



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
Government of India



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DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES - AN OVERVIEW



1.1 Organizational Structure

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying comprises of two Departments namely, Department of Fisheries and Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying. The Department of Fisheries was constituted through the bifurcation of the erstwhile Fishery Division under the erstwhile Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, as per the Cabinet Secretariat Notification No. 1/21/21/2018-Cab dated 5th February 2019.

The Department functions under the overall supervision of the Hon'ble Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, supported by two Ministers of State. The Secretary Fisheries serves as the administrative head of the Department.

The Secretary is assisted by two Joint Secretaries, overseeing the Inland Fisheries Division and the Marine Fisheries Division, along with one Economic Adviser. The detailed organizational structure is provided at Annexure-I.

1.1.1 Functions

The Department is responsible for policy formulation, programme design, and implementation related to the development of Inland, Marine and Coastal Fisheries, as well as oversight of fishery institutes, including four subordinate offices, one autonomous body, and one regulatory authority. It provides guidance to State Governments and Union Territories on fisheries-related policies, schemes, and programmes. Core functional areas include:.

- a. Expansion of freshwater and brackish water aquaculture
- b. Conservation and sustainable management of marine fisheries resources
- c. Promotion of mariculture, seaweed farming, cage culture, RAS, ornamental fisheries, cold-water fisheries, and fisheries trade
- d. Social security and welfare initiatives for fishers, including fisher women
- e. Development of fisheries infrastructure
- f. Strengthening of inland fisheries
- g. Establishment and expansion of aquatic quarantine networks
- h. GIS-based mapping and digitization of water bodies

In addition, the Department formulates policies, strategies, programmes and action plans for the fisheries sector, drafts relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks, and monitors their implementation across States and UTs.

1.1.2 List of Subjects allocated to the Department of Fisheries:

- a. Industries, the control of which by the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in Public interest as far as these relate to Development of fish feed and fish products with the limitation that in regard to the development of industries, the functions of the Department of Fisheries do not go further than the formulation of the demand and fixation of targets



- b. Promotion and development of Fishing and Fisheries (inland, marine and beyond territorial waters) and its associated activities, including infrastructure development, marketing, exports and institutional arrangements etc.
- c. Welfare of fishermen and other fisher-folk and strengthening of their livelihoods.
- d. Liaison and co-operation with international organizations in matters relating to Fisheries development.
- e. Fisheries Statistics.
- f. Matters relating to loss of fish stock due to natural calamities.
- g. Regulation of fish stock importation, Quarantine and Certification.
- h. Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai.
- i. Legislation with regard to the Prevention of the extension of infectious or contagious diseases or pests affecting fish from one State to another.
- j. Legislation with regard to the Pattern of financial assistance to various State Undertakings, Fisheries Development Scheme through State agencies/Co-operative Unions.
- k. Preservation, protection and improvement of fish stocks and prevention of diseases thereof, Veterinary training and practice.
- l. Insurance of fish stock.

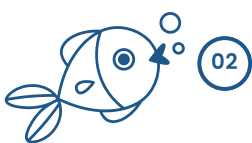
1.2 Subordinate offices /Fishery Institutions functioning under the Department

The Department of Fisheries (DoF) has four subordinate institutions under its administrative control, namely: (i) Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Mumbai; (ii) Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Kochi; (iii) National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIFPHATT), Kochi; and (iv) Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bengaluru. In addition, the Department oversees two autonomous bodies, viz., the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad and the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), Chennai. A brief profile of these institutions is given below.

1.2.1 Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai

Fishery Survey of India (FSI) was established in 1946 as the Deep Sea Fishing Station (DSFS) with the objective of augmenting food supply through the development of deep-sea fishing. The institute commenced operations with a single vessel, S.T. Meena, a converted minesweeper trawler, focusing on charting fishing grounds and training deep-sea fishing personnel.

Over the years, FSI has emerged as the nodal national institute responsible for survey and assessment of marine fishery resources within the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and adjoining areas. Its mandate includes surveys of deep-sea demersal resources, coastal pelagic stocks, oceanic tuna resources, habitat assessment, coral reef ecosystem research, and risk assessment for marine habitats, with the overarching goal of promoting sustainable exploitation and management of marine fisheries resources.





