**Original Research Article**

**Craft-specific assessment of resource use efficiency of marine produce in Balasore district of Odisha**

**ABSTRACT**

This study examines the economics and Resource use efficiency of marine fishing operations in the Balasore district of Odisha, India, with a focus on mechanised, motorised, and non-motorised fishing units. Using primary data from 120 respondents across six villages, the research employs cost-return analysis to evaluate input-output relationships and the Cobb-Douglas production function to find out resource efficiency. Results reveal that mechanised units, despite generating the highest gross returns(72.23lakhs), suffer from high operational costs and exhibit decreasing returns to a scale of 0.822. Mechanised sector exhibit MVP/MFC ratio such as food(14.62), ice(4.96) and repair and maintenance(3.79) implicating scope for increase in these input for improving production. Motorised units demonstrate increasing returns to scale of 1.353 and efficient responsiveness to key inputs depicted by efficiency ratio(MVP/MFC) such as diesel(2.91), labour(5.91), and fishing days(1.10), indicating strong potential for scaled-up productivity. Non-motorised units, though limited in scale and technology, achieve the highest input-output ratio of 1.58, reflecting superior cost efficiency. Resource efficiency analysis highlights the underutilisation of inputs, such as labour, nets, and operational days in non-motorised sector thus reflecting addition of these resource for increased productivity. The results highlight the importance of targeted measures, such as fuel-efficient technologies, skill development, and the modernisation of artisanal crafts, to improve sustainability and profitability in Odisha's marine fisheries.

**Keywords:** Resource efficiency, fishing operations, mechanised fishing units, sustainability

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The marine ecosystem is an indispensable source of economic resources, offering an assorted range of produce that plays a vital role in global economies. India has abundant marine fishery resources endowed with an extensive coastline of 8,118 kilometres and 2.02 million square kilometres of EEZ(DOF, 2024). As the world's sixth-largest producer of marine capture fish, India accounts for 4.5% of global marine fish production (FAO, 2024).

In India, throughout the initial phase (1950–66), fishing was primarily conducted using traditional, non-mechanised vessels and equipment, with production remaining below one million tons (Sathianandan et al., 2011). The mechanisation of fishing crafts and advancements in fishing equipment have resulted in substantial marine production, reaching an impressive total of 4.495 million tonnes in the fiscal year 2023-24 (DOF, 2024). Fishermen utilise various fishing methods, including multi-day or voyage fishing, which typically lasts between 5 to 12 days, in an effort to augment their income. This practice, however, frequently leads to indiscriminate exploitation of marine resources (Narayanakumar et al., 2005). According to the marine fishery census, there are currently 166,333 fishing crafts operating within the marine fisheries sector. Of this total, 42,985 (25.8%) are classified as mechanised, 97,659 (58.7%) as motorised, and 25,689 (15.4%) as non-motorised (CMFRI-FSI-DoF, 2020).

Odisha, a coastal state, has a 480-kilometre coastline along the Bay of Bengal, accounting for 8% of India’s total coastline. It comprises six maritime districts: Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Ganjam (FARD, 2024). The coastal and offshore waters of Odisha constitute a rich habitat for a wide range of high-quality pelagic and demersal resources (Sivakami et al., 2009). The Balasore district reported the greatest fish landings at 0.52 lakh tonnes (CMFRI, 2024). According to the Office of the Additional Fisheries Officer (Marine) Balasore, the district of Balasore has 15 landing centres and a total of 1916 fishing crafts, out of which 722 are mechanised, 796 are motorised, and 398 are non-motorised. The depletion of resources targeted by mechanised fishing units, combined with rising fuel prices, presents a significant threat to the economic viability of many of these units (Aswathy et al., 2011). Furthermore, the current challenges posed by global warming and climate change have increasingly impacted the fishing sector (Kumar et al., 2014).

The decline in catch per unit effort, coupled with rising operational costs, has led to the unsustainable operation of the fishing fleet, forcing some fishers to exit the business entirely (Narayanakumar et al., 2009). One key objective of fisheries management is to maximise the long-term benefits derived from marine fishery resources (Sathianandan et al., 2009). Achieving this goal necessitates a comprehensive study of the efficient utilisation of inputs by various types of vessels and their respective production functions. To extend the operational lifespan of vessels, fishers are investing in the installation of new, more fuel-efficient engines, modernising fishing gear systems, and adhering to effective maintenance and repair practices (Carvalho et al., 2020). This paper analyses the economics of marine fishing operations and examines production functions for efficient input allocation, aiming for sustainable use of marine resources and increased productivity per craft.

