



# **MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE**

---

**TECHNICAL AND  
EXTENSION SERIES**

No.2  
October 1978

**CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
COCHIN, INDIA**

**INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

## TRENDS IN TOTAL MARINE FISH PRODUCTION IN INDIA—1977 \*

The total marine fish production in India during 1977 was estimated at 1.26 million tonnes as against 1.35 million tonnes during 1976, showing an overall decline of about 93000 tonnes (6.9%). This reduction in the total catch was mainly brought about by the lower landings in all the maritime states along the east coast as well as in Goa and Maharashtra in the west coast of India (Table 1).

**Table 1** *Statewise marine fish landings in India (in tonnes) during the years 1976 and 1977*

State	1977	1976
1. West Bengal	6,689	25,411
2. Orissa	15,072	29,823
3. Andhra Pradesh	100,756	131,321
4. Tamil Nadu	206,046	226,078
5. Pondicherry	6,462	10,123
6. Kerala	345,037	331,047
7. Karnataka	97,152	95,283
8. Goa	24,731	34,968
9. Maharashtra	264,452	293,601
10. Gujarat	189,638	171,294
11. Andamans	1,532	1,334
12. Lakshadweep	2,215	2,572
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,59,782</b>	<b>13,52,855</b>

The details of fish landings during 1977 are shown in Table 2. Oil sardine catch along the coasts of Kerala and Karnataka during 1977 showed a decline from that of the previous year. This fluctuation may probably be attributed to the unsuccessful spawning and recruitment to the inshore fishery, as indicated by the good catches of oil sardines netted by the purse seine operations conducted off Mangalore and Karwar.

The landings of lesser sardines and anchovies also showed a declining trend during the year. The coastal belt between Cape Comorin and Quilon has been found to be the most productive region for anchovies and white baits. There seems to be a possibility of increasing the catch of these fishes between Quilon and Ratnagiri by extending the fishing operations to off-shore waters.

The catch of mackerel during the year showed a marginal decrease as compared to 1976. The recruitment started earlier in the south than in the north along the west coast. The one-year old fish dominated the catch along the west coast except in southern observation centres where 0-year old predominated. A review of the mackerel fishery in the country during the past 2 decades shows that the fish shoals remain in the shelf waters throughout the year, mostly confined to shallow region below 30 metres depth. The bulk of the catch in the country comes from the region extending from Quilon in Kerala coast to Ratnagiri in Maharashtra coast.

Bombay duck fishery was also not successful as the catch showed a marginal decline at all India level. While the landings in Maharashtra did not show appreciable change, it was poor in Gujarat. The catch of penaeid prawns declined considerably, mainly due to reduced landings in the states of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Non-penaeid prawns showed only slight decrease due to poor catch in Gujarat. Cat fishes, perches and sciaenids recorded higher landings in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Gujarat.

The catch per man hour during 1977 was computed at 5.03 kg as compared to 5.27 kg in 1976.