1.2.2 Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Kochi

Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET) is the only national institute mandated to impart statutory training to technical and certified personnel such as Skippers, Mates, Engineers, and Engine Drivers of power fishing vessels, as stipulated under the M.S. (Amendment) Act, 1987. The primary objective of CIFNET is to create skilled manpower for ocean-going fishing vessels.

Through regular long-term courses such as the Vessel Navigator Course (VNC) and Marine Fitter Course (MFC), the Institute prepares trainees for Certificate of Competency (CoC) examinations for fishing vessel personnel. CIFNET also conducts a wide range of short-term and specialized courses covering fishing technology, nautical science, and marine engineering, benefiting personnel from Central and State Governments, educational institutions, and public and private sector organizations.

In support of PMMSY and earlier Blue Revolution initiatives, CIFNET undertakes skill development programmes for fishers from coastal States and UTs in areas such as deep-sea tuna fishing, responsible fishing practices, vessel safety, engine maintenance, and marine pollution awareness, along with Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes.

1.2.3 National Institute of Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology & Training, Kochi

The National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIFPHATT) traces its origin to the Indo-Norwegian Project established in 1952 at Quilon. It later functioned as the Integrated Fisheries Project (IFP) from 1972 and was rechristened as NIFPHATT in 2008.

The Institute focuses on minimizing post-harvest losses and ensuring the supply of high-quality fish and fish products through adaptive research and technology development. Its core activities include process and product development, packaging innovations, pilot-scale test marketing, and post-harvest infrastructure support.

NIFPHATT plays a key role in capacity building of fishers, fisheries professionals, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders, particularly in post-harvest technology and value addition, thereby contributing to the sustainable growth and modernization of the fisheries sector.

1.2.4 Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries, Bengaluru

Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bengaluru was established in January 1968 as the Pre-investment Survey of Fishing Harbours (PISFH) in collaboration with FAO/UN. The Institute was mandated to undertake engineering and economic investigations and prepare techno-economic feasibility reports for the development of fishery harbours and landing centres along the Indian coast.

Following successive phases of international technical assistance from FAO/UN, SIDA, and UNDP, the Institute was renamed as CICEF in August 1983. Over time, CICEF has developed specialized expertise in the planning, design, and development of marine fishery harbours, fish landing centres, and coastal aquaculture infrastructure. The Institute continues to provide critical technical support to maritime States and UTs in the sustainable development of fisheries infrastructure.



1.3 Autonomous and Regulatory Bodies

The Department of Fisheries oversees the following autonomous and regulatory bodies:

1.3.1 National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) was established in September 2006 with its headquarters at Hyderabad to promote integrated development of fisheries and aquaculture in India. NFDB functions as a catalyst for State/UT Governments and stakeholders by supporting technology upgradation, species diversification, dissemination of improved fish varieties, seaweed cultivation, ornamental fisheries, and capacity building.

The Board plays a key role in the implementation of flagship schemes such as PMMSY and FIDF by providing technical support, identifying sectoral gaps, strengthening infrastructure for handling, preservation and marketing, promoting entrepreneurship, insurance coverage, e-trading platforms, and undertaking outreach initiatives to enhance fish consumption and fisher livelihoods.

1.3.2 Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai

The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) was constituted under the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 to regulate coastal aquaculture activities in notified coastal areas. The Authority is empowered to regulate construction and operation of aquaculture farms and hatcheries, register and inspect aquaculture units, prescribe standards for inputs, and take action against environmentally harmful practices.

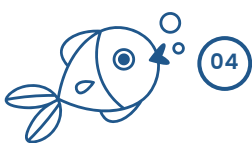
By implementing scientifically grounded guidelines and precautionary environmental principles, CAA ensures environmentally sustainable and socially responsible coastal aquaculture while safeguarding the livelihoods of coastal communities.

