

India's marine catch rises 3%, mackerel leads haul

State Retains Third Position Nationally As Landings Inch Up 2%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: India's marine fish production grew 3% to 35.7 lakh tonnes in 2025, according to the latest report by ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). Releasing the report, CMFRI director Grinson George said the growth was largely driven by favourable environmental conditions. Tamil Nadu climbed to first position with a production of 6.85 lakh tonnes, registering 1% growth and displacing Gujarat, which declined 15%. Kerala held third place with 6.24 lakh tonnes, a marginal 2% increase, contributing 17% of the national total.

Among major states, Karnataka recorded the most impressive turnaround, a 44% surge in 2025 after a steep decline in 2024. Maharashtra also posted strong growth at 18%. Karnataka's performance largely drove the south-west coast past the northwest

KERALA BANKS ON SARDINES



region in total landings. Indian mackerel remained the most landed species at 2.70 lakh tonnes, followed by cephalopods (a group that includes squid and cuttlefish) at 2.57 lakh tonnes and oil sardine at 2.53 lakh tonnes. Pelagic resources—fish living near the sea surface—dominated the harvest with a 54% share, followed by

TOP SPECIES
 Indian mackerel: 2.70 lakh tonnes
 Cephalopods: 2.57 lakh tonnes
 Oil sardine: 2.53 lakh tonnes

KERALA SNAPSHOT
 Oil sardine: 1.68 lakh tonnes (+13%, decadal high)
 Threadfin breams: +27%;
 Cephalopods: +16%
 Top districts: Ernakulam (29%), Kollam (25%), Kozhikode (18%)

ECONOMIC VALUE India in Kerala
 Landing ₹69,254cr ₹12,665cr
 Retail ₹97,702cr ₹16,681cr

The total economic value of marine fish landings at landing centres reached an estimated Rs 69,254 crore in 2025, a 10.45% increase over the previous year. Retail values rose by 8.43% over the same period.

Oil sardine tops Kerala's catch: In Kerala, the value of marine fish landings was estimated at Rs 12,665 crore at landing centres and Rs 16,681 crore at the retail level. "Heavy rain and a cargo shipwreck led to the loss of fishing days in May and June in the southern districts of the state, affecting operations," the report said.

Oil sardine was the state's top-landed species at 1.68 lakh tonnes, up from 1.49 lakh tonnes in 2024. Growth was also driven by a decadal high catch of threadfin breams. District-wise, Ernakulam led with a 29% share of the state's landings, followed by Kollam (25%) and Kozhikode (18%).

Marine fish landing in the state touches 6.24L tonnes

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PELAGIC fish dominated the catch with a 54% share, followed by demersal resources, crustaceans, and molluscs.

Kerala's marine fish catch stood at 6.24 lakh tonnes in 2025, accounting for around 17% of India's total marine fish production. Threadfin breams and cephalopods landings registered a significant growth of 27% and 16%, respectively, in the state. However, there was a decline in the landing of penaeid shrimps and ribbon fish. Oil sardine, Indian mackerel, anchovies, threadfin breams and penaeid shrimps were the top five resources landed in Kerala in 2025.

Ernakulam district contributed the highest share (29%) of catch 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 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 Grinson George.

Marine fish landings generated an estimated income of ₹69,254 crore at the landing centres across the country, and ₹97,702 crore at the retail level, indicating strong market de-

FISH LANDING STATISTICS			
India's marine fish production			
2025	2024	2023	
35.7 lakh tonnes	34.7 lakh tonnes	35.3 lakh tonnes	
India revenue at fish landing centre: ₹69,254 crore			7
Retail level: ₹97,702 crore			
Kerala revenue at landing centre: ₹12,665 crore			
Retail level: ₹16,681 crore			
Highest contributor among landing centres in Kerala			
Neendakara: 70,000 tonnes			
Munambam: 64,000 tonnes			
Kerala records highest marketing efficiency of 72.83%			
National average: 70.88%			

mand. The income at landing centres rose by 10.45% while the revenue at retail level rose by 8.43%.

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%). Heads of research divisions J Jayasankar, Shoba Joe Kizhakudan, K S Sobhana, Josileen Jose, V V R Suresh and Krupesha Sharma were present at the press briefing.

