

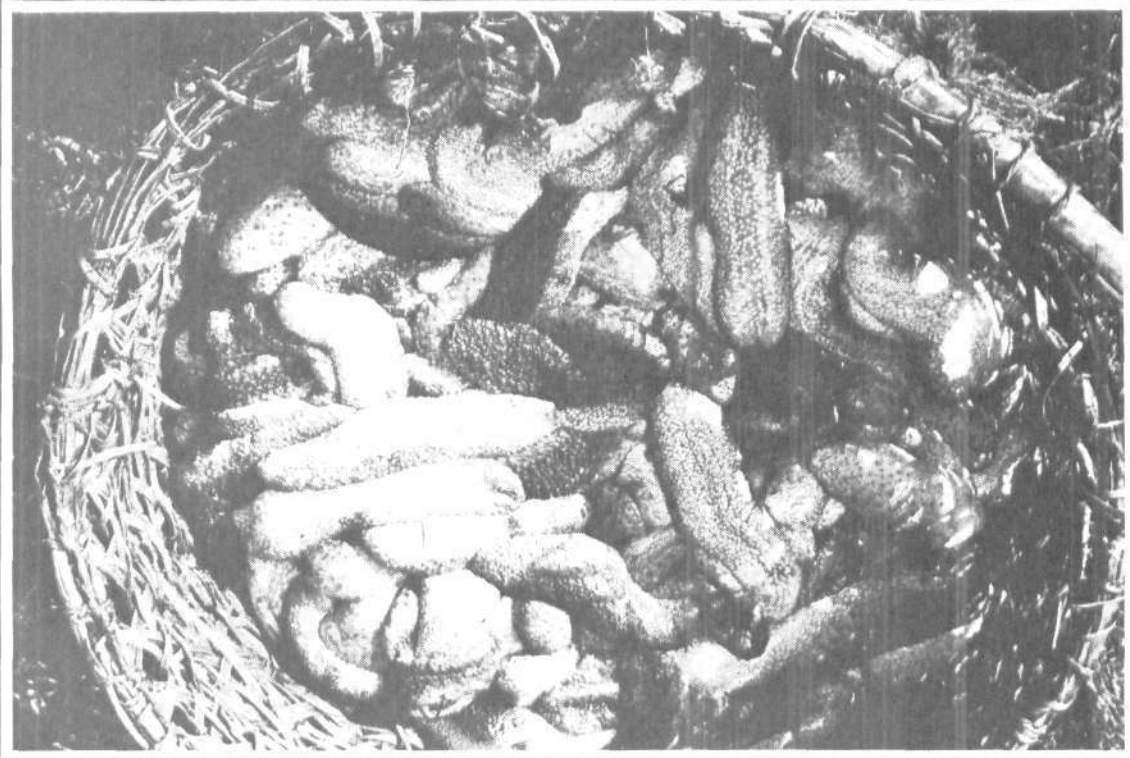


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SOME GLIMPSES OF THE MARINE FISHERIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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Andhra Pradesh, with 974 km of coastal line covering nine coastal districts from Srikakulam (north) to Nellore (south) and having an area of 33,227 sq. km of continental shelf, stands 5th in the marine fish production among the maritime states of India. The advent of mechanisation of fishing craft and introduction of mechanised fishing vessels have brought significant changes in the marine fishing industry of Andhra Pradesh. As a result of this, the fisheries harbour at Visakhapatnam has become one of the key harbours for mechanised trawl fishing and Visakhapatnam itself has emerged as one of the most important centres for exporting marine products to foreign countries.

Fishermen population

Andhra Pradesh has a total fishermen population (both marine and inland) of 8.86 lakhs (AP 1993 census) out of which marine fishermen population accounts for 5.69 lakhs forming 64% in the total fishermen population. East Godavari records the maximum fishermen population forming 23% in the total. Prakasam has the lowest fishermen population accounting only 4%. Female folk (31%) is more or less equal to male (32%) and children form 37% in the total population.

Among the active fishermen, those engaged in part time fishing comprise of 33% while full time workers form 67%. Visakhapatnam has the highest number of full time active fishermen whereas Prakasam has the lowest number.

Fishing craft

The total fishing craft (56,059) has increased by 54% as compared to the estimates of CMFRI in 1980 census. The mechanised boats which have incredibly increased in number (20 times) as compared to the number estimated in 1980 are highly concentrated in the East Godavari (3,606) and Visakhapatnam districts (3,149). Nellore has the lowest number (84) of mechanised boats. The mechanised traditional crafts have also increased significantly (31%) over the existing units in 1980. The nonmechanised units include catamarans, plank built boats and dugout canoes. The nonmechanised boats are the main stay in the

districts of Srikakulam and East Godavari accounting for 22 and 18% respectively.

