



India's marine fish landings dip 2% in 2024

Kochi: Disruptions in climate patterns led to a 2% drop in India's marine fish landings in 2024, with the total catch falling to 3.47 million tonnes (MT) from 3.53 MT in 2023, according to the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

CLIMATE IMPACT

Gujarat retained its top position in marine fish landings with 7.54 lakh tonnes (LT), followed by Tamil Nadu at 6.79 LT and Kerala at 6.10 LT. According to the CMFRI report, cyclonic storms such as Dana, Fengal, Remal and Asna severely disrupted fishing activities, contributing to the overall decline. **TNN**

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Kerala saw 4% dip in its overall fish landings

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The rising number of heatwave days in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala also hampered fishing operations.

While the west coast region suffered an overall decrease in landings, the east coast showed an increasing trend, with exceptions in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Maharashtra registered the highest growth of 47% compared to the previous year, while West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Odisha also saw notable increases of 35%, 20% and 18% respectively. However, states like Karnataka, Goa and Daman & Diu experienced a significant decline in landings.

Across the country, Indian mackerel, threadfin breams, oil sardines, ribbonfishes, non-penaeid shrimps and cephalopods recorded a decline in 2024 from the previous year. How-

TOP FIVE SPECIES

India Kerala

- Indian mackerel **2.63 LT**
Indian oil sardine **1.49 LT**
- Indian oil sardine **2.41 LT**
Indian mackerel **61,490 t**
- Ribbonfishes **2.29 LT**
Penaeid prawns **44,630 t**
- Cephalopods **2.06 LT**
Anchovies **44,440 t**
- Non-penaeid prawns **1.86 LT**
Threadfin breams **33,890 t**



ever, landings of lesser sardines, penaeid shrimps, anchovies and tunnies increased.

Meanwhile, Kerala saw a dip of 4% in its overall landings, falling to 6.10 LT in 2024 from 6.33 LT the previous year. The Indian oil sardine was the most landed species in the state,

with a catch of 1.49 lakh tonnes -- a 7.6% increase over the previous year. The other major contributors to the catch included Indian mackerel (61,490 tonnes), penaeid shrimp (44,630 tonnes), anchovies (44,440 tonnes) and threadfin breams (33,890 tonnes).

The Indian mackerel saw a decline of 16% in landings in the state. The year also saw an unusual fluctuation in oil sardine landings in the state, with very low and high landings recorded in different quarters. A severe scarcity in the first quarter led to prices escalating to Rs 350-400 per kg. However, from September onwards, as landings surged, exceeding one lakh tonne in the last quarter, prices dropped sharply to Rs 20-30 per kg.

Compared to 2023, the southern districts of the state (Thiruvananthapuram to Ernakulam) saw a decline in landings, while northern districts (Malappuram to Kasargod) registered an increase.

The annual marine fish landings were estimated by the fishery resources assessment, economics and extension division of CMFRI through its online data collection system.