

PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY IN INDIA

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The quantity and assortment of plants, animals and other living beings that subsist in different ecosystems is known as biological diversity. The fertility of biodiversity rests on the climatic considerations and soil quality. It is sine qua non for ensuring the endurance of human species because it provides diverse resource to humanity. The marine environment has a very high biodiversity and contributes to many significant processes that have straight and circuitous impressions on both marine and terrestrial environments. However, due to several factors like oil spills, dumping and sea bed mining the marine biodiversity is getting affected. Therefore, there is a need to analyse the relationship between marine biodiversity and related factors. Standing at this point, the international community took baronial measures to protect and conserve marine biodiversity by arranging many international conferences, conventions and treaties. In this connection the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 is a vital one. The parliament of India also made a good follow up of the proposals and rules prescribed by the international community for the protection, preservation and conservation of marine biodiversity. Though many issues have been addressed amicably, a lot more is awaiting to be achieved.

Keywords: *Marine Biodiversity, Marine Environment, United Nations, Sea, Law.*

Introduction

The term 'environment' has a wide meaning but basically it includes air, water and land. Since the Vedic period, it has been the main motive of human kind to protect the environment and to live in harmony. However, in modern times, the concept of environment has changed and now it is being greatly analysed and interpreted by various scientists, environmentalists and researchers. About seventy percent of the total earth's surface has been taken by the oceans, creating its own biological diversity cycle and contributing in the development process of human life. Presently, over-exploitation and man-made pollution is responsible to a huge extent for the degradation of environment. Due to excessive pollution some species of birds, animals, fishes, plants, corals etc. are already extinct and many are becoming 'rare species'. These types of extinctions cause huge imbalance in the environment. Therefore, immediately it is necessary to take preventive and protective measures for the preservation and conservation of the environment. Humankind has to live in harmony with the environment. There is need for making a

balance between environment and development. Currently, it is the main duty of humankind to provide and ensure protection and conservation of the environment and its biodiversity.

1. Phylogenies and Concept of Biodiversity

Biodiversity or biological diversity is the variety of life forms within an area. It is variation within and between all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems within which they live and interact¹. Origin, development, evolution and forms of life have been subject of researches through past centuries. It is an undeniable fact that mankind largely depends on the natural resources even today, standing at the peak of scientific development and technology. Human society depends on natural resources for their survival but unfortunately human activities are responsible for causing huge pollution and the over exploitation of natural resources. For the protection of environment and for creating general awareness regarding this matter, the famous 'Stockholm Conference'² was organized on 1972 and after that United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, popularly known as the 'Rio-Earth Summit', was held on 1992 at Rio De Janeiro. This Earth Summit of 1992 achieved Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992 along with other agreements. According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, *"Biological Diversity means the variability among living organisms for all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within, species, between species and of ecosystem"*.³

In pre-independence period, the Zoological Survey of India in 1916 tried for the documentation of flora and fauna of various regions. The Asiatic Society in Bengal and the Indian Museum in Calcutta floored the way of research for better understanding of the concept of biodiversity. After independence, the process of research was further developed by various National Survey Organizations. Presently, India holds 10th place amongst biodiversity rich nations of the world.⁴ India covers 2.4 percent of global space, 16 percent of global population and 9 percent of the global biodiversity⁵ and is the seventh largest country in the world. Thus, to preserve and promote biological diversity, the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was passed by parliament of India. The main objective of the Act is conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of biological resources. Its overall objective is to encourage actions that lead to a sustainable future.

¹ http://www.wwf.org.au/our_work/saving_the_natural_world/what_is_biodiversity/. (Retrieved on 02.08.2015).

² From 5th to 16th June, 1972.

³ The Convention of Biological Diversity, 1992- Article 2.

⁴ Dr. A.K. Ghosh, Biodiversity Conservation, APH Publishing Corporation, 2007, p. 4.

⁵ Ibid.