**1.1 OBJECTIVES**

1. To study cost and return analysis of marine fishing operations.
2. To analyse the production function and evaluate the resource use efficiency of marine fishing operations.

**2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

* 1. **Sampling design**

Stratified multistage purposive and random sampling techniques were employed to select respondents in the Balasore district, Odisha, which is recognised for its high marine production. Two blocks, Balasore Sadar and Baliapal, were randomly selected from the district's twelve blocks. Within each block, three villages were randomly selected, and 20 respondents were chosen from each village, resulting in a total sample size of 120 respondents. The stratification was based on the different types of crafts: mechanised, motorised, and non-motorised.

* 1. **Analytical procedure**

The primary data were gathered regarding the operating expenses incurred per trip, which encompassed fuel costs, labour fees, food expenditures, repair and maintenance costs, as well as various daily expenses associated with conducting fishing operations (Raju et al., 2022). Depreciation cost was worked out for investment made in establishing fishing crafts and gears and capital assets and included in the total costs.

Returns :

Gross return = Total production(in kg.) × Average price per kg.

Net return (Rs.) = Gross return – Total cost

Cost-return ratios were utilised to evaluate the overall efficiency of inputs and outputs in terms of their value.(Raju et al., 2022; Roul et al., 2023).

Operating ratio = Operating cost / Gross return

Fixed ratio = Fixed cost / Gross return

Input-Output ratio = Gross return / Total cost (Variable cost + Fixed cost)

Net cash flow (NCF) = Gross return - Operational cost

To study the resource use efficiency in marine production, Cobb- Douglas production function was used. The mathematical form of the Cobb-Douglas production function is given by-

Y = aX1b1X2b2X3b3X4b4X5b5X6b6X7b7eUi

Logarithmic form of Cobb-Douglas production function-

lnY = lna + b1lnX1 + b2lnX2 + b3lnX3 + b4lnX4 + b5lnX5 + b6lnX6 +b7lnX7 + Ui

where, Y = Total output (quintals/year), a = Constant or intercept value, X1 = Diesel (litres/year), X2 = Food/Meal (Rs./year), X3 = Labour (Mandays/year), X4 = Ice (Pieces/year), X5 = Net/Gears (Kg./year), X6 = Repair and maintenance cost (Rs./year), X7 = Number of fishing days (Fishing days/year), bi =Elasticity coefficient of the respective input variables (bi = b1,b2,b3…..b7), Ui = Error term

 The marginal value product (MVP) of a specific input refers to the increase in gross returns resulting from the addition of one more unit of that input, while keeping all other inputs constant(Panikkar et al., 1991). The MVP of each Resource is calculated as

$MVP = MPPxi × Py$……………..(Aswathy et al.,2019)

where, MPPxi = Marginal physical product of the ith input, Py = Price per unit of output

$$MPP\_{xi} = b\_{i}×\frac{\overbar{Y}}{\overbar{X}}$$

where, bi = Coefficient of respective inputs, $\overbar{Y}$= Geometric mean of Output, $\overbar{X}$= Geometric mean of ith input

The price of one unit of input is called marginal factor cost (MFC)(Akter et al., 2015). The ratio of the MVP to MFC was used to determine the resource use efficiency as shown below-

$$r=\frac{MVP}{MFC}$$

If MVP/MFC equals unity, resources are optimally used. Values less than unity indicate overuse, while values greater than unity indicate underuse (Aswathy et al., 2019).

**3. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS**

**3.1 Cost and return analysis of different fishing sectors**

The cost structure of various types of fishing vessels—mechanised, motorised, and non-motorised—reveals significant differences in both the scale and composition of expenditures. Mechanised boats incur the highest annual costs at ₹63.53 lakhs, primarily due to fuel expenses of ₹34.71 lakhs (54.63% of total costs). Motorised boats follow at ₹13.29 lakhs, with fuel costs of ₹4.67 lakhs (35.15%), while non-motorised boats have the lowest costs at ₹4.70 lakhs, relying on manual labour instead of fuel. Labour costs increase as vessel size decreases, with mechanised boats spending 15.34% on labour, motorised boats 17.58%, and non-motorised boats 43.85%. Non-motorised boats also have higher food expenses (19.11%) compared to mechanised boats (4.40%). Furthermore, smaller vessels face rising costs for supplies due to their frequent small-scale trips.

