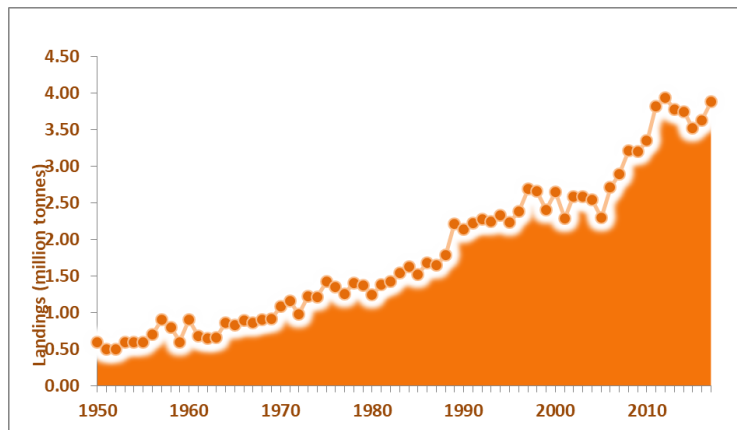


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Fishery Resources Assessment Division

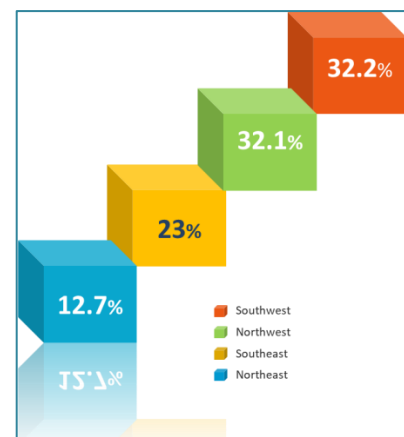
ICAR -Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi

The fisheries sector in India, contributes significantly towards strengthening nutritional security, income, employment, foreign exchange earnings and livelihood opportunities. With a coastline of over 8000 km, an exclusive economic zone of over 2 million square kilometers and with extensive resource fisheries play a vital role. During the last six decades, Indian marine fisheries had made tremendous progress, with the annual fish production increasing from 0.5 million tonnes in 1950 to 3.83 million tonnes in 2017.



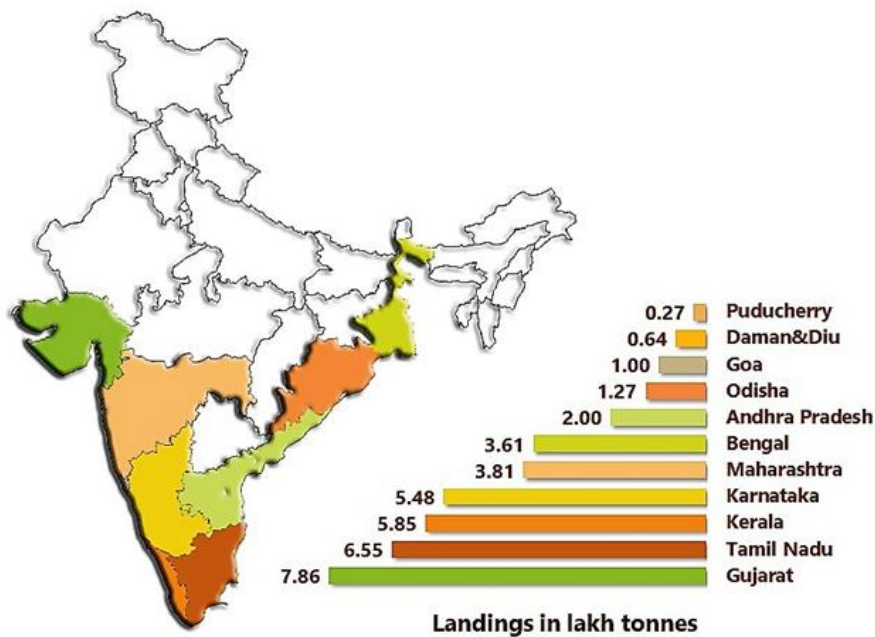
Compared to the estimate of 2016, an increase of about 5.6% was noticed in the marine fish landings of the country.

Among the four regions of the Indian coast line, the south-west region and the North West region contributed almost equally towards marine fish landings in the country. Compared to the estimate of 2016, an increase of about 1.2 lakh tonnes was noticed in the south-west region. The next major contribution was from the Southeast region comprising the maritime states of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry



and Andhra Pradesh with 8.82 lakh tonnes which accounted for 23% of the total landings. The least landing was from northeast region with 4.88 lakh t.

Gujarat retained the top position among the states with 7.86 lakh t which is 20.5% of the total landings in India, followed by Tamil Nadu which landed 6.55 lakh t. Kerala and Karnataka are the other top states with contributions of 5.85 lakh t and 5.48 lakh t respectively.