2. Marine Environment & Biodiversity

Ocean is an indispensable part to support life on the earth. Ocean has huge contribution towards humankind. However, in recent years both at national and international level there is an emerging menace to marine biodiversity due to various human activities. Huge exploitation of fish for commercial purpose, reduction of marine mammals and turtles and over-exploitation of certain coastal ecosystems, such as coral reefs indicate that these resources and their benefits are threatened by human activities⁶. Ocean is a great source of various foods, nutrients, medicines and occupation for significant number of people. Our seashores provide space to live and directly and indirectly create wealth, including millions of employments in diverse industries such as fishing, aquaculture and tourism. The marine environment includes the water of the ocean, the seabed, its subsoil, all marine life of the sea and coastal habitats. Marine resources are the precious assets and heritage that must be protected, conserved and properly utilized. The ocean provides earth's most precious and greatest natural resource. It gives food in the form of fish and shellfish. It is used for transportation for both travelling and shipping for commercial purposes. It is mined for minerals e.g. salt, sand, gravel, and some manganese, copper, nickel, iron and cobalt can be found in the deep sea and drilled for crude oil⁷. The ocean indirectly contributes in the process of eradication of carbon from the atmosphere and providing oxygen which regulates earth's climate. The ocean also provides resources for biomedical organisms with huge potential for fighting disease⁸. The oceans have been fished for thousands of years and fishing is an essential part of development of human society. Fisheries are also important to the world economy. Early fisheries have been founded in Europe, Italy, Portugal, Spain and India. At present fisheries of the developing nations provide 16 percent (approximately) of the total world's protein. Marine environment not only provides food but also natural substances including ingredients for biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

3. Doctrine of the Freedom of Seas

The doctrine of 'freedom of sea' has accentuated the spirit of maritime law. This doctrine was established and applied under Roman law but the concept of this doctrine was spifflicated after the Roman Empire. After a long time, in the modern age, Dutch Jurist Grotius again revitalized this concept in his book "*Mare Liberum*"⁹ that is the first book on law of sea, published in 1609¹⁰. Grotius wrote this book for protecting the right to

⁶ http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/websites/retiredsites/natdia_pdf/7hourigan.pdf. (Retrieved on 02.09.2015).

⁷ <http://marinebio.org/oceans/ocean-resources/>. (Retrieved on 02.09.2015).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Original title: "*Mare Liberum, sive de jure quod Batavis competit ad Indicana commercia dissertatio*" or in English "The Free Sea or The Freedom of the Seas" is a book in Latin on international law written by a famous Dutch jurist and philosopher, Hugo Grotius.

¹⁰ Dr. Satyendra Kumar Sharma, Law of Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone, Taxmann Allied Services Pvt. Ltd., 2008, p.1.

navigation of his country in the Indian Ocean. The Portuguese landed in India in 1498. At that time, India had already achieved the right of free navigation in the Indian Ocean. Around 300 B.C. the great Hindu economist, Kautilya in his book '*Arthashastra*' had inscribed the concept of maritime rules¹¹. As per the history of marine law, there was commercial relation between Rome and Indian provinces situated at coastal zone of the Indian Ocean. There the freedom of navigation was the rule of sea. On the one hand, India and East Indies had generated the practice of freedom of sea and on the other hand, Europe was in opposite position. After the destruction of Roman Empire, few states of Europe raised a claim over the huge area of sea, which gave birth to number of disputes regarding navigation. According to Justinian, "*the sea is jusnatural, common to all, as incapable of appropriation as is air and its use open freely to all men.*"¹² After 26 years of publication of Grotius's book "*Mare Liberum*"¹³ a British scholar John Selden wrote a book named as "*Mare Clausum*"¹⁴, where he argued for absolute freedom of sea by the British over the sea. These two books of Grotius and John Selden emphasized two fundamental principles: i) Concept of high seas, and ii) Concept of territorial waters¹⁵. The Hague Conference of 1930 again developed the doctrine of freedom of sea. After that, various international instruments developed this concept.

