



THE NEW

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# New fish species identified from Indian waters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

ADDING one more fish to India's marine biodiversity, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has identified a new carangid (Vatta) species from the Indian coast. The newly described fish belongs to the 'queen fish' group and is named 'Scomberoides pelagicus'. In local parlance, the fish is known as 'Pola Vatta'.

CMFRI confirmed it as a new species after detailed taxonomic and genetic analysis. The new fish is distinct by the deep

ovate body, concave dorsal head profile, stout and less numerous gill rakers on the first-gill arch compared to the closely related species.

There are more than 60 species of carangids in the Indian seas, of which four belong to the 'queen fish' category. The

newly described one is the fifth queenfish from Indian waters.

All over the world, three queen fishes have gone extinct. "In the wake of many natural resources being threatened owing to their increasing role in the human food chain, identification of more new fishes as-

sumes significance as it helps enrich marine biodiversity," said Dr E M Abdussamad, the principal scientist, who identified the fish.

The achievement also helps the betterment of Indian marine biodiversity status, he added. "To conserve marine biodiversity, information on overlooked species, their correct identification, updated taxonomic classification, and grouping are the basic requirements," he said adding that identification of *Scomberoides pelagicus* would greatly help policymakers, marine scientists, and other stakeholders to work on management and conservation plans.