The fixed cost proportion increases as we move from mechanised to non-motorised boats—8.49% for mechanised, 11.48% for motorised, and 12.60% for non-motorised vessels. While the absolute fixed costs are lowest for non-motorised boats, their share is higher due to the smaller base cost. Depreciation and interest on fixed capital form the major components here. Interestingly, motorised boats show a higher percentage of interest on fixed capital (6.69%) than mechanised boats (2.20%), possibly due to higher loan dependency in mid-scale operations, as shown in Table 1. These variations highlight the need for differentiated policy support, where fuel subsidies might benefit mechanised operations, while wage support and capital subsidies could be more impactful for small-scale and artisanal fishers.

**Table 1: Costs associated with marine fishing operations according to fishing crafts used**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sl. No. | Items | Types of fishing crafts |
| **Mechanised craft** | **Motorised craft** | **Non-motorised craft** |
| **Cost(in Rs./year)** | **Percentage** | **Cost(in Rs./year)** | **Percentage** | **Cost(in Rs./year)** | **Percentage** |
| **Variable cost** |
| 1. | Diesel/Kerosene | 3471233.33 | 54.63 | 467200.00 | 35.15 | 984.50 | 0.21 |
| 2. | Food/Meal | 279753.33 | 4.40 | 206914.67 | 15.57 | 89800.00 | 19.11 |
| 3. | Labour/Wages | 974673.33 | 15.34 | 233653.33 | 17.58 | 206060.00 | 43.85 |
| 4. | Ice | 162846.67 | 2.56 | 55326.67 | 4.16 | 37152.00 | 7.91 |
| 5. | Net | 140398.00 | 2.20 | 74783.33 | 5.62 | 43540.00 | 9.26 |
| 6. | Repair and maintenance | 561080.00 | 8.83 | 93101.33 | 7.00 | 17428.00 | 3.71 |
| 7. | Interest on working capital@4% per annum | 223599.39 | 3.51 | 45239.17 | 3.40 | 15798.58 | 3.36 |
| A. | Sub total | 5813584.05 | 91.50 | 1176218.51 | 88.51 | 410763.08 | 87.40 |
| **Fixed cost** |
| 1. | Depreciation @ 5% per annum | 399607.67 | 6.29 | 63573.33 | 4.78 | 34820.00 | 7.41 |
| 2. | Interest on fixed capital@7% per annum | 139862.68 | 2.20 | 89002.67 | 6.69 | 24374.00 | 5.19 |
| B. | Sub total | 539470.35 | 8.49 | 152576.00 | 11.48 | 59194.00 | 12.60 |
| C. | Total cost(A+B) | 6353054.40 | 100 | 1328794.51 | 100 | 469957.08 | 100.00 |

**Table 2: Returns from marine fishing operations based on types of fishing craft used**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sl. No. | Returns and ratios | Types of fishing units |
| **Mechanised craft** | **Motorised craft** | **Non-motorised craft** |
| 1. | Gross return | 7223465 | 2066640.00 | 743500 |
| 2. | Net return | 870411 | 737845.49 | 273542.92 |
| 3. | Net cash flow(NCF) | 1633480.34 | 935660.66 | 348805.5 |
| 4. | Operating ratio | 0.80 | 0.56 | 0.47 |
| 5. | Fixed ratio | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.06 |
| 6. | Input-output ratio | 1.13 | 1.55 | 1.58 |

The study analyses gross returns based on average catch value and modal price. Mechanised crafts generate the highest gross returns (₹72.23 lakhs) but have lower net returns (₹8.70 lakhs) due to high operational costs. In contrast, motorised and non-motorised crafts, despite lower gross earnings, achieve significant net returns of ₹7.38 lakhs and ₹2.73 lakhs, respectively, indicating better profit retention. Despite the costs, mechanised crafts still exhibit significant cash flow.

The maximum operational cost is associated with mechanised crafts, which can be seen from the operating ratio of 0.80, which can be a result of extensive usage of inputs, mainly due to greater coverage of fishing grounds, longer voyage period, catch of demersal stock and extensive catch. The highest input-output ratio of 1.58 is seen for the non-motorised sector, which implies that for every 1 rupee investment, there is a 1.58 rupee return with 0.58 rupee profit. The lowest output return per unit of input utilised is seen in mechanised units, which is depicted by the input-output ratio of 1.13, as given in Table 2. This lower return can be attributed to increased operational expenses and potential overfishing.