4. Sources of Marine Pollution

The key elements of environment are water, air and soil. Human beings reside on land that covers only a limited portion of the planet. However, the water area covers approximately two third of our planet and plays a vibrant role in support of a sound ecological balance of the environment. According to Section 2(a) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 the term environment includes "*water, air and land and the inter-relationship which exists among between water, air and land, and human beings, other livings creatures, plants, micro-organism and property*"¹⁶ and environmental pollution means "*the presence in the environment of any environmental pollutant*"¹⁷. Marine pollution is continuously affecting the marine environment. The major accepted sources of marine pollutions are as follows:

Pollution from Ships: Pollution from ships can be categorized into: i) operational and ii) accidental¹⁸. When pollution is caused during the normal operation or functioning of the ship, it is known as operational pollution, for example regular and traditional cleaning of

¹¹ Ibid. p.2.

¹² Ibid. p.3.

¹³ Ibid. 9.

¹⁴ Original title: "*Mare clausum: seu de dominio maris*" or in English "*The Right and Dominion of the Sea*" is a book in Latin on international marine law written by a famous English jurist, philosopher and scholar John Selden.

¹⁵ Ibid. 10 at pp. 3-4.

¹⁶ Bare Act with Short Comments, Environmental Laws, Hon'ble Justice M.R. Mallick, Professional Book Publishers, 2011, p. 3.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ P.W. Brine and A.E. Boyle, International Law and the Environment, Second Edition, Reprint 2004, Oxford University Press, p. 359.

oil tankers and schedule disposal of oily dregs at sea¹⁹; but when pollution occurs due to collision between ships or sinking of large oil tankers in the ocean it is known as accidental pollution. During the Iraq-Kuwait conflict, a large quantity of oil poured into the sea resulting in marine pollution and death of many sea-borne lives. Even on account of oil craft wrecks a good amount of oil dribbles into the ocean²⁰. Sometimes ship discharges cargo residues such as slug, oil deposits and pollutes oceans, waterways and ports²¹. In most of the cases, vessels intentionally discharge the wastes into the ocean and create hazards and therefore, there are many regulations prohibiting the discharge of illegal wastes into the ocean but apart from water pollution, large vessels and ships also generate noise pollution that disturbs and disrupts life under water. Therefore, ships are one of the responsible factors of marine pollution. Article 211 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 provides some restrictions for the protection of marine environment from vessel's pollution.

Ocean Dumping: Dumping includes disposal of all types of wastes such as hazardous and toxic industrial waste, waste from ships and tankers, sewerage waste, pharmaceutical and biomedical waste, radioactive waste, atomic waste, chemical waste, dumping of plastic and related waste into the oceans and seas, etc. Wastes are generally of two types: i) Domestic waste and ii) Industrial waste. Domestic waste includes wastes from food processing, domestic sewages, various land run off, detergents used for domestic purpose, run off from agricultural field, etc. Industrial waste includes radioactive wastes, chemicals, melted metals, inorganic chemicals and hot waters etc.²² The rivers collect the polluting substances, toxic chemicals, sewages, agricultural and industrial waste, etc. from their pathways and finally give it to the ocean. Therefore, to combat it, Article 210 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 provides restrictions on the dumping of sea.

Pollution from Atmosphere: Atmospheric pollution includes highly polluted air, dust blown by the wind, plastic bags blown by the wind, poisonous gases that are the outcome of the industries, etc. Sometimes atmospheric pollution is responsible for the formation of acid rain that causes huge damage to the life above water and life under water. Acid rain is caused due to the emission of nitrogen oxide and sulphur dioxide. Acid rain causes harm to fish and other aquatic animals and it has already exterminated some species of insects and some fish species for example, the lakes and streams of Adirondack Mountains of the United States of America has already lost some species of fish and insects due to acid rain²³. In fact, dusts from the Sahara desert moves in the direction of the southern part of the

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ <http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/pollution/marine-pollution-definition-and-causes-of-marine-pollution/28281/>. (Retrieved on 27.10.2015).

²¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_pollution. (Retrieved on 27.10.2015).

²² Ibid. 16.

²³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acid_rain (Retrieved on 05.11.2015).

subtropical ridge and travels into the Caribbean and Florida during the warm season²⁴. Due to severe pollution, the level of carbon dioxide is increasing day by day and side by side, the temperature of the atmosphere is also changing. Ozone layer depletion is also causing global warming because it responsible for the arrival of ultraviolet ray on earth. Article 212 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 provides some restrictions for the prevention of atmospheric pollution.

