

## Technical guidelines for responsible beachseine fishing

- To reduce the incidence of juveniles the existing codend mesh size of 8-10 mm has to be increased to 22 mm.
- During hauling the diamond mesh tends to close up preventing the escapement of juvenile fish hence square mesh at the codend region is recommended.
- The catch can be collected for ensuring hygiene / quality on a clean surface like sheets made of synthetic material instead of unloading the catch on the beach sand
- The department of fisheries may develop a reliable database on beach seining in Kerala as it forms an important secondary livelihood for fishers.

**RFG-1**

**Responsible Fishing Guidelines-1**

## Beachseine

*(Kambavala/Karamadi)*

## Fishing in Kerala State



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## Background

Beachseines/shoreseines are encircling fishing gear set from the shore in shallow coastal waters and operated along the coastal states of India except Gujarat. Beachseines of India are generally classified into two (a) with codend and (b) without codend. In Kerala beachseines are locally known as kambavala/karamadi which have a separate bag like codend whereas in Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka, rampani/rampon the

traditional beachseine is without a specific codend (loosely hung meshes only).

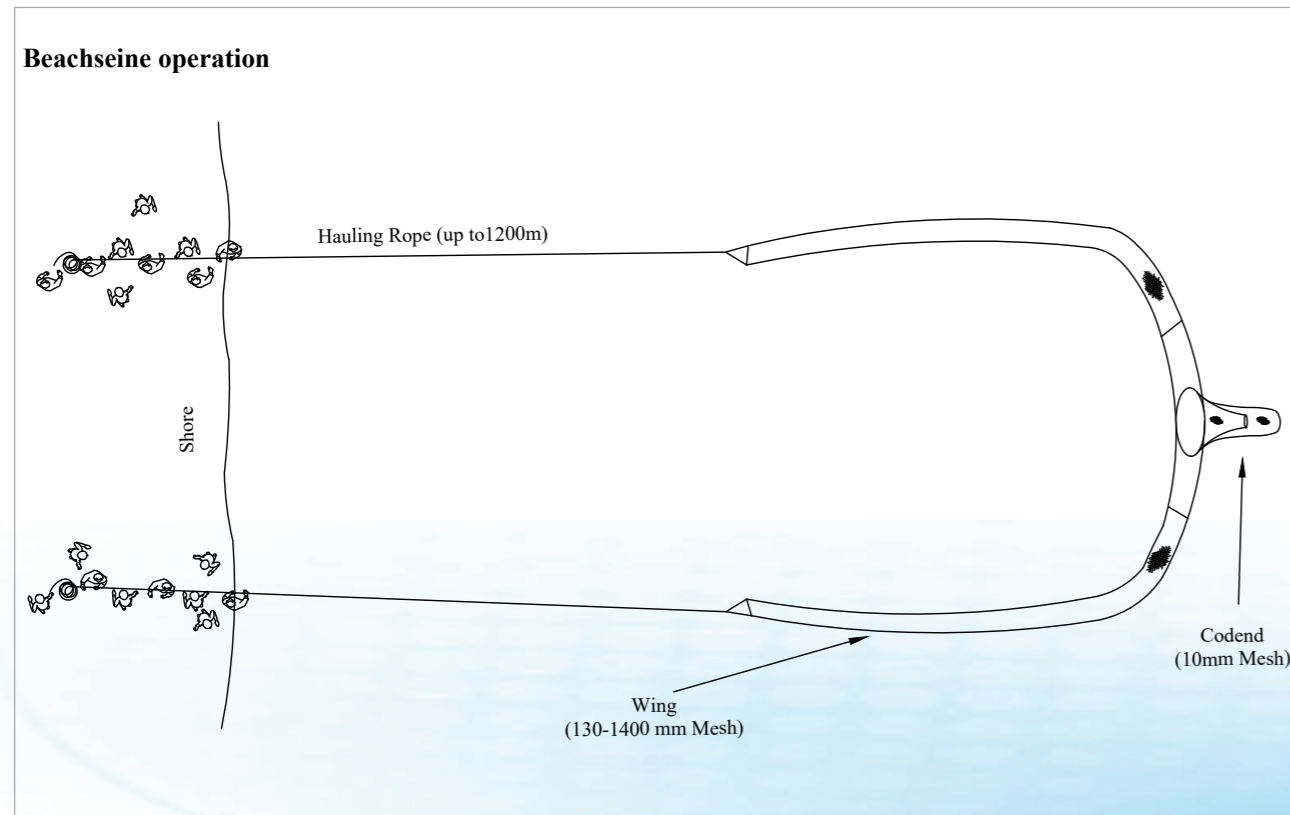
In Kerala karamadi is operated along the southern most districts of Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram coasts. There is no reliable database on the number of beachseines operated along the coasts of Kerala.

## Operation

Twenty to forty fishers are involved in the fishing operation depending on the season.

- Fishing operation: Throughout the year
- Peak Season: Post-monsoon
- Operational time: 1-3 h
- Catch per unit effort (CPUE): 50-150 kg/operation

- Avg. earning/ head: Rs. 500-1500/operation
- Wage sharing (owner : worker): 40:60
- Major catch: Mackerel, sardines, lesser sardines, anchovies, silverbellies, halfbeaks, full beaks, trevallies, herrings, silver whittings, lizard fish, shrimp etc



- In Kerala beachseining is the lifeblood employment for the poorest and the most vulnerable groups of people (artisanal aged fishers).
- Energy is utilised only for the propulsion of the fishing vessel and carbon emission is relatively less compared to many of the fishing operations.
- Gear setting and soaking requires minimum time compared to gillnet or long line and operation can be completed within 1-3 h.
- Many natural biodegradable materials like coir, coconut leaves and natural fibres are still in use for the fishing operations.
- Hauling is manual and it requires high physical strength and there is a notion among fishers that beachseine fishermen are physically fitter and has greater longevity.



## Problems in beachseine fishing

- Large Juvenile incidence
- Use of diamond mesh in codend
- Lack of Regulations
- Poor fish handling practices

Sl. No.	State/UT	Allowable codend mesh size
1.	Lakshadweep	>20 mm
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	>25 mm
3.	West Bengal	>25 mm