**3.2 Resource use efficiency of different fishing units**

Cobb-Douglas production function has been used to work out the production elasticity values of respective inputs, which in turn have been used to calculate marginal value product(MVP) and efficiency ratios. Multiple linear regression method was used for the evaluation of Cobb-Douglas production function.

**3.2.1 Resource use efficiency of mechanised** **fishing units**

There are seven independent variables and total output as the dependent variable considered for the production function for mechanised fishing units, whose related statistics and ratios are depicted in Tables 3 and 4. Key inputs such as diesel (0.423) and food/meal (0.575) have statistically significant and positive coefficients, suggesting that increases in these inputs are strongly associated with increased fish production. Notably, repair and maintenance also show a positive and significant effect (0.296), indicating the importance of well-maintained vessels for efficient operations. However, labour shows a negative and significant coefficient (-0.620), which implies that an increase in labour would have a negative impact on output. This may be due to overemployment or inefficiencies arising from excessive labour input in mechanised operations rather than further mechanisation efforts.

Other variables like ice, net, and number of fishing days show statistically insignificant effects, suggesting they do not substantially influence output in the mechanised sector under the current production conditions. The coefficient of determination(R2) value is 0.94, as shown in Table 3, which is high, implying that the seven independent variables explain up to 94% of the total variation in output. The return to scale has been determined to be 0.822, which reflects the sum of the input elasticities, indicating that the mechanised fishing units experience decreasing returns to scale. This means that a simultaneous increase of one unit in each input would result in only a 0.822-unit increase in output.

**Table 3 : Estimated value of coefficients and related statistics of Cobb-Douglas production for mechanised fishing operations**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Coefficients | Standard error | t Stat |
| Intercept | -1.914 | 2.160 | -0.886 |
| Diesel | 0.423\* | 0.105 | 4.027 |
| Food/Meal | 0.575\* | 0.111 | 5.180 |
| Labour | -0.620\* | 0.186 | -3.330 |
| Ice | 0.112 | 0.107 | 1.052 |
| Net | 0.012 | 0.105 | 0.118 |
| Repair and maintenance | 0.296\*\* | 0.107 | 2.750 |
| No. of fishing days | 0.022 | 0.200 | 0.109 |
| R Square(R2) | 0.947 |
| Adjusted R Square | 0.914 |
| Return to scale | 0.822 |

\*Significant at 1% level

\*\*Significant at 5% level

**Table 4 : Estimates of efficiency parameters in mechanised fishing operations**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | MPP | MVP | MFC | Efficiency ratio (MVP/MFC) |
| Diesel | 0.005 | 80.33 | 93 | 0.86 |
| Food/Meal | 0.0009 | 14.62 | 1 | 14.62 |
| Labour | -0.248 | -3857.56 | 875 | -4.40 |
| Ice | 0.064 | 993.16 | 200 | 4.96 |
| Net | 0.016 | 250.80 | 200 | 1.25 |
| Repair and maintenance | 0.0002 | 3.79 | 1 | 3.79 |
| No. of fishing days | 0.388 | 6014.01 | 6000 | 1.002 |

According to Table 4, the efficiency ratio (MVP/MFC) for diesel was less than 1, indicating that fuel is overutilised. This suggests that more advanced and fuel-efficient engines could be used to improve production efficiency. Efficiency ratios of food, ice, net, and repair and maintenance were found to be greater than 1, which implies that resources are underutilised, and thus, there is scope for increasing these inputs to increase the output. Labour input has a negative efficiency ratio of -4.40, which suggests a negative impact on production, likely due to excess manpower or poor labour productivity in the mechanised sector. This inefficiency highlights a need for better labour allocation or skill improvement. From the above study, we can infer that more mechanised nets or gears can also be used. The number of fishing days has an efficiency ratio of nearly 1, which indicates optimal use of fishing days.