Deep Seafloor Mining: Seafloor comprises of many valuable supplies e.g. Polymetallic nodules, Sulphide deposits, Manganese Crusts, etc. Polymetallic nodules include copper, cobalt, manganese and nickel; Sulphide deposits include some scrap of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc, and; Manganese Crusts include mainly cobalt, molybdenum, platinum and some vanadium, etc.²⁵ Once a section of seafloor is found to be suitable for mining, then a mining ship is set up for that mine area. Minerals are extracted from the sea floor basically by using drilling method and by using a conveyor-belt, running to the surface of the ocean where a mining platform extracts the desired minerals²⁶. Sometimes, the deposits are mined by means of either hydraulic pumps or bucket method that bring ore to the surface for processing. Removals of minerals cause disturbance to the habitats of marine life. The sediments that are the outcome of mining also adversely affect under water plants and coral reefs. After mining, rest of the resource particles often float in the sea surface and sometimes crude oil also floats in the sea that is very difficult to remove and consequently, it causes great harm to the marine ecology. Therefore, at present marine scientific research is being carried on to ascertain the suitable and appropriate method of mining without causing any damage to the marine environment.

Pollution from Land Based Activities: It is a known fact that approximately eighty percent of marine pollution is contributed by land based activities. The hazardous land runoffs are continuously causing harm to the marine environment because hazardous substances are being carried by rivers or by any other water sources and finally enter into the ocean. Surface runoff arising from agricultural farming, urban runoff and runoff from the commercial activity involved in repairing old structures or constructing new ones, including roads and high ways, buildings and related constructions, seaports or water ports and harbours, carries soil and particles loaded with carbon, phosphorus, nitrogen and minerals. This water causes algae and phytoplankton to flourish in coastal areas by using all available oxygen and thus, upset the ecology. Therefore, many national and international laws have been enacted for the prevention of land based pollution activities and for the protection of marine environment.

5. Law relating to Marine Environment & Biodiversity

²⁴ Ibid. 18.

²⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_sea_mining(Retrieved on 06.11.2015).

²⁶ Ibid.

There are several laws for the protection of marine environment and biodiversity. However, it can be classified into two heads: international law and national law.

A) *Role of International Law.* In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment popularly known as the 'Stockholm Conference' was held at Sweden. The main object of the conference was to alert the world about the over exploitation of biological resources and to implement the concept of sustainable development. After the failure of Geneva Conventions of 1958 and 1960, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS) was organized to protect and preserve marine environment. The main concerns of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 are as follows:²⁷

i) Issues relating to National Zones: The UNCLOS, 1982 deals with the problem of national jurisdiction i.e. contiguous zones, exclusive economic zones, territorial sea and continental shelf. Problem of resource exploitation from continental shelf and from exclusive economic zone is determined by this convention. Problem of passage of warship from the territorial sea of a country that is not a party to the convention have also been exclusively considered and it further suggested for the modification of laws of territorial sea.

ii) Resource Exploitation from Seabed: One of the main objects of the convention is to unravel the controversy regarding exploitation of marine resources from the seabed, which is beyond national jurisdiction. The question is who are eligible to exploit or explore the resources from seabed beyond jurisdiction? The developed countries are of the opinion that for exploitation of resources beyond the national jurisdiction there should be a system of licence or authorization and 'International Machinery' will grant this licence or authorization to the states and private corporations. However, the socialist countries proposed that an 'International Seabed Authority' should be established. This authority will regulate the exploitation areas and this authority will also regulate the licensing system.

iii) Problem Relating to Marine Pollution: In the present world, marine pollution is a burning issue. Due to serious pollution, marine environment is in danger. The UNCLOS provided that every signatory country should make special provisions for the prevention and reduction of marine pollution. It was agreed by the state parties that within 200 miles both national and international laws could be applied. In case of dumping, it was decided that dumping of waste within the exclusive economic zone, territorial sea or within the continental shelf is subject to prior permission of coastal state that has a right to control that particular area.²⁸

²⁷ Ibid. 10 at pp. 30-35.