Fishing gear

Fishing gear in the maritime districts of Andhra Pradesh have registered an increase of more than 100% as compared to the number in 1980 census). Though the gill nets and other gear (Table 2) have increased significantly, trawl nets (13,941) alone increased by 17 times. While East Godavari (16,338) and Nellore (13,685) have the largest number of drag nets, gill nets are found to be maximum in Visakhapatnam (19,578) followed by East Godavari (19,353) and Guntur (14,515). Vijayanagaram has the lowest number of both drag nets (1,655) and gill nets (45). Shoreseine, boatseine and hooks & line have been included in the 'others'.

Fishermen co-operative societies

The fishermen co-operatives in the maritime districts of Andhra Pradesh can be differentiated into two functional groups, one functioning at the village level called Primary Fisherman Co-operative Society and the other functioning at the district level called District Fishermen Co-operative Society.

The primary fishermen co-operative societies which take the membership of the fishermen from the fishing villages are formed in most of the villages of all the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. Krishna district has the highest number (185) of primary fishermen co-operative societies followed by East Godavari district (153) while Vijayanagaram has the lowest number (46) of societies. Each district fishermen co-operative society draws its membership from the primary fishermen co-operative societies of the same district. Thus East Godavari district fishermen co-operative society has enrolled the highest membership (248) whereas Vijayanagaram district has the lowest number (23).

Infrastructure facilities

Fishing industry in Andhra Pradesh would have suffered a lot had not the infrastructure facilities such as fisheries harbour, ice plants, cold storages and transport facilities been properly developed.

There are four fisheries harbours in Andhra Pradesh. The fisheries harbour at Visakhapatnam has been classified as major and the harbours at Kakinada (East Godavari), Nizampatnam (Guntur District) and Bhavanapadu (Srikakulam District) as minor harbours.

There are 206 ice plants, in all the 9 maritime districts from Srikakulam to Nellore, with an overall production capacity of 2,299 tonnes/day. Krishna District has 58 plants, Srikakulam district has only one ice plant.

Out of 29 freezing plants installed covering all the maritime districts, 18 have found place in Visakhapatnam itself. The overall freezing capacity of these plants is 287 tonnes/day.

The cold storages which play an important role in the industry also have come up in all the maritime districts. The overall installed capacity of all the cold storages (30) is 4,265 tonnes/day.

A decade ago the transport facilities from the village landing place to the nearby township for the disposal were not much developed. Now most of the fishing villages are well connected by regular bus transport to the nearest township.

Fisheries training / research/educational institutes

Andhra Pradesh is one among those states where all the national institutes of fisheries are functioning. In Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam being the most important township from the fisheries point of view has attracted the attention of CMFRI, FSI, CIFT, IFP and CIFNET which are

represented either by their research centres or regional offices. Kakinada the district H Q of East Godavari also has the distinction of having the offices of CMFRI, CIFE and CIFT.

Shrimp culture

The introduction of culture practices in Andhra Pradesh has brought sea change in the attitude of agricultural farmers in the coastal districts. Andhra Pradesh has become one of the forerunners in the field of prawn culture. There are 64,016 farmers (Table 6) involved in prawn culture in an area of 50,900 ha of water spread. Krishna district has the largest number of farmers involved in shrimp culture followed by West Godavari. Vijayanagaram has the lowest number of farmers cultivating prawns in 43 ha of water spread area. But for the 1994 debacle in prawn farming due to virus attack, shrimp culture is quite lucrative for many large-scale and small-scale farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

Exports of marine products

Shrimp, fish, cuttle fish and deep sea lobsters are the main marine products being exported from the Andhra Pradesh in general and Visakhapatnam in particular. The main importers of marine products from Andhra Pradesh are Japan, United States of America, United Kingdom etc.

The exports from Visakhapatnam port (16,018 t) form about 7% in the total exports from India (2,43,900 t) and the value (454.11 crores) is 18% in the total earnings by India, from the marine export market.

The authors are very much thankful to Mr. M.S. Sumithrudu for his help in tabulating the data.

TABLE I. Fishermen population of Andhra Pradesh

| District | Males | Females | Children | Active fishermen | | Total fishermen population | Total active fishermen |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | | Full time | Part time | | |
| Srikakulam | 21,822 | 21,765 | 30,934 | 12,465 | 6,161 | 74,521 | 18,626 |
| Vijayanagaram | 10,553 | 9,690 | 9,084 | 4,606 | 4,162 | 29,327 | 8,768 |
| Visakhapatnam | 41,241 | 39,972 | 36,404 | 56,259 | 7,028 | 117,617 | 63,287 |
| East Godavari | 39,943 | 38,165 | 50,568 | 26,253 | 16,183 | 128,676 | 42,436 |
| West Godavari | 17,562 | 16,011 | 19,012 | 9,940 | 8,649 | 52,585 | 18,589 |
| Krishna | 16,522 | 15,248 | 22,180 | 10,258 | 8,928 | 53,950 | 19,186 |
| Guntur | 11,505 | 10,900 | 11,221 | 6,617 | 4,099 | 33,626 | 10,716 |
| Prakasam | 7,596 | 7,128 | 10,546 | 2,926 | 4,170 | 25,270 | 7,096 |
| Nellore | 14,990 | 14,828 | 23,695 | 8,629 | 7,233 | 53,513 | 15,862 |
| Total | 1,81,734 | 1,73,707 | 1,23,644 | 1,37,953 | 66,613 | 5,69,085 | 2,04,566 |

