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Lockdown: Fisheries sector lost ₹11,652cr in 40 days

Marine landings down by 15% in state, finds CMFRI study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: With a total landing of 3.56 million tonnes, India's marine fish production registered a marginal increase of 2.1% in 2019 compared to the previous year, according to the latest Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) data.

A study showed Tamil Nadu on top of the chart with 7.75 lakh tonnes (LT) followed by Gujarat (7.49 LT) and Kerala (5.44 LT) which retained the third position. Gujarat which had been topping the marine catch landings for some years, slipped to the second position.

Speaking at a virtual press conference, CMFRI director A Gopalakrishnan said that a countrywide estimate of the losses in the fishing sector during the first 40 days of the lockdown has been pegged at Rs 11,652 crore. This is excluding the post-harvest and export catch loss estimated in the seafood export sector.

The estimate of the value of marine fish landings, based on the prices at landing centres, during 2019 was Rs 60,881 crore.

Kochi: With a total landing of 5.44 lakh tonnes, the marine fish landings in Kerala suffered a significant drop of 15.4% in 2019, according to the latest data released by the Central Marine Fisheries Resource Institute (CMFRI). The sharp decline in the catch of oil sardine and Indian mackerel, the two major resources in the state, is the major highlight of Kerala's landings.

This year too, the scenario looks bleak with a CMFRI study of 60 days during the lockdown period putting the losses in the sector at Rs 3,481

This is 15.6% more than 2018. The per kg price at landing centres was Rs 170.5 (up 12.2%).

At the retail level, the estimated value was Rs 92,356 crore (15% increase over 2018). The unit price at the retail market level was Rs 258.7 (12% increase).

The study also showed a fall in catches in the west coast due to bad weather conditions.

TOP 5 CATCHES IN KERALA

Anochovies (Kozhuvu)	74,194
Redtoothed triggerfish (Clathi)	62,782
Penaeid prawns	46,615
Oil sardine	44,320
Indian mackerel	40,554
*In tonnes	



crore. This is excluding the losses in the seafood exports and post-harvest value addition industry.

While oil sardine dropped to a meagre 44,320 tonnes, the lowest in two decades, Indian

mackerel (40,554 t) experienced a steep decline of 50% compared to the previous year. In 2012, the catch of oil sardine in Kerala was 3.9 lakh tonnes. Since then, there was a substantial decrease in the catch

There were as many as eight cyclonic storms in and around India of which six turned out to be severe — Fani in April, Vayu in June, Hika in September, Kyarr in October, Maha in October-November and Bulbul in October-November.

The data also showed an unusual feature of a commercially unimportant fish — redtoothed triggerfish — becoming

the most landed resource (2.74 LT) across the coasts of the country. Ironically, this fish has little demand in the domestic markets and is mostly supplied to feed mills.

In another major highlight, Indian mackerel, which was in the first spot in 2018, suffered the highest setback with its landings declining by 43%. While states like West Bengal

every year; but it moved up in 2017. The oil sardine landings again continued to decline for the past two years thanks to the unfavourable changes in ocean environment. The contribution from Kerala towards the overall landings in the country has now reduced to 15.3% from 18.4% in 2018.

In Kerala, the value of marine fish landings in 2019, based on price at landing centres, was Rs 12,387 crore. This was an increase of 20.35% over 2018. Meanwhile, the value in the retail level was Rs 17,515 crore, an increase of nearly 19%. TNN

(55%), Andhra Pradesh (34%), Odisha (14.5%), Karnataka (11%) and Tamil Nadu (10.4%) recorded increase in landings, its catch decreased in Maharashtra (32%), Goa (44%) and Kerala (15.4%). The second highest landings in national level is ribbon fish (2.19 LT) followed by penaeid prawns (1.95 LT) and non-penaeid prawns (1.80 LT).