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# POLICY TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY HARVESTED AQUATIC FOOD 2025

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Version 2

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CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT
ODISHA

# FOREWORD



**At Centurion University of Technology and Management, our commitment to sustainability extends to every aspect of our operations, including our responsibility to promote environmentally conscious food practices. The *Aquatic Food Sustainability Policy* is a reflection of our dedication to protecting aquatic ecosystems while ensuring the responsible sourcing and consumption of aquatic food products within our campus community.**

**This policy outlines our approach to sustainable practices in the procurement and use of aquatic resources, emphasizing the importance of supporting fisheries and suppliers that adhere to sustainable harvesting practices. By doing so, we not only contribute to the preservation of marine and freshwater ecosystems but also foster a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship among our students, faculty and staff.**

**The *Aquatic Food Sustainability Policy* reinforces our mission to lead by example, demonstrating how responsible choices can make a meaningful difference in protecting natural resources for future generations. I encourage all members of the university to actively engage with this policy and to consider the environmental impact of their choices in daily life.**

**Together, we can ensure that Centurion University remains at the forefront of sustainability, promoting practices that benefit both our community and the planet.**

**Prof. (Dr.) Supriya Pattanayak**
**Vice-Chancellor**
**Centurion University of Technology and Management**

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# Policy to Ensure Sustainably Harvested Aquatic Food

## Preamble

The *Aquatic Food Sustainability Policy* of the university reflects our commitment to fostering responsible and sustainable practices in the sourcing, consumption and management of aquatic food resources. This policy aims to promote environmental stewardship by encouraging the use of sustainable fisheries and suppliers while minimizing the impact on marine and freshwater ecosystems. Through this initiative, we seek to ensure that our university community contributes to the preservation of aquatic biodiversity and natural resources while supporting long-term sustainability in food practices that benefit both current and future generations.

## 1. Objective:

The objective of this policy is to ensure that all food from aquatic ecosystems procured, served or sold on any CUTM campus is sustainably harvested or responsibly farmed. This applies regardless of whether the food is sourced from the university's own aquatic bodies or from other suppliers.

## 2. Scope:

This policy applies to all CUTM campuses and every point where aquatic food is served or sold, including hostels, messes, canteens, cafeterias, guest houses and university events. It applies equally to university-operated outlets and those managed by contracted caterers or vendors. Compliance with this policy shall be a condition of all relevant supply and catering contracts.

## 3. Policy Guidelines:

### 3.1 Local and Responsible Fish Seed Suppliers:

The university prioritizes the source of the fish seeds for stocking of ponds and aquatic bodies belonging to the university from the suppliers adhering to sustainable management.

The university partners with local suppliers who follow responsible hatchery management. In addition to these suppliers, seeds are also produced from in-house hatcheries by following good management practices. In addition, the stocking is done in the nearby community ponds and managed to increase the production of fish for the locals. The seed quality will be checked before stocking into the aquatic systems.

## 3.2 Aquaculture practices:

The university follows sustainable aquaculture practices without involving harmful antibiotics and synthetic growth promoters. The feed required for the aquaculture is produced in the in-house fish feed mill. Locally sourced organic ingredients are used for fish feed production. The water quality used for the aquaculture practices is maintained in a responsible manner without affecting the environment.

## 3.3 Sustainable Harvesting and Supplier Requirements:

All suppliers and contracted caterers providing fish, shellfish or other aquatic food to the university must source exclusively from fisheries and farms that follow legal and sustainable harvesting or farming practices. Before engagement and annually thereafter, each supplier must provide documentation specifying:

- The species supplied
- The source fishery, water body or farm
- The harvesting or farming method
- Compliance with applicable legislation and this policy

The university shall not procure aquatic food from suppliers who cannot provide the required documentation.

## 3.4 Selection of regional species:

The meal selections at CUTM will be based on regional fisheries patterns and seasonal availability. The focus will be on promoting seafood options that are in season and locally sourced to lessen the environmental impact of transportation.

### 3.5 Exclusion of Endangered or Threatened Species:

The university is committed to strictly prohibit procuring aquatic food involving endangered or threatened species. In this way, the policy will help in the conservation of species from the aquatic environment which is on the verge of extinction. Also, the policy aims to avoid the introduction of invasive species which threaten the survival of commercially important species.

For the purposes of this policy, endangered or threatened species shall include those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, as well as species protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The university shall also refrain from procuring species during seasonal fishing bans notified by the Government of India or the Government of Odisha.

### 3.6 Waste Reduction:

The people in the university consuming the food from aquatic sources are encouraged for responsible consumption to reduce the food waste. The portion size is controlled to minimize food waste associated with the aquatic ecosystem. In addition, proper storage practices are followed to reduce unnecessary waste and promote efficient resource use. There is also an organic waste management facility in the university to convert any food waste generated into organic manure to be used in agriculture or gardening practices.

### 3.7 Awareness:

The university conducts seminars, webinars, educational campaigns and awareness programs to enlighten students, faculty and staff about the importance of sustainable seafood choices and the impact of their food choices on aquatic ecosystems. This will include information on sustainable fishing practices, responsible aquaculture and the significance of maintaining healthy aquatic environment.

### 3.8 Being updated:

The university will regularly review and update the policy to align with the newest developments in sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices. Feedback from stakeholders and industry experts within the country will be considered in the continuous improvement process.

### 3.9 Implementation:

Implementation of this policy shall be overseen by the University Sustainability Committee, who shall:

- Review supplier documentation at least annually.
- Conduct spot checks of campus dining menus and purchase records.
- Maintain records of compliance and corrective actions taken.
- Submit an annual implementation report to the Vice-Chancellor.

By adhering to this policy, the university aims to contribute to the preservation of aquatic ecosystems, support sustainable fishing communities in the country and foster a culture of responsible consumption and environmental conservation on campus.

## 4. Approval and Review

This policy has been approved by the university administration and will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with current laws and best practices. Any amendments to the policy will be communicated to the university community.

Anita Patra

**Dr. Anita Patra**
**Registrar**
**Centurion University of Technology and Management**

REGISTRAR
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# CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT, ODISHA

## CAMPUSES:

**Paralakhemundi Campus**
Village Alluri Nagar
P.O. – R Sitapur, Via- Uppalada
Paralakhemundi, Dist.- Gajapati
Odisha, India. PIN– 761211

**Bhubaneswar Campus**
Ramchandrapur
P.O. – Jatni, Bhubaneswar
Dist.- Khurda, Odisha,
India, PIN– 752050

**Balangir Campus**
Behind BSNL Office
IDCO land, Rajib Nagar
Dist.- Balangir, Odisha
India, PIN-767001

**Rayagada Campus**
IDCO Industrial Area
Pitamahal, Rayagada
Dist.-Rayagada, Odisha
India, PIN-765001

**Balasore Campus**
Gopalpur,
P.O.-Balasore
Dist.-Balasore, Odisha
India, PIN-756044

**Chatrapur Campus**
Ramchandrapur,
Kaliabali Chhak,
P.O-Chatrapur, Dist.-Ganjam
Odisha, India, PIN-761020