

Seaweed collection in Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay region of Tamilnadu; A community initiative



Women seaweed collectors in the Gulf of Mannar region of Tamil Nadu

Around 3000 fisherfolk (both men and women) in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay region, especially in the Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu, depend on collection of seaweed (*Gelidiella acerosa*, *Sargassum* spp. and *Turbinaria* spp.) for

their livelihoods. Most of the seaweed collectors are women. As a community initiative since 2006, in the Palk Bay region, seaweed collection (*Gelidiella acerosa*) is banned during the month of October to January, whereas in Gulf of Mannar region seaweed (*Gelidiella*

acerosa) collection is banned during the month of March to June. Similarly the seaweed (*Sargassum* spp.) is collected only during the month of July to October in a year. In some villages collection of seaweeds is restricted to 12 days in a month, with Friday designated as no-collection day. Another community initiative is the banning of metal scrapers for collection of seaweed. Traders have been asked not to buy seaweed collected with scrapers. The current price of *Gelidiella acerosa* traders offered by seaweed collectors is ₹30-32 per kg. on dry weight basis. A seaweed collector earns around ₹150-200 per day. The current price of *Sargassum* spp. and *Turbinaria* spp. offered to collectors by traders is ₹6-7 per kilogram on dry weight basis and a seaweed collector earns around ₹500 per day.

(Reported by
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