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India marine fish landing increased by 6.6% in 2016

KOCHI: After recording steady declines in the India's marine fish landings since 2012, by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) announced the total fish landings in India has increased by 6.6% in 2016.

According to the CMFRI's estimates, the total fish landing in India in 2016 weighed a total 3.63 million tonnes compared to 2015 when the total fish landing amounted to 3.40 million tonnes.

Gujarat continues to tally the most amount fish in India with a total fish landing of 7.74 lakh tonnes, while Tamil Nadu with 7.07 lakh tonnes came second, followed by Karnataka with 5.29 lakh tonnes.

Though Kerala had observed an 8% increase in total fish catches in the state 2016, they have slipped from 3rd place to 4th with recorded landing of 5.23 lakh tonnes.

"One of the reasons for the large huge quantity of fish landing in Karnataka, which recorded 19.6 percent increase in fish landings, is the use light fishing. And this can lead adverse effects, which reduce the fish landing in the state," said Dr TV Sathianandan, senior CMFRI official.

CMRFI recorded a significant boost in a significant surge in the fish landing West Bengal with 2.72 lakh tonnes in 2016. In the 2015 West Bengal recorded 1.18 lakh fishes.

2016

Kerala's most common fish species, oil sardine continued to show a decreasing trend in landings. This year, oil sardine recorded a mere 0.46 lakh tonnes which is the lowest in the past two decades.

"One of the reasons for the sharp decline in Oil sardine can be attributed the overfishing that took place in 2011 and 2012. According to CMFRI, the maximum sustainable yield for Oil sardine landing should around 2.25 lakh tonnes. But in 2011 and 2012, Oil sardine landing exceeded beyond 4 lakh tonnes, which is much beyond the threshold limit," said TV Sathianandan.

"The marine capture fisheries is experiencing more fishing pressure and there is urgent need to implement control measures to maintain the harvest at a sustainable level. We have to explore the utilisation of untapped and unconventional resources to quench the demand. Further, climate change, particularly the increase in sea surface temperature and mean sea level rise are factors affecting the marine fisheries. The CMFRI is currently carrying out research works for developing frameworks to mitigate such challenges," said to Dr A Gopalakrishnan, Director of CMFRI.