**3.2.2. Resource use efficiency of motorised fishing units**

The regression results, as depicted in Table 5, suggest that the Cobb-Douglas model explains a substantial portion of the variation in output for motorised fishing units, with an R² of 0.841 and adjusted R² of 0.773. This indicates that approximately 84% of the variability in output is explained by the input variables included in the model. Among the variables, diesel (0.662), labour (0.668), and number of fishing days (0.552) have positive and statistically significant coefficients, implying these inputs significantly and positively affect fish production. These findings highlight that increased fuel use, adequate labour, and extended fishing days can enhance productivity in motorised crafts.

On the other hand, ice (-0.670) has a significant negative impact on output, suggesting either overuse or inefficient use, possibly due to excess costs or spoilage not matched by increased catch. Food/meal, net, and repair and maintenance were statistically insignificant, indicating a weaker or inconsistent relationship with output in this model. Notably, the return to scale is 1.353, provided in Table 5, indicating increasing returns to scale — if all inputs are increased proportionately, output will increase by a greater proportion. For a one-unit increase in every input, the production level would increase by 1.353 units. This suggests that motorised fishing units can benefit from scaling up operations and that resource investment in these crafts could lead to enhanced productivity and efficiency. Thus, motorisation of traditional craft is of utmost importance in order to increase the income of fishermen.

**Table 5 : Estimated value of coefficients and related statistics of Cobb-Douglas production for motorised fishing operations**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Coefficients | Standard error | t Stat |
| Intercept | -6.734 | 1.447 | -4.651 |
| Diesel | 0.662\*\* | 0.278 | 2.377 |
| Food/Meal | -0.143 | 0.215 | -0.663 |
| Labour | 0.668\* | 0.261 | 2.565 |
| Ice | -0.670\* | 0.164 | -4.070 |
| Net | 0.211 | 0.173 | 1.219 |
| Repair and maintenance | 0.073 | 0.052 | 1.390 |
| No. of fishing days | 0.552\*\* | 0.185 | 2.974 |
| R Square(R2) | 0.841 |
| Adjusted R Square | 0.773 |
| Return to scale | 1.353 |

\*Significant at 1% level

\*\*Significant at 5% level

**Table 6 : Estimates of efficiency parameters in motorised fishing operations**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | MPP | MVP | MFC | Efficiency ratio (MVP/MFC) |
| Diesel | 0.0226 | 271.17 | 93 | 2.91 |
| Food/Meal | -0.0001 | -1.43 | 1 | -1.43 |
| Labour | 0.4188 | 5026.13 | 850 | 5.91 |
| Ice | -0.2976 | -3571.72 | 200 | -17.85 |
| Net | 0.1203 | 1443.46 | 200 | 7.21 |
| Repair and maintenance | 0.0001 | 1.66 | 1 | 1.66 |
| No. of fishing days | 0.4611 | 5533.75 | 5000 | 1.10 |

The input efficiency analysis for the motorised fishing sector highlights significant disparities in how effectively different inputs contribute to production. Inputs such as net (MVP/MFC = 7.21), labour (5.91), repair and maintenance(1.66) and diesel (2.91) are significantly underutilised, meaning their contribution to output is far greater than their cost. Increasing repair costs leads to improved craft quality and operational efficiency. Additionally, increased fuel usage enables greater area coverage for fishing. This suggests that expanding the use of these inputs could result in higher fish production and better economic returns. Additionally, fishing days show a near-optimal usage level (efficiency ratio = 1.10), as shown in Table 6, indicating that current levels are close to economically efficient, with some room for further improvement. In contrast, several inputs are clearly overutilised or inefficiently managed. Ice, with a negative efficiency ratio (-17.85), reflects substantial wastage or ineffective use, possibly due to overuse or improper handling. Similarly, food/meal (-1.43) and repair and maintenance (0.001) show very poor efficiency, contributing little to output despite considerable costs. These findings imply the need for better cost management and technical practices in these areas.

**3.2.3 Resource Use Efficiency of non-motorised fishing units**

Since non-motorised crafts do not necessitate fuel during their operational processes, only six variables are considered for the evaluation of the Cobb-Douglas production function, as illustrated in Table 7. The analysis for non-motorised fishing units shows a strong model fit, with an R² of 0.913 and adjusted R² of 0.887, meaning nearly 91% of the variation in output is explained by the selected input variables. Among these, labour (0.387) and number of fishing days (0.407) are statistically significant at 5% level, suggesting they are crucial drivers of production in this sector. This result is logical, given that non-motorised fishing relies heavily on human effort and time spent at sea due to the absence of engines or advanced equipment. Net usage (0.457), although not statistically significant here, has a positive coefficient and a t-stat of 2.039, indicating it is near significance and likely beneficial to the output.

