

Marine fish landings in Andhra Pradesh during 2016 - An overview

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Andhra Pradesh with a coastline of 974 km, and nine coastal districts has 1.63 lakh marine fishermen families residing in the 555 marine fishing villages (Marine Fisheries Census 2010) who depend on fishing either directly or through allied activities for their livelihood. The state is cyclone prone and during the past decade, cyclones have severely affected the state's fisheries sector. The marine fish landings was 1.92 lakh tonnes (t) in the year 2016, which was 35% less than that of the previous year. The drastic reduction in the landings of the state may be attributed to reduction in fishing operations during the months of September, October and November due to cyclone warnings. Among the coastal districts, East Godavari contributed the highest (33%) to total marine fish landings of the state, followed by Visakhapatnam (22%) and Srikakulam (11%). In spite of decline in the catch contributions from a few landing centres like Bhairavpalem, Kakinada and Nizampatnam the landings increased compared to previous year.

The marine fishery resources were categorized into pelagics, demersals, crustaceans and molluscs (Fig. 1). In 2016, pelagic finfish resources remained the largest contributor (1.2 lakh t, 63%) despite experiencing a decline in the landings compared to 2015. The landings consisted of demersals (0.4 lakh t, 21%), crustaceans (0.3 lakh t, 14%) and molluscs (0.03 lakh t, 2%).

During 2016, the top five marine fishery resources of the state were lesser sardines, Indian mackerel, penaeid prawns, ribbon fishes and oil sardine. These collectively accounted for about 50%

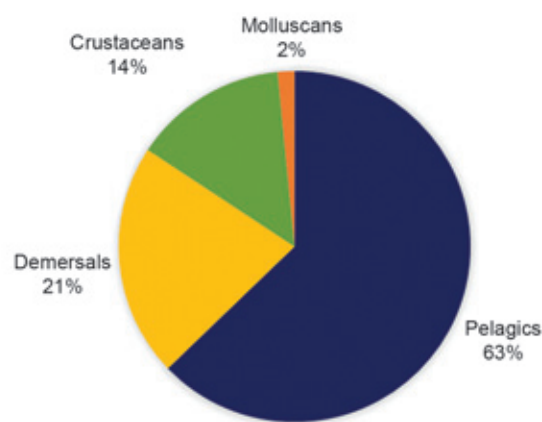


Fig. 1. Components of marine fish landings

of total marine fish landings in the state (Fig. 2). Principal species among lesser sardines were *Sardinella gibbosa* and *Sardinella fimbriata*.



Fig. 2. Contribution of top five resources

Among all maritime states, contribution from motorised sector is dominant only in Andhra Pradesh. The contribution of motorised sector

reduced to 46% during 2016 from 51% during 2015 (Fig. 3). This decline was coupled with a dramatic rise in the share of mechanised sector from 29 % (2015) to 41% (2016). The non-motorised sector which has historically been an important contributor came down to 13% during 2016 compared to 20% in the previous year.

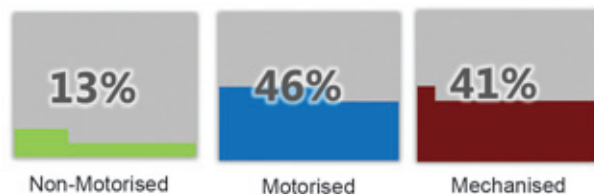


Fig. 3. Sector-wise contribution to marine fish landings in Andhra Pradesh

Mechanised trawl (MTN), outboard ring seine (OBRS) and outboard gillnet (OBGN) contributed significantly to the marine fish landings in the state. While the catch volumes in trawl net remained similar to that in 2015, those from outboard ring seine and outboard gillnets declined (Fig. 4). The catch per unit effort was maximum (1.9 tonnes/unit) for mechanised gill net among all gears.

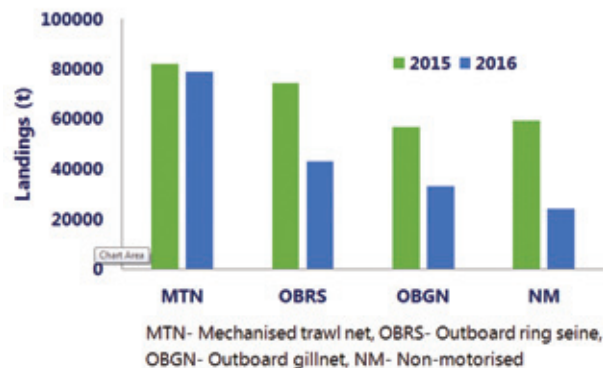


Fig. 4. Major gears that contributed to the landings during 2015 and 2016

In the year 2016, the maximum fish landings was recorded during January to March. The periods July-September and October-December contributed almost equally to the total landings in the reporting year. During the year, a 61-days ban on fishing using mechanised and motorised boats was implemented by the government from April 15. The landings during April - June therefore accounted for only 15% of the total landings of the state.