



THE HINDU

01 May 2026

Tamil Nadu records highest marine fish landings in 2025

The State landed an estimated 6.85 lakh tonnes of fish, a slight increase from 2024 when it was 6.79 lakh tonnes, despite facing two cyclones; it surpassed Gujarat that landed 6.43 lakh tonnes

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu emerged as the leading State in marine fish landings in 2025, according to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

Fishermen landed an estimated 6.85 lakh tonnes of fish - an increase of 1% from 2024 when it was 6.79 lakh tonnes - despite facing two cyclones (Mon-tha and Ditwah) that disrupted fishing activities.

The study says the State surpassed Gujarat, which landed 6.43 lakh tonnes as against 7.54 lakh tonnes last year - a 15% decline due to reduced fishing days caused by adverse weather conditions and a fishing ban under Operation Sindoor.

In Tamil Nadu, mechanised boats brought back 71.7% of the landings, motorised boats contributed to 28.2% of the catch and non-motorised craft 0.1%.

Mechanised single-day trawl nets contributed

Bountiful catch

Kanniyakumari accounts for the largest share of the catch with 23%, followed by Thoothukudi at 16% and Pudukkottai at 14%



■ Fishermen landed an estimated 6.85 lakh tonnes of fish in 2025, as against 6.79 lakh tonnes in 2024	■ Mechanised single-day trawl nets contributed 44% of the catch	■ Kasimedu Fishing Harbour in Chennai alone contributed about 12% of landings
	■ Non-motorised craft brought back only 0.1% of the catch	■ <i>Mathi</i> , <i>kanava</i> , <i>ayila</i> , <i>nethili</i> and <i>podu</i> were among the major catches

Lesser sardines remained the leading resource for the fifth consecutive year

44%, the highest share, followed by motorised gill-nets with 18%, and multi-day trawl nets at 16%.

Kanniyakumari district accounted for the largest share of the catch with 23%, followed by Thoothu-

kudi at 16% and Pudukkottai at 14%. The Kasimedu Fishing Harbour in Chennai alone contributed to about 12% of landings.

Lesser sardines (*Mathi*) remained the leading resource for the fifth consecutive year with 0.70 lakh tonnes, despite a 9% decline in landings. Around 45,000 tonnes of *kanava meen* and octopus that are Cephalopods were caught; followed by *ayila* or *kaa-*

nankeluthi at 38,00 tonnes. *Podu meen* an *nethili* or anchovies too were caught in large numbers.

Community leader Narjil Ravi said that while the data on the increase in fish catch offered solace to fishermen, marketing the fish catch continued to be a challenge. "It is each man unto himself. We have been asking for a minimum support price for fish. The State government has only a few shops. There are no facilities even to store fish in the harbours," he said.

A fishing industry expert said fishermen, especially in Chennai Harbour were not getting enough for the catch because the fish lacked quality. "Fish from Chennai is exported to Kerala and other places. But the fishing harbour is in a bad state, without drinking water, toilets, lights. The water in the harbour is dark and it has been ages since the bottom was cleaned. The fishermen use the same water for all purposes," he said.