Table 2 Statewise composition of marine fish landings in India during 1977 (In tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of fish	West Bengal	Orissa	Andhra-Pradesh	Tamil Nadu	Pondicherry	Kerala	Karnataka	Goa	Maha-rashtra	Gujarat	Andaman & Nichobar	Laksha-dweep	Total	Total for 1976
1.	Elasmobranchs	73	1,658	6,450	18,327	352	5,796	3,238	625	7,746	17,565	90	296	62,216	54,605
2.	Eels	1	—	438	232	5	6	3	—	3,849	8,463	—	—	12,997	8,296
3.	Catfishes	134	1,035	5,662	15,205	137	7,947	5,162	918	8,318	8,958	28	—	53,504	43,540
4.	<i>Chirocentrus</i>	107	752	1,217	2,475	63	547	717	32	2,634	3,327	38	—	11,909	10,368
5. a.	Oil Sardines	—	—	—	714	—	117,356	31,145	807	108	—	—	—	150,130	169,262
b.	Lesser Sardines	—	1,227	10,972	26,259	1,156	20,754	180	4,066	1,024	—	86	—	65,724	100,000
c.	<i>Hilsa ilisha</i>	96	2,948	41	343	—	36	44	—	352	329	—	—	4,189	7,842
d.	Other <i>Hilsa</i>	—	492	1,654	5,784	43	14	113	1	978	5,547	25	—	14,651	8,482
e.	<i>Anchoviella</i>	4	486	8,947	13,388	548	10,105	174	9	269	—	103	—	34,033	30,069
f.	<i>Thrissoctes</i>	365	197	1,398	3,008	405	1,648	831	293	1,679	105	—	—	9,929	17,660
g.	Other clupeids	705	778	2,363	2,652	—	512	1,677	520	22,782	9,458	11	—	41,458	57,164
6. a.	<i>Harpodon nehereus</i>	1,060	86	960	14	—	—	4	20	50,803	32,289	—	—	85,236	87,075
b.	<i>Saurida &amp; Saurus</i>	—	5	875	572	103	5,169	385	239	1,135	42	—	—	8,525	5,292
7.	<i>Hemirhamphus &amp; Belone</i>	—	—	135	1,574	4	281	57	13	32	104	53	58	2,311	1,169
8.	Flying fish	—	—	84	526	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	643	1,439
9.	Perches	—	55	2,727	7,918	391	14,121	1,489	505	2,973	1,213	196	211	31,799	18,162
10.	Red mullets	—	1	315	832	32	240	19	—	171	779	4	29	2,422	5,216
11.	Polynemids	25	406	698	1,592	5	69	3	1	862	268	—	—	3,929	14,573
12.	Sciaenids	819	312	10,182	13,756	258	11,965	2,762	2,779	17,086	39,968	—	—	99,887	87,581
13.	Ribbon fish	306	174	8,546	4,594	143	7,440	237	449	6,338	14,180	—	—	42,407	64,542
14. a.	<i>Caranx</i>	—	103	4,003	6,120	490	15,673	760	1,149	1,167	1,002	134	65	30,666	25,745
b.	<i>Chorinemus</i>	12	386	530	1,465	5	540	506	44	230	401	—	—	4,119	3,322
c.	<i>Trachynotus</i>	—	—	—	73	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	80	35
d.	Other carangids	—	—	78	22	—	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	219	1,572
e.	<i>Coryphaena</i>	—	1	137	58	2	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	226	261
f.	<i>Elacate</i>	—	9	7	230	1	158	1	23	—	—	—	—	429	383
15. a.	<i>Leiognathus</i>	15	233	5,903	17,783	318	7,708	1,631	458	358	—	97	—	34,504	42,445
b.	<i>Gazza</i>	—	—	—	54	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61	966
16.	<i>Lactarius</i>	1	18	1,132	740	175	823	101	375	247	7,349	—	—	10,961	12,045
17.	Pomfrets	143	1,018	2,529	628	53	3,712	249	296	17,295	9,174	30	—	35,127	37,701
18.	Mackerel	—	195	1,040	5,674	398	19,968	26,214	7,661	875	—	111	—	62,136	65,497
19.	Seer fish	32	672	3,261	6,424	34	3,250	1,831	213	3,220	2,022	119	41	21,119	20,159
20.	Tunnies	—	37	449	3,238	—	6,705	622	107	312	332	37	1,166	13,005	19,322
21.	<i>Sphyraena</i>	—	3	108	1,702	9	353	3	—	—	154	76	15	2,423	2,385
22.	<i>Mugil</i>	—	—	170	923	14	38	—	46	48	900	130	—	2,269	2,613
23.	<i>Bregmaceros</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	—	30	380
24.	Soles	—	72	680	908	78	5,778	985	335	1,245	729	—	—	10,810	10,088
25. a.	Penaeid prawns	602	802	6,266	8,197	103	40,150	3,335	1,436	26,675	8,861	45	—	96,472	114,640
b.	Non-penaeid prawns	269	17	5,109	159	2	174	—	24	66,978	1,260	—	—	75,585	76,787
c.	Lobsters	—	—	2	286	20	40	4	7	434	424	—	—	1,217	2,532
d.	Crabs	—	6	719	11,018	296	4,621	144	361	93	2,471	—	—	19,729	19,999
e.	Other crustaceans	—	—	—	—	—	—	63	276	—	—	—	—	339	—
26.	Cephalopods	—	—	408	1,375	62	4,973	965	164	596	1,439	—	23	10,005	10,826
27.	Miscellaneous	1,920	888	4,561	19,204	747	26,254	11,457	479	15,510	10,525	119	281	91,945	90,812
TOTAL		6,689	15,072	100,756	206,046	6,462	345,037	97,152	24,731	264,452	189,638	1,532	2,215	12,59,782	13,52,855