

11 p.c. rise in marine fish production

By Our Staff Reporter

There was 11 per cent increase in marine fish production last year as compared to the previous year as it went up to 1.40 million tons last year from the 1.26 million tons the year before.

According to Dr. E. G. Sailas, Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin, the maximum production during 1978 was from Kerala, 3.73 lakh tons, followed by Maharashtra, 2.84 lakh tons, Tamil Nadu 2.13 lakh tons, Gujarat 2.02 lakh tons and Karnataka 1.53 lakh tons.

Each of the other maritime States landed less than one lakh tons. Except Andhra Pradesh all the other maritime States registered an increase in their total annual landing during the year.

The major components in the marine fish landing during 1978 were oil sardines, penaeid prawns, Bombay duck, sciaenids and mackerel. A significant development noted in Karnataka was the sharp rise in the purse-seine catches from 25,000 tons in 1977 to 75,000 tons in 1978 which formed about 50 per cent of the total marine fish production in that State.

In Maharashtra and Gujarat there was a notable increase in the catches of Bombay duck to the extent of 40,000 tons over last year's landing of 35,000 tons. In Tamil Nadu a single component showing a large increase was ribbon fish which showed a production of about 29,000 tons in 1978 against 5,000 tons in 1977.

The combined catches of penaeid and non-penaeid prawns remained about the same as in the previous year. However, in Maharashtra, there was a considerable increase in the catches of penaeid prawns in this year over that of last year, the respective landings being 41,000 tons and 27,000 tons.

During 1978, the marine fish catch from mechanised sector was 7.19 lakh tons as against 6.25 lakh tons during 1977. This rise was largely due to the introduction of purse-seine gear and the gradual improvements in infrastructure facilities.

The total fishing effort during 1978 was 287, 478 thousand man-hours as compared to 249, 759 thousand man-hours in 1977. The catch per unit effort was 4.81 kg. .