placements, the department is not only establishing sustainable livelihood opportunities but also positioning Balochistan’s workforce within the global labour market.

## Shrimp Farming Initiative

Considering the significant potential of shrimp farming along the province’s coast, a feasibility study has been initiated to identify the sites, challenges, and opportunities that will enable the launch of a large-scale integrated program. This proposed program is designed to involve local communities and private investors in executing various components. It will create over 13000 employment opportunities within the province.

# Research and Development

The following steps have been taken to improve research and evidence-based decision-making in the department:

* Eight key research problems have been identified from the policy measures, and the department’s researchers and microbiologists have been assigned to produce research papers. After completing the desk review, fieldwork is underway.
* A feasibility study of the coastline for shrimp farming is underway and will be completed by May 2025. This report will drive the proposed mariculture and aquaculture programs, which will commence in the upcoming financial year.
* A pilot project for cage farming is in progress at Dera Murad Jamali, aiming to expand the initiative across various dams and water reserves in the province.
* Laboratories are being established, one at Marine University Uthal and another at Dera Murad Jamali, to expand the research work in the department.
* The Marine University Uthal is collaborating to expand research efforts and strengthen the relationship between academia and industry.

# Significant Impact of policy, governance and practice reforms in the Department

## Reduction in Illegal Trawling & Strengthened Surveillance

* + - Illegal trawling has decreased by about 50% thanks to increased patrolling, enforcement of the Balochistan Marine Fisheries Patrolling Rules 2023, and stringent penalties for violations.
    - Surveillance efforts within the 12-nautical-mile jurisdiction of the province have greatly increased, resulting in better conservation of marine resources.
    - More than 35 trawlers have been seized (including 20 since August 2024), and over 340 illegal fishing licences have been cancelled, showcasing the effectiveness of regulatory enforcement.

## Policy Advancements & Strengthened Governance

* + - The Balochistan Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2025-2035 establishes a foundation for long-term sustainability, improving governance, protecting the environment, and fostering economic growth.
    - A ten-year strategy and implementation plan (2025-35) has been developed to execute the policy.
    - The establishment of a Directorate-General for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture will have enhanced institutional efficiency, guaranteeing improved policy implementation.
    - KPIs for the positions have improved efficiency and accountability.

## Environmental Conservation & Fisheries Development

* + - The adoption of ecosystem-based approaches has played a significant role in protecting marine biodiversity and sustaining fish stocks for future generations.
    - The rehabilitation of native fish species and the establishment of 20 new freshwater fish sanctuaries have improved ecosystem stability.
    - Stock-based licensing mechanisms and the registration of fishing vessels have enhanced monitoring and control, ensuring sustainable fishing practices.

## Capacity Building & Technological Advancements

* + - Training programs, such as international fisheries stock assessment training in Thailand and aquaculture training in Lahore, have notably enhanced the technical expertise of fisheries officers.
    - The establishment of Fisheries Laboratory Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) ensures adherence to international seafood safety and quality standards, thereby enhancing export potential.

## Infrastructure Development & Economic Growth

* + - The completion of vital projects such as boat repair workshops, fish markets, and harbour rehabilitation has bolstered fisheries infrastructure.
    - The Three-Year Freshwater Fish Production Program (80% complete) and the establishment of a fish hatchery in Garok Kharan will enhance inland fish production and provide alternative livelihoods.
    - Strategic financial planning and effective budget utilisation have reduced project delays and enhanced service delivery.

## Employment Generation & Socio-Economic Uplift

* + - The Korean Seasonal Workers Program has provided international employment opportunities to coastal residents. The first batch of trained workers will be deployed in March 2025.
    - Local employment has risen due to departmental recruitment under the deceased

employees’ quota and promotions based on merit and tenure.

* + - The Balochistan Fisherfolk Welfare Fund has offered financial assistance to fisherfolk for repairing boats and nets, providing emergency relief, and facilitating training, thereby enhancing their economic resilience.

## Recognition & Collaborative Efforts

* + - The Sindh Government has imposed a ban on illegal trawling in response to requests from

Balochistan, thereby reducing the number of illegal trawlers entering Balochistan’s waters.

* + - The department's initiatives in controlling illegal trawling and supporting fisherfolk welfare have been effectively showcased at provincial and national forums, including IPC, SIFC, and Inter-Ministerial, to bolster advocacy for sustainable fisheries governance.

# Way forward

* Enhancing the fisheries patrol force with specialised training and by providing essential safety equipment, uniforms, boats, and communication systems.
* Strengthening anti-trawling operations to ensure the sustainable management of marine resources.
* Implement digital transformation and knowledge management initiatives in the department.
* Closing the divide between policy and practice by effectively implementing the ten-year strategic plan.
* Promoting the development of aquaculture, including starting and expanding shrimp farming and mariculture.
* Generating more than 13,000 job opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and, eventually, in the blue economy.
* Expanding research initiatives to support evidence-based policymaking.
* Ensuring the ongoing institutional enhancement of the fisheries sector.
* Encouraging continuous professional development through regular training programs.
* Establishing a shrimp hatchery at Damb, revamping and operating the Okar-Jiwani shrimp hatchery
* Building Ormara Fish Harbour.
* Revival of Pasni Fish Harbour.
* Building and/or reviving Gaddani, Jiwani, Pishukan, Surbandar and Kund Malir Jetties.
* Initiating a 5-10 year aquaculture and mariculture program.
* Expanding Freshwater aquaculture program.
* Completing coastal development projects encompassing tourist sightseeing, beach parks, eco-tourist resorts, service areas and floating jetties.
* Completion and operationalisation of Fisheries Training Center Gwadar.
* Operationalisation of VMS control room Surbandar.