²⁸ Articles 145, 209, 210 and 215 of the UNCLOS.

iv) Issue of Marine Scientific Research and Technology Transfer: Marine scientific research is essential for the protection of marine ecology and marine environment and it is also required for the progression of countries. Developed countries have some special marine scientific technology to exploit the marine resources but the developing countries are suffering due to lack of modern scientific technology. Modern marine scientific technology helps a lot to exploit marine resources properly and side by side causes very minimum marine pollution. Therefore, this convention tried to make a rule for transfer of marine technology from developed countries to developing countries.

Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992: The convention on biological diversity was held on 5th June, 1992. This convention was found approving by all countries worldwide, except Somalia, Andorra, Timor-Leste, Brunei Darussalam, Iraq and the United States of America.²⁹ According to Article 1 of this convention, the main objective of this convention is to preserve and protect the biological diversity and sustainable use of biological resources, fair and impartial distribution of benefits arising out the exploitation of biological resources and to maintain cooperation and technology transfer among the signatory countries of the convention.

Article 2 of this convention provides that *“Biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine aquatic ecosystems and ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and ecosystems”*.³⁰ Article 2 of this convention also explains about biological resource. It states that *“Biological resources include genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, population, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity”*.³¹

Article 3 of the convention empowers the states to exploit their own biological resources and also imposes a responsibility to control pollution within jurisdiction and not to cause damage to the environment beyond their jurisdictional limit. Article 5 deals with cooperation among the state parties in case of exploitation and conservation of biological diversity. According to Article 6, each state party should develop their strategies, plans and programmes for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Article 10 of this convention provides that each contracting state party should use components of biological diversity in sustainable and appropriate manner. Article 8 of this convention provides rules for *in-situ* conservation and Article 9 provides rules for *ex-situ* conservation. This convention promotes cooperation among the state parties for scientific research and training for adopting methods of sustainable exploitation of biological resources and Article 17 deals with the exchange of information among the state parties. Article 14 provides rules

²⁹ <http://marinebio.org/oceans/conservation/biodiversity/> (Retrieved on 19.05.2016).

³⁰ Philippe Sands and Paolo Galizzi; Documents in International Environmental Law; Cambridge University Press; Second Edition; p. 700.

³¹ Ibid.

regarding impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts of exploitation of biological resources. If any exploitation of biological resources is done without appropriate impact assessment then it may generate adverse effects on the environment. Therefore, impact assessment is necessary for every exploitation of biological resources. Like other international conventions, Article 27 of this convention deals with settlement of disputes. Article 27 provides various options for settlement of disputes e.g. negotiation, conciliation, arbitration and submission of disputes in the International Court of Justice.

B) *Role of Indian Law*: India is very much concerned about protection of marine environment and biodiversity. India has a rich marine biodiversity. The coastline of India is more than 7500 km in length including islands of Andaman and Nicobar groups and Lakshadweep and harbours unique marine habitats that shows a wide variety of marine biological diversity. There are many laws for the protection of marine biodiversity in India. Some of them are as follows:

i) *The Constitution of India*: Article 297 of the Constitution of India deals with the protection of marine resources. It vests all land, minerals and things of value under the territorial waters, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone in the Union of India and stipulates its usage for the benefit of the Union.³² Article 297 ensures the right of India over its sea-wealth. The provisions of Article 297 were influenced by a landmark decision of the Supreme Court of the United States of America. *In U.S vs. State of California* [332 US 18(1975)], it was held that the State of California is not the proprietor of the ocean resources which is underlying within the territorial water but the centre had full control and authority over the marine resources³³.

ii) *The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zone Act, 1976*: According to Section 3 of the Act, “*the sovereignty of India extends and has always extended to the territorial waters of India (hereinafter referred to as the territorial waters) and to the seabed and subsoil underlying, and the airspace over, such waters*”³⁴. Section 5 of this Act deals with the law regarding contiguous zone and the power of central government over the contiguous zone and Section 6 of this Act deals with the provisions of continental shelf. *The continental shelf of India comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond the limit of its territorial waters throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin or to a distance of two hundred nautical miles from the baseline*³⁵. Section 6 (4) of this Act puts a restriction and further stipulates that no person can explore the continental

³² Zoheb Hossain and Alok Prasanna Kumar; *The New Jurisprudence of Scarce Natural Resources: An Analysis of the Supreme Court’s Judgment in Reliance Industries Limited v. Reliance Natural Resources Limited* (2010) 7 SCC 1; *Indian Journal of Constitutional Law*; 2010; Vol. 4; p. 105.