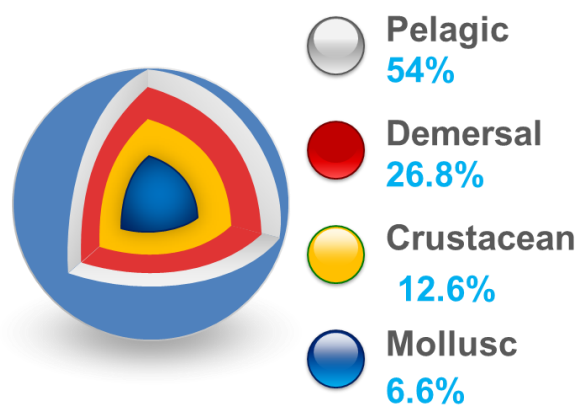


An overall increasing trend in catches has been seen in all the maritime states except Tamil Nadu. The increase in landings is about 2.05 lakh

t which is mainly due to increased landings in West Bengal by nearly 90,000 t, Maharashtra by 89,000 t and Kerala by 62,000 t.

The total marine fish landings in the country comprised of 20.69 lakh tonnes of pelagic fishes, 10.28 lakh tonnes of demersal fishes, 4.83 lakh tonnes of molluscs and 2.54 lakh tonnes of crustaceans.

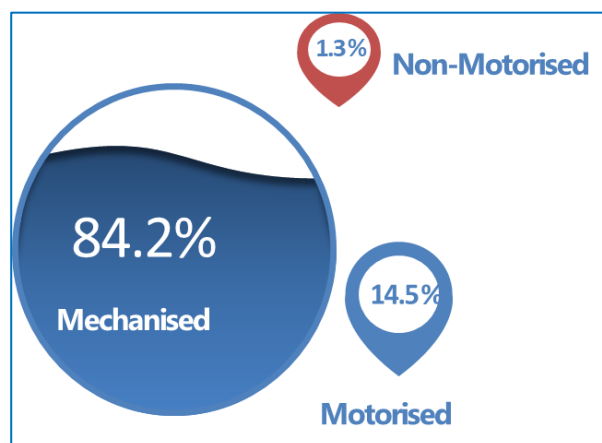
Pelagic finfish contributed 54% of the total marine fish landings in 2017 with oil sardine, Indian mackerel and ribbonfishes top in the list. Indian oil sardine, mackerel, ribbon fish, lesser sardines and Bombayduck contributed almost 60% of the pelagic fish landings in 2017. Of this, the oil sardine alone accounted for 16.3%. Compared to



the previous year, there was an increase in the landings of pelagic resources. Demersal

resources contributed around 26.8% of the landings with major contribution from bullseyes (*Priacanthus* spp.), threadfin breams, croakers, silverbellies and catfishes. Crustaceans include high value resources like prawns, crabs and lobsters and the contribution from this group was 12.6% and molluscan resources accounted for the remaining 6.6%.

Among the three different categories of crafts used for fishing the contribution by mechanized, motorised and artisanal sectors were 84.2%, 14.5% and 1.3%, respectively. Different gears which contributed to the mechanised sector were trawlnets, bagnets, seines and gillnets. In the motorised sector, ring seines contributed the major share.



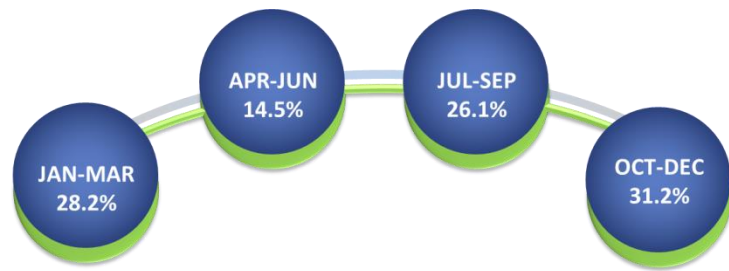
Oil sardine was the major component of landings during 2017 and it accounted for 3,37,390 tonnes. Considerable improvement in the landings of Oil sardine was noticed. Among the other major resources, fishery of Indian mackerel, penaeid prawns, Cephalopods, Ribbon fishes, other sardines,

non-penaeid prawns etc. recorded increase in landings whereas marginal decline in the landings

Species/ Group	Landings (lakh tonnes)	Major contributing state	Percentage contribution from the state
Oil sardine	3.37	Kerala	38
Indian mackerel	2.88	Karnataka	42
Ribbon fishes	2.39	Gujarat	48
Cephalopods	2.31	Tamil Nadu	25
Lesser sardines	2.27	Tamil Nadu	49
Penaeid prawns	2.08	Kerala	21
Non-penaeid prawns	2.02	Gujarat	73
Threadfin breams	1.57	Kerala	34
Croakers	1.50	Gujarat	30
Bullseyes	1.43	Karnataka	44

of Threadfin Breams, *Stolephorous*, Hilsa shad, Tunnies and Lizard fishes. The estimated landings of major resources for 2017 are given in the table.

During 2017, most productive season was found to be October-December, contributing nearly 31.2 % of the landings followed by 28.2% January-



March. Cyclone Ockhi was devastating and affected the fishing days in the coastal States of Kerala and Karnataka, reducing the landings in the fourth quarter considerably during this year. When examined at month level the maximum landings (11.6%) was in December and the least was in June.