TABLE 2. *The details of crafts and gear in maritime districts of Andhra Pradesh*

| District | Craft | | | Gear | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | Traditional non-motorised | Motorised | Mechanised | Drag net | Gill net | Trawl net | Others |
| Srikakulam | 9,522 | 25 | 612 | 7,243 | 3,958 | 1,785 | 17,854 |
| Vijayanagaram | 2,306 | - | 122 | 1,655 | 45 | 304 | 1,875 |
| Visakhapatnam | 7,925 | - | 3,149 | 5,370 | 19,578 | 2,235 | 4,281 |
| East Godavari | 6,404 | 678 | 3,606 | 16,338 | 19,353 | 2,349 | 8,864 |
| West Godavari | 5,427 | 38 | 402 | 3,918 | 2,920 | - | 30,058 |
| Krishna | 4,487 | 273 | 465 | 6,446 | 3,345 | 5,889 | 33,991 |
| Guntur | 2,036 | 127 | 345 | 3,061 | 14,513 | 621 | 8,031 |
| Prakasam | 1,889 | 1,024 | 126 | 3,095 | 1,561 | 186 | 2,113 |
| Nellore | 3,955 | 1,032 | 84 | 13,685 | 6,005 | 572 | 2,160 |
| Total | 43,951 | 3,197 | 8,911 | 60,811 | 71,278 | 13,941 | 1,09,227 |

TABLE 3. *Fishermen co-operative societies*

| District | Primary fishermen co-op. society | | Dist. fishermen co-op. societies | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| | No. of societies | Membership | No. of societies | Membership |
| Srikakulam | 133 | 18,399 | 1 | 77 |
| Vijayanagaram | 46 | 6,754 | 1 | 23 |
| Visakhapatnam | 98 | 11,046 | 1 | 61 |
| East Godavari | 153 | 19,662 | 1 | 248 |
| West Godavari | 111 | 11,526 | 1 | 84 |
| Krishna | 185 | 18,451 | 1 | 100 |
| Guntur | 121 | 14,865 | 1 | 129 |
| Prakasam | 75 | 10,378 | 1 | 41 |
| Nellore | 127 | 20,288 | 1 | 104 |
| Total | 1,049 | 1,31,369 | 9 | 867 |

TABLE 4. *Processing and preservation plants in Andhra Pradesh*

| District | Ice plants | | Freezing plants | | Cold storage | |
|---------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | No. | Capacity (tonnes/day) | No. | Capacity (tonnes/day) | No. | Capacity (tonnes/day) |
| Srikakulam | 1 | 30.00 | - | - | - | - |
| Vijayanagaram | 9 | 39.00 | - | 0.00 | - | - |
| Visakhapatnam | 19 | 377.00 | 18 | 157.40 | 18 | 2,495.00 |
| East Godavari | 51 | 351.00 | 6 | 25.50 | 6 | 645.00 |
| West Godavari | 48 | 550.00 | 3 | 49.00 | - | - |
| Krishna | 58 | 684.00 | 1 | 45.00 | 3 | 900.00 |
| Guntur | 11 | 143.00 | 1 | 10.00 | 1 | 5.00 |
| Prakasam | 5 | 60.00 | - | - | - | - |
| Nellore | 4 | 65.00 | - | - | 2 | 220.00 |
| Total | 206 | 2,299.00 | 29 | 286.90 | 30 | 4,265.00 |

TABLE 5. Details of fisheries training/research/education institutes in coastal districts

| Districts | FTI | CIFNET | CMFRI | FSI | IFP | CIFT | CIFE |
|---------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|------|------|
| Srikakulam | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vijayanagaram | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Visakhapatnam | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| East Godavari | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| West Godavari | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Krishna | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Guntur | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Prakasam | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nellore | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

FTI: Fisheries Training Institute, CIFNET: Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training, CMFRI: Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, FSI: Fishery Survey of India, IFP: Integrated Fisheries Project, CIFT: Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, CIFE: Central Institute of Fisheries Education.

TABLE 6. Details of shrimp culture farms in Andhra Pradesh as on 30-09-1994

| Name of district | No. of farmers | Extent of land (ha) | Water spread area (ha) |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Srikakulam | 37 | 183 | 46 |
| Vijayanagaram | 4 | 61 | 43 |
| Visakhapatnam | 61 | 337 | 307 |
| East Godavari | 2,119 | 4,647 | 3,740 |
| West Godavari | 14,735 | 12,735 | 9,847 |
| Krishna | 34,337 | 29,602 | 23,644 |
| Guntur | 10,667 | 8,808 | 7,047 |
| Prakasam | 1,577 | 4,131 | 3,341 |
| Nellore | 479 | 3,957 | 2,885 |
| Total | 64,016 | 64,461 | 50,900 |