1.4 Major Achievements of the Department of Fisheries

The Department of Fisheries recorded several transformational achievements during the year, marking a decisive shift towards technology-led governance, infrastructure creation and value-chain integration. A flagship initiative was the launch of the 5th Marine Fisheries Census (2025)—India's first fully digital, paperless and geo-referenced national marine census, covering about 1.2 million fisher households across nearly 5,000 villages in 13 coastal States and Union Territories. Enabled through multilingual mobile applications, the census will generate a robust national fisheries database to support evidence-based planning, targeted welfare delivery and sustainable marine fisheries management.

The Department advanced a cluster-based development strategy to move beyond fragmented interventions and drive end-to-end value-chain growth. Fisheries production and processing clusters were identified across diverse geographies and species—ranging from seaweed, tuna, ornamental fisheries and cold-water fisheries to reservoir, riverine and integrated farming clusters—positioning the sector for scale, competitiveness, enterprise-led development and livelihood diversification.

A major stride in safety, security and traceability was the national rollout of the Vessel Communication and Support System (VCSS) under PMMSY, with installation of indigenously developed transponders on one lakh marine fishing vessels. The system provides two-way communication, real-time weather and disaster alerts, maritime boundary warnings, potential





fishing zone information and geotagged catch reporting, significantly enhancing fishermen safety, maritime security and compliance with IUU norms.

Infrastructure development gained momentum through PMMSY and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF). Since inception, 238 projects worth ₹6,781 crore have been approved under FIDF, including fishing harbours, fish landing centres, cold chains, hatcheries, feed mills and processing units, benefiting over 2.5 lakh fishers and stakeholders. Complementing this, SOPs for Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbours and Minimum Basic Facilities at Marine Fish Landing Centres were launched, bringing national uniformity, global best practices and ease of doing business in coastal infrastructure development.

The Department also strengthened formalisation, finance and risk mitigation through PM-MKSSY and allied initiatives. The National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) emerged as a single-window digital backbone for fisheries, with over 29 lakh stakeholders registered, enabling access to institutional credit, insurance, cooperative strengthening, performance grants and traceability systems. As on January 2026, over 5 lakh Kisan Credit Cards have been sanctioned to fishers and fish farmers, with cumulative disbursement exceeding ₹3,690 crore, significantly improving liquidity and reducing dependence on informal credit .

Together, these initiatives underscore the Department’s focus on digital transformation, infrastructure-led growth, sustainability, safety at sea and formalisation of livelihoods, firmly positioning India’s fisheries sector on a path of resilient, inclusive and globally competitive growth.

1.5 Public Grievances Cell

A Public Grievances Cell has been established in the Department to address grievances of the public. A comprehensive review has been undertaken to upgrade the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAM) to make it more responsive to citizens’ needs. The nodal officer for dealing with public grievances is the Deputy Secretary (Coordination), and the Appellate Authority is the Joint Secretary (Administration).

In accordance with the guidelines of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), steps have been taken for deeper analysis of grievances, universalization of CPGRAMS version 7.0 for auto-routing of grievances to the last mile, and appointment of scheme officers as Grievance Redressal Officers. Grievance Redressal Officers have been sensitized to resolve grievances within the prescribed timeline of 21 days.

The details of public grievances in the Department from 1st January, 2025 to 31st December, 2025 are below:

Brought forward	Receipts during the period	Total receipts	Cases disposed during the period	Closing balance
16	540	556	533	23



1.6 Liaison Officer for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/ Scheduled Tribes (STs) /Other Backward Classes(OBCs)/ Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

The Department ensures full compliance with Government of India directives on reservation in services for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Persons with Disabilities (PwD), minorities, and Ex-Servicemen.

A dedicated Reservation Cell has been established to oversee the implementation of all reservation-related policies. In addition, the Department has designated a Liaison Officer for SCs/STs/OBCs/EWS/PwD and Ex-Servicemen to monitor, coordinate, and manage all matters related to reservation in recruitment and service in accordance with the applicable rules and guidelines.

