

India's marine fish catch increases 3% in 2025: CMFRI

- All India production reaches 35.7 lakh tonnes
 - Kerala records 6.24 lakh tonnes with 2% increase
- ## Oil sardine rebounds in Kerala

Kochi: India's marine fish production in 2025 reached 35.7 lakh tonnes, a slight 3% increase over 2024 landings, according to an assessment by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) released on Thursday.

Tamil Nadu surged to the top position, overtaking Gujarat with 6.85 lakh tonnes, while Gujarat slipped to second place after a 15% decline, largely due to adverse weather, extended fishing bans, and cyclonic disturbances. Kerala remained in third position, with a marginal 2% increase in marine fish landings.

CMFRI's annual marine fish landing estimates showed that Indian mackerel remained the most landed resource in the country at 2.70 lakh tonnes, followed by cephalopods at 2.57 lakh tonnes and oil sardine at 2.53 lakh tonnes. Cephalopods and threadfin breams recorded 25% and 55% growth respectively—both reaching decadal-high levels. Pelagic fish dominated the catch with a 54% share, followed by demersal resources, crustaceans, and molluscs.

Among major states, Karnataka recorded an impressive 44% surge in landings following a steep decline in 2024. Maharashtra also posted a strong growth of 18%.

Oil sardine rebounds in Kerala

A major highlight of Kerala's marine fish landings in 2025 was the increase of Indian oil sardine, which emerged as the top resource with 1.68 lakh tonnes (13% increase over 2024), marking a decadal high. At the same time, threadfin breams and cephalopods registered significant growth of 27% and 16%, respectively. Kerala's marine fish catch reached 6.24 lakh tonnes in 2025 with a 2% increase over 2024, accounting for around 17% of India's total marine fish production. Resources such as threadfin breams, cephalopods and oil sardine increased in landings while scads, penaeid shrimps and ribbon fish decreased in Kerala. Oil sardine, Indian mackerel, anchovies, threadfin breams and penaeid shrimps were the top five resources landed in Kerala in 2025.

Heavy rain and a cargo shipwreck caused the loss of fishing days in May and June in the southern districts of the state. Ernakulam district contributed the highest share (29%) followed by Kollam (25%) and Kozhikode (18%). Among landing centres, Neendakara in Kollam emerged as the top contributor with around 70,000 tonnes followed by Munambam with almost 64,000 tonnes.

"Favourable environmental conditions played a crucial

role in supporting the revival of small pelagic fish stocks during the period. This ecological advantage was further reinforced by regulated fishing pressure, leading to the necessary time and space for recovery", said Dr Grinson George, Director of CMFRI.

Economic value

Marine fish landings generated an estimated ₹69,254 crore at landing centres across the country (up 10.45%) and ₹97,702 crore at the retail level (up 8.43%), indicating strong market demand. In Kerala, the total value at the landing centre level was estimated at ₹12,665 (up 17.8%) and ₹16,681 (up 11.1%) at the retail centre level. National marketing efficiency improved to 70.88%, with Kerala recording the highest marketing efficiency (72.83%).

The Fishery Resources Assessment, Economics and Extension Division of the CMFRI estimated the annual marine fish landings of the country through its online data collection system.

CMFRI Director Dr Grinson George, Heads of Research Divisions Dr J Jayasankar, Dr Shoba Joe Kizhakudan, Dr K S Sobhana, Dr Josileen Jose, Dr VVR Suresh and Dr Krupesha Sharma attended the press conference.

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