

Project Update August 2025

Rufford I.D.: 39862-1

Project Title: Participatory Mapping to Understand the Ecological Impacts of Trawl Fishing in the Critical Seagrass Ecosystems of Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu, India

Update:

I am thrilled to share that my presentation at the [MARE conference](#) was well received. I was part of the panel titled "[Transformations through Participation](#)" on 24th June, which focused on how research is being conducted in partnership with the fisher communities around the world. I had the privilege of presenting our organisation's (Dakshin Foundation) work in the Palk Bay region, including insights I gained while working with trawlers during my Rufford project.

Presentation photos are enclosed below.







Palk Bay fishing - history and conflicts



Credits to: R. Meghana TS, Haripriya, Maria Mottin, Rama Radhishan

- Before the introduction of **trawling in the 1970s** as part of the Indo-Norwegian Project, intergenerational traditional fishing was operated solely in this region.
- To mitigate conflicts, the **three-and-four-day** rule was implemented.
- Nonetheless, **Rameshwaram Island**, located in South Palk Bay, continues to be a site of contention.
- Political will: The state government has established Village Level Committees (**VLCs**) to promote co-management efforts.
- Palk Bay, a contested fishing area between India and Sri Lanka, offers an opportunity to explore co-management.