³³ Professor M.P Jain; *Indian Constitutional Law*; LexisNexis; Sixth Edition Reprint 2013; p. 1649.

³⁴ *The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zone Act, 1976- Section 3.*

³⁵ *Ibid.* Section 6 (1).

shelf or exploit its resources or carry out any search or excavation or conduct any research within the continental shelf or drill therein or construct, maintain or operate any artificial island, off shore terminal, installation or other structure or device therein for any purpose. However, any person including foreign states with prior approval of the central government through licence or by letter of authority granted by the central government can explore the continental shelf³⁶. This Act also empowers the union government over the exclusive economic zone.

Section 7 (5) of this Act also puts a restriction and further instructs that no person can explore or exploit any resources of the exclusive economic zone or carry out any research or excavation or conduct any research within the exclusive economic zone or drill therein or construct, maintain or operate any artificial island, off shore terminal, installation or other structure or device therein for any purpose but any person or any foreign state with the prior permission of the central government through licence or by letter of authority granted by the central government can explore or conduct research within exclusive economic zone³⁷. The Act also puts a punishment for contravening any of its provisions as per section 11 with imprisonment that may extend up to three years or with fine or with both.

iii) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002: The main objective of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is to protect and conserve the bio diversity, sustainably use its elements, share the benefits arising out of utilization of biological resources in a fair and equitable manner and to look after the rich biological diversity of India. It defines biodiversity as “*the variability among living organisms from all sources and the ecological complexes of which they are part, and includes diversity within species or between species and of eco-systems*”³⁸. It included “*plants, animals and micro-organisms or parts thereof, their genetic material and by-products (excluding value added products) with actual or potential use or value*”³⁹, in defining biological resources but did not include “*human genetic material*”⁴⁰. According to Section 3 of this Act, a person who is not a citizen of India or a person who is citizen but is non-resident or any corporate body which is not registered in India, without endorsement of the National Biodiversity Authority, shall not make use of or explore any biological resource from India or any knowledge associated with it for doing any research or for utilizing it commercially or for performing bio-survey and bio-utilization. According to Section 4 of this Act, no one can transfer result of any research relating to any biological resources without approval of the National Biodiversity Authority. This Act also provides a stipulation regarding intellectual property rights. The Act also empowers the central

³⁶ Ibid. Section 6(4).

³⁷ Ibid. Section 7(5).

³⁸ The Biological Diversity Act, 2002- Section 2 (b).

³⁹ Ibid. Section 2 (c)

⁴⁰ Ibid.

government to adopt various strategies, plans, etc. for the conservation of biological resources.

Conclusion

Marine biodiversity is the prosperous and magnificent variety of plants and animals that live in watery habitation. It is the quantity of diverse native species, or species adequateness. Some marine organisms endure in the deep sea, whereas others, like water striders, subsist floating along the water surface. So protecting and maintaining biodiversity is necessary for the wellbeing of our environment and for the development of human life. Human beings depend on various marine plants, animals and their ecological functions for their survival. Aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity are sources of food, medicine, shelter, energy and the raw materials that is required for survival. Although it is hardly ever recognized, each marine genus or species has a significant role in making lives comfortable, healthier, easier and more dynamic. More or less, all the components of environment are equally important for ecosystem. Though there are many laws for the protection of biodiversity but still there is need for proper implementation and for proper implementation there is need of awareness among the common people. Therefore, the world community has focused on creating awareness among the common people by arranging various conventions, conferences and declarations so that conservation and preservation of marine biodiversity can be done for present and future generation. Thus, it can be concluded by saying that exploitation of marine biodiversity must be done but it should be done in a sustainable manner.