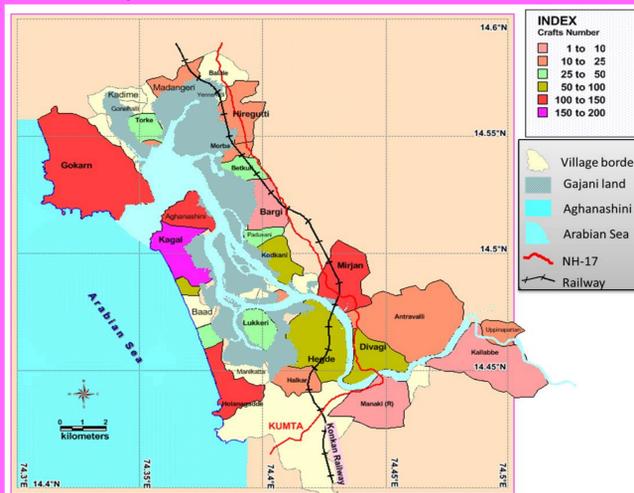


## Introduction

Estuarine fishery is a distinct enterprise itself. The fishing crafts used in the Aghanashini estuary of Uttara Kannada, Karnataka are of great interest not only from their retention of ancient technologies, but also for the skills with which the fishermen maneuver these devices, which could vary from one community to another. Most crafts are designed to suit estuarine conditions including of *gajani rice field cum fishery areas*. Here is the first time documentation of the fishing crafts of Aghanashini estuary.



## Study Area & Crafts Distribution



## Materials and Methods

Observations on crafts were made, along with associated gears, from the wide river mouth and wider mid estuary to the upstream narrower portions where salinity is lower. Presented here are craft sizes, types and number of persons manning each type of craft.



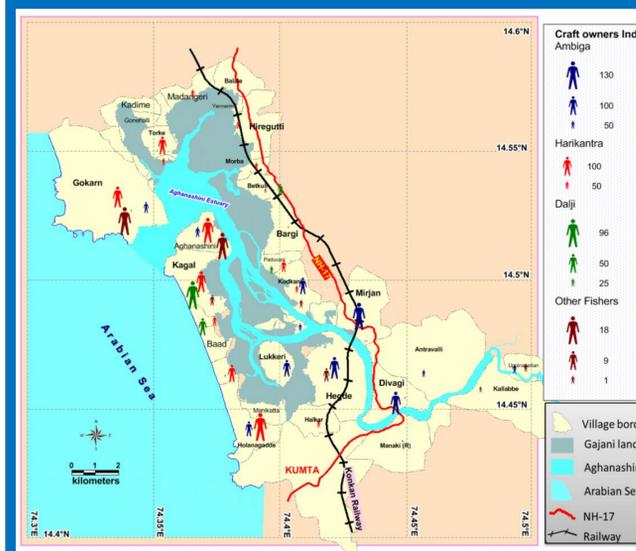
Crafts & accessories



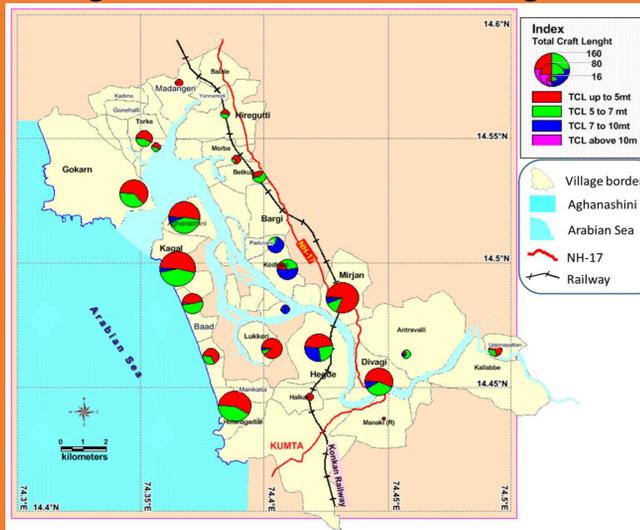
## Results

- 1244 no. of indigenous non-mechanised crafts from 25 estuarine villages were recorded.
- 56% of crafts are below 5m length; 5 to <7m (33%), 7 to <10m (10%).
- Ambiga community owned max. no. of artisan craft followed by Harikantra & Dalji.
- Size-wise Ambigas owned more of smaller crafts than others. Daljis mainly used out-rigger fitted crafts for safety.
- Total no. of fishers using indigenous non-mechanised crafts were estimated as 1925.

## Fishing community-wise artisan craft ownership



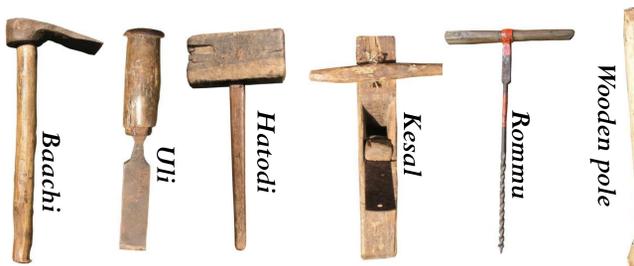
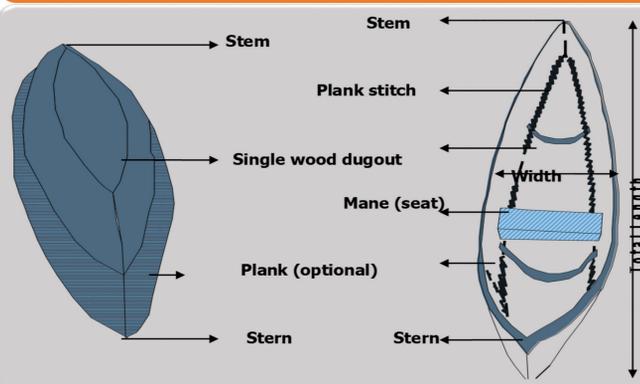
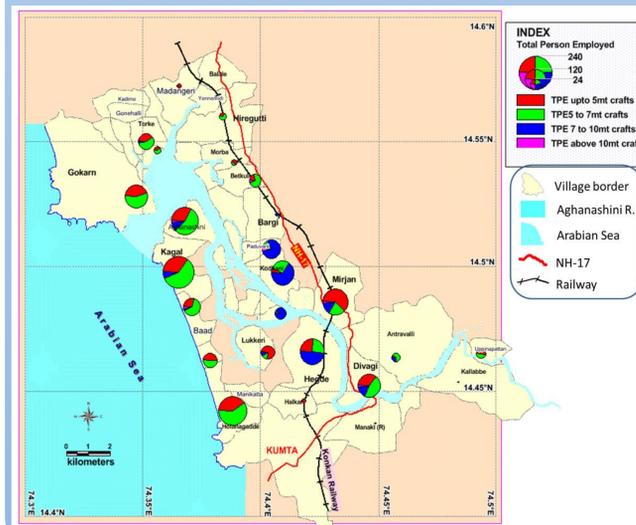
## Length size classes of artisan fishing crafts



## Recommendations

- *Pathi* is suitable for sustainable estuarine fishery & such artisan fishery needs to be encouraged.
- Artisan crafts symbolise the indigenous fishing ethics and upholds sustainability norms and harmony among early estuarine fishermen in using such simple crafts, which are still retained whereas the marine fishery sector witnessed steep increase in mechanised crafts and gears causing steeply declining catches world over.

## Artisan crafts length classes vs persons operating



Carpentry tools used for making artisan crafts