1.7 Vigilance Division

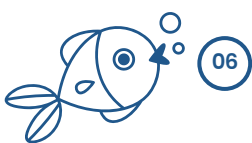
"The Vigilance Division processes vigilance and disciplinary cases pertaining to the Department of Fisheries and its subordinate offices. Various preventive vigilance measures have been undertaken to sensitize officials, including orientation and interactive sessions with Heads of Offices and Vigilance Officers of subordinate organizations. The Chief Vigilance Officer monitors vigilance cases on a regular basis. The Department observed Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW)-2025 from 27th October 2025 to 02nd November 2025 on the theme "सतकता: हमारी साझा जिम्मेदारी / Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility." As part of the observance, the Integrity Pledge was administered, and banners and posters highlighting vigilance awareness were displayed in the Department. Regional and Sub-Regional Offices also participated actively. No vigilance case was pending in the Department as on 31st December 2025.

1.8 Progressive use of Official Language-Hindi

Official Language Section has been established in the Department in May 2022 and this Section has proactively initiated various activities towards implementation of Official Language Policy of the Government of India.

The Official Language Section has been taking continuous and concerted steps to promote the progressive use of Hindi as the Official Language in the day-to-day functioning of the Department, in accordance with the provisions of the Official Languages Act, 1963 and the rules and directives issued thereunder. A Departmental Official Language Implementation Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Economic Adviser. In its meetings, the progressive use of Hindi is reviewed and the suggestions received are implemented. As a result, there has been a significant improvement in the percentage of correspondence in Hindi and noting on files in Hindi. During the year 2025-26, the following achievements were made in relation to the implementation of the Official Language in the Department of Fisheries.

- The Department of Fisheries and its subordinate office, the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bengaluru, were notified in the Gazette of India under Rule 10(4) of the Official Languages Rules, 1976, as more than 80% of their personnel had attained working knowledge of Hindi.





- The Committee of Parliament on Official Language (Second Sub-Committee) inspected the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bengaluru, on September 23, 2025, and the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad on November 19, 2025, and expressed satisfaction with the Official Language implementation work of these offices.
- On the occasion of Hindi Day-2025, a joint message from the Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying was issued for circulation among all officers and employees of the Department and its subordinate offices.
- The "Official Language Hindi Fortnight" was celebrated in the Department of Fisheries from 14 to 28 September, 2025. During this period, competitions such as calligraphy, vocabulary, Poem recitation, Newspaper based Quiz and "What does the picture say" were organized. With a view to motivating and encouraging officers of Level-10 and above to use Hindi, a provision was made to award mementos to three officers who made maximum use of Hindi in note-writing and correspondence during the Rajbhasha Fortnight 2025. At the award distribution ceremony held on October 17, 2025, under the chairmanship of the Secretary (Department of Fisheries), all the winners were presented with award certificates by the Secretary, and the three officers who made maximum use of Hindi in note-writing and correspondence were honored with mementos. On this occasion, the Secretary appealed to the personnel to make greater use of Official Language Hindi in their daily official work.
- OL Hindi workshops were organized on the following topics, in which officers and employees participated with great enthusiasm:
 1. Contribution of Official Language Hindi in Development of fisheries.
 2. Responsibility of Officers and Employees of the Department of Fisheries towards implementation of Official Language.

In addition, information was provided on the Government's Official Language Policy, Acts, Rules, and other guidelines. Training was provided on various Hindi e-tools, and practical hands on training were conducted to enable them to work in Hindi on computers.
- The second issue of "Matsya-Bharati," annual Official Language in-house Magazine of the Department of Fisheries was published.
- After extensive discussions and consultations with the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, Government of India, and experts of Official Language Hindi and fisheries, the Administrative and Technical terminology of the Department of Fisheries was prepared, and its first edition has been published. This Glossary will certainly help in bringing uniformity to the terminology used in the department and its subordinate offices, thereby promoting the progressive use of Hindi.
- On January 10, 2026, the third meeting of the Hindi Advisory Committee of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Minister released the second edition of "Matsya Bharati", the annual Official Language in-house Magazine as well as a Fisheries Technical and Administrative Glossary published by Department of Fisheries.



1.9 Prevention of Harassment of Women Employees

The Department has constituted an Internal Committee to address and prevent sexual harassment of women at the workplace, in accordance with the prescribed statutory framework. During 2025, no cases of sexual harassment were reported or remained pending within the Department or in any organization under its administrative control.

In compliance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, a link to SHE-Box has been made available on the Department's website to enable online submission of complaints, if any.

1.10 Implementation of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005

Under the Right to Information Act, 2005, Department has designated Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) and Appellate Authorities. Similarly, separate CPIOs and Appellate Authorities under RTI Act have been designated for various subordinate offices and autonomous organizations under administrative control of the Department. RTI applications received through online RTI Portal or otherwise were forwarded online to the concerned CPIOs for speedy disposal. The details of RTI applications and appeals received during the year 2025- 26 (1st April 2025 to 31st December,2025) is furnished in tabular form below:

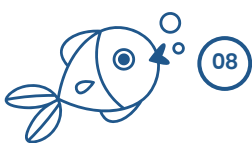
Details	No. of applications received	Information Provided	Information Rejected	Transferred to other PA	Pending for action
RTI Application	265	213	2	38	12
RTI Appeal	34	25	0	0	9

1.11 Minimum Government, Maximum Governance

The Department has undertaken several measures to strengthen efficiency, transparency, and accountability in line with the Government's vision of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance. The focus remains on faster decision-making, improved service delivery, and enhanced ease of doing business and ease of living.

Key initiatives include:

- **Streamlining decision-making** through reduction of submission channels and delegation of powers to appropriate levels.
- **Adoption of the Desk Officer System** to ensure quicker processing and better coordination.
- **Digitization of Central Registry Units** and extensive use of technology to minimize manual interventions.
- **Upgradation of e-Office to Version 7.3 15-3**, enabling seamless electronic movement of files and receipts across Ministries/Departments and attached organizations.
- **Expansion of employee-facing digital services**, including online submission of reimbursement claims, IPR declarations, leave applications, and advances through the e-HRMS portal.





Pendency of cases is reviewed regularly by the Secretary (Fisheries). Monthly reports on significant developments and progress on key issues—such as presentations before the Prime Minister, Centre–State coordination matters, and decisions of the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees—are monitored through the e-Samiksha portal on a continuous basis.

1.12 Capacity Building Measures

Capacity building remains central to the sustainable and inclusive growth of India's fisheries and aquaculture sector. During 2025–26, the focus has been on strengthening skills, accelerating technology adoption, and improving institutional capacity to support livelihoods of fishers and fish farmers across the country. The sector, which produced over 19.77 million tonnes of fish in 2024–25 and supported the livelihoods of more than 2.8 crore people, continues to require a skilled and future-ready workforce to realise its Blue Economy potential.

1.12.1 Institutional Framework and Implementation

The Department of Fisheries (DoF) continues to steer fisheries skilling primarily through the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) as the central implementing agency for training, awareness, exposure visits, and entrepreneurship development. Training programmes are delivered through a nationwide institutional network comprising ICAR fisheries institutes, DoF technical institutes (CIFNET, NIFPHATT, FSI and CICEF), Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Fisheries Universities, State Fisheries Departments, and partner NGOs.

1.12.2 Training Coverage and Focus Areas

During 2025–26, NFDB has continued large-scale capacity-building interventions under PMMSY, with emphasis on inclusivity, technology adoption, and regional relevance. Training programmes cover the entire fisheries value chain, including freshwater, brackish-water, marine and coldwater fisheries, mariculture, hatchery and seed production, feed and water quality management, post-harvest handling, value addition, marketing, and entrepreneurship.

Special focus areas during the year include:

- Advanced aquaculture systems such as **biofloc, cage culture, pen culture and RAS**
- Species-specific technologies for shrimp, seabass, tilapia, pangasius and ornamental fisheries
- Post-harvest management, quality assurance and value addition
- Women-centric, youth-oriented and SC/ST-focused training modules

1.12.3 Outcomes and Reach

Up to 2024–25, NFDB supported approximately 2,500 training programmes with an outlay of about ₹14,000 lakh, covering over 1.08 lakh beneficiaries across all States and UTs. Coastal and inland aquaculture states accounted for a major share of beneficiaries, while North Eastern States received higher per-programme allocations due to coldwater fisheries and logistical challenges.



Complementing NFDB efforts:

- **ICAR fisheries institutes** conducted over **425 training programmes in 2024–25**, covering nearly **14,447 fishers**, with significant participation of women and SC/ST beneficiaries. **ICAR fisheries institutes** conducted over **312 training programmes during April to October, 2025** covering nearly **9,313 fishers**, with significant participation of women and SC/ ST beneficiaries.
- **CIFNET** trained **1111 fishermen participants during 2025–26 (up to January 2026)** and over **8123 fishermen participants between 2021–22 and January 2026**, focusing on safety at sea, Communication and Navigation equipments onboard fishing vessels, Tuna fishing and handling, vessel operation, marine engineering and responsible fishing.
- **NIFPHATT** has trained **546 participants during 2025-26 (upto October, 2025)** and over **5030 participants between 2021-22 and October, 2025** focusing on fisheries post-harvest technology, value addition, seafood microbiology, etc.
- **NIFPHATT** and **FSI** continued targeted training in post-harvest technology, fisheries data systems, onboard demonstrations and sustainable fishing practices.

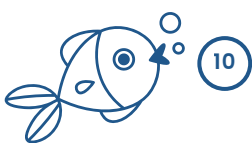
1.12.4 Capacity Building of Departmental Personnel through iGOT

During **2025–26**, departmental capacity building was strengthened through structured learning on the **iGOT platform** of the Capacity Building Commission. Officers and staff of the Department were onboarded onto the platform, and the **Seva Bhav training programme** was conducted during **March–April 2025** at Headquarters by a Master Trainer. Parallel workshops were organised across subordinate offices and autonomous bodies through their respective master trainers, ensuring uniformity in training delivery.

A feedback-cum-interaction session was held under the chairmanship of the **Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** to review progress and gather inputs. Further, a set of **mandatory capacity-building courses** on iGOT was identified and formally linked to the **APAR system**, institutionalising continuous learning and strengthening accountability within the Department

Way Forward

While progress in fisheries skilling has been substantial, formal skilling penetration remains limited. During **2025–26**, efforts are being aligned towards standardised curricula, Recognition of Prior Learning, cluster-based training, and stronger convergence with State Governments and private stakeholders. These initiatives will form the foundation for a **demand-driven, technology-oriented skilling framework under PMMSY 2.0**, aimed at enhancing productivity, incomes, and sustainability of the fisheries sector.



SAGA OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR



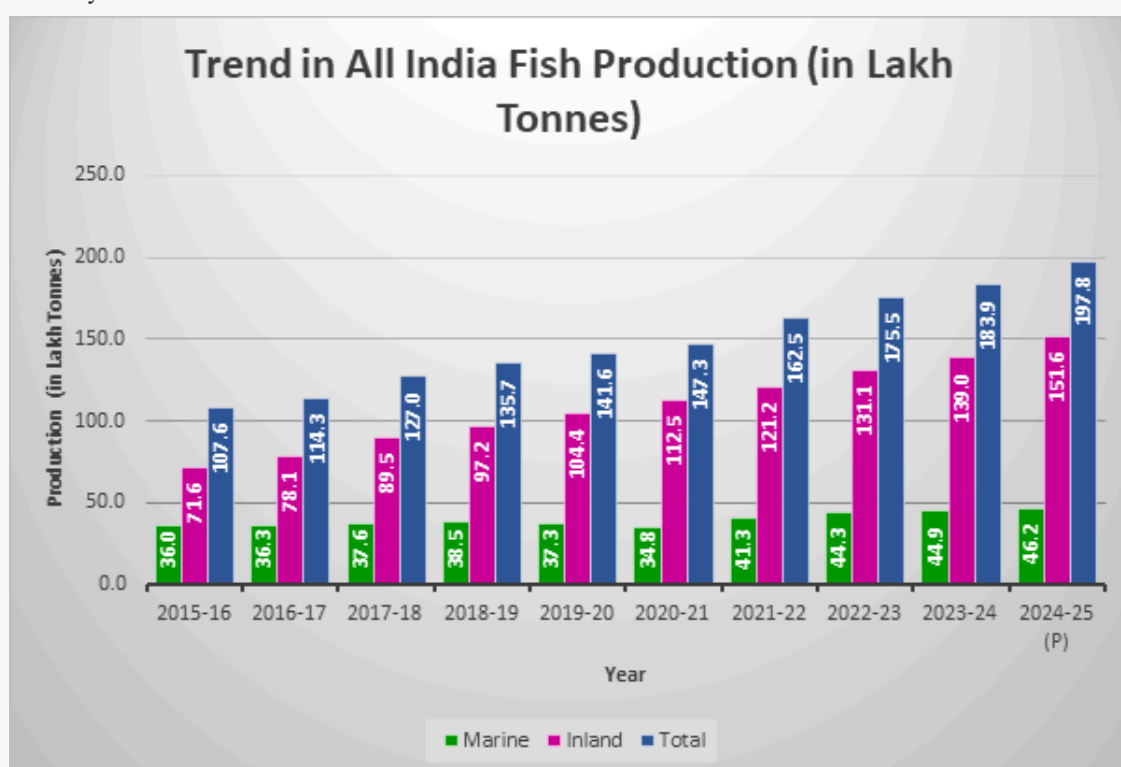
2.1 Overview of the Indian Fisheries Sector

The fisheries sector has emerged as one of the most dynamic and resilient components of India's agricultural economy, contributing significantly to food and nutritional security, employment generation, export earnings, and inclusive rural development. With its wide geographical spread across coastal, inland, riverine, cold-water, brackish, and saline ecosystems, the sector reflects a unique convergence of ecological diversity, traditional livelihoods, and modern production systems.

India is the second-largest fish-producing country in the world, contributing nearly 8 percent of global fish production. During FY 2024-25, total fish production in the country is estimated at 19.77 million metric tonnes (MMT), of which 15.16 MMT was contributed by the inland sector and 4.61 MMT by the marine sector. Over the past five years, the sector has recorded an average annual growth rate of 6.93 percent, indicating sustained expansion and increasing relevance within the broader agricultural economy.

The economic contribution of fisheries has strengthened steadily over time. The Gross Value Added (GVA) from fisheries at constant prices is estimated at ₹1,75,850 crore in 2023-24, accounting for 1.09 percent of total national GVA and 7.43 percent of agricultural GVA. Beyond its contribution to output, fisheries plays a critical role in ensuring nutritional security, particularly by providing affordable animal protein rich in essential fatty acids and micronutrients.

The sector also supports livelihoods on a large scale. Approximately 28 million fishers and fish farmers are engaged at the primary level, with additional employment generated across harvesting, aquaculture, processing, marketing, transportation, and export-oriented value chains. In many coastal and inland regions, fisheries constitutes the principal source of income and economic stability.



2.2 India in the Global Fisheries Landscape

India occupies a prominent position in the global fisheries and aquaculture landscape, both in terms of production volumes and diversity of production systems. Globally, fisheries and aquaculture have witnessed a gradual transition from capture fisheries to aquaculture-led growth. India's experience mirrors this trend, with aquaculture emerging as the principal driver of incremental fish production.

Unlike several major fish-producing countries where production is concentrated in a limited number of species or ecosystems, India's fisheries sector is characterised by species diversity, regional heterogeneity, and multi-ecosystem dependence. The coexistence of marine capture fisheries, inland capture fisheries, freshwater aquaculture, brackish water aquaculture, mariculture, and emerging segments such as ornamental fisheries and seaweed cultivation provides resilience against ecological and market shocks.

India's fisheries exports reflect its integration with global markets. During FY 2024-25, exports of marine products stood at 1.70 MMT, valued at ₹62,408.45 crore (USD 7.45 billion), registering a growth of 3.11 percent in value terms. Export performance supports downstream employment in processing, cold-chain logistics, quality assurance, and compliance with international standards, while reinforcing India's position as a reliable supplier in global seafood markets.

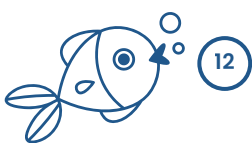