Other inputs, such as food, ice, and repair and maintenance, have negative or statistically insignificant coefficients, indicating that they either have little impact or may be overutilised relative to their productivity in the non-motorised context. Most notably, the return to scale is 0.82, as shown in Table 7, indicating decreasing returns to scale, where a proportional increase in all inputs would result in a less-than-proportional increase in output. This could reflect limitations in resource efficiency or scale in the non-motorised sector, reinforcing the idea that simply adding more inputs is not the most effective way to boost productivity. Instead, improving labour productivity and motorisation of traditional crafts can lead to higher productivity.

The input efficiency analysis for the non-motorised fishing sector, given in Table 8 reveals that labour (1.56), net (1.01), and fishing days (1.29) are the most productive and efficiently used inputs, suggesting potential for improved returns through their increased use. In contrast, ice (-4.15), food/meal (-1.96), and repair and maintenance (-10.20) are highly inefficient, indicating overuse or poor contribution to output. Overall, the results highlight the need to optimise input use by focusing on labour and operational time while reducing ineffective expenditures. There is also scope for modernising and motorising these crafts to increase output.

**Table 7 : Estimated value of coefficients and related statistics of Cobb-Douglas production for non-motorised fishing operations**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Coefficients | Standard error | t Stat |
| Intercept | -2.397 | 1.103 | -2.172 |
| Food/Meal | -0.150 | 0.142 | -1.053 |
| Labour | 0.387\*\* | 0.163 | 2.364 |
| Ice | -0.131 | 0.112 | -1.160 |
| Net | 0.457 | 0.224 | 2.039 |
| Repair and maintenance | -0.143 | 0.127 | -1.123 |
| No. of fishing days | 0.407\*\* | 0.086 | 4.707 |
| R Square(R2) | 0.913 |
| Adjusted R Square | 0.887 |
| Return to scale | 0.820 |

\*Significant at 1% level

\*\*Significant at 5% level

**Table 8: Estimates of efficiency parameters in non-motorised fishing operations**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | MPP | MVP | MFC | Efficiency ratio (MVP/MFC) |
| Food/Meal | -0.0001 | -1.96 | 1 | -1.96 |
| Labour | 0.132 | 1327.01 | 850 | 1.56 |
| Ice | -0.083 | -831.34 | 200 | -4.15 |
| Net | 0.0203 | 203.85 | 200 | 1.01 |
| Repair and maintenance | -0.001 | -10.20 | 1 | -10.20 |
| No. of fishing days | 0.324 | 3247.83 | 2500 | 1.29 |

**4. CONCLUSION**

This study assesses the economics and resource efficiency of marine fishing in the Balasore district, Odisha, with a focus on mechanised, motorised, and non-motorised sectors. Through cost-return analysis and Cobb-Douglas production function, the findings reveal distinct patterns of input use, profitability, and efficiency across these fishing units. Mechanised crafts, while achieving the highest gross returns, face the burden of high operational costs and show decreasing returns to scale, indicating inefficiencies, especially in labour utilisation. Motorised crafts demonstrate increasing returns to scale and strong output responsiveness to inputs like diesel, labour, and fishing days, suggesting a high potential for scaled-up, efficient operations. Non-motorised units, although yielding the lowest gross returns, achieve the highest input-output ratio, reflecting superior cost efficiency; however, they are limited by scale and technological input.

These results highlight the need for tailored policy interventions. For mechanised units, investing in fuel-efficient technologies and better labour management is crucial. Motorised units would benefit from scaling operations and improved input allocation, while non-motorised units require modernisation, including motorisation of crafts and skill enhancement. Overall, optimising input use and encouraging sustainable scaling through sector-specific strategies can significantly improve productivity and income in Odisha’s marine fisheries sector while ensuring resource sustainability.

**DISCLAIMER (AI USE)**

The authors formally acknowledge the use of generative AI technologies, including Large Language Models, in the writing and editing processes of the manuscripts. This disclosure will provide the name, version, model, and source of the generative AI technology employed, along with all pertinent input prompts utilized during the process.

**CONSENT**

In accordance with international and university standards, the written consent of all participants has been duly obtained and securely retained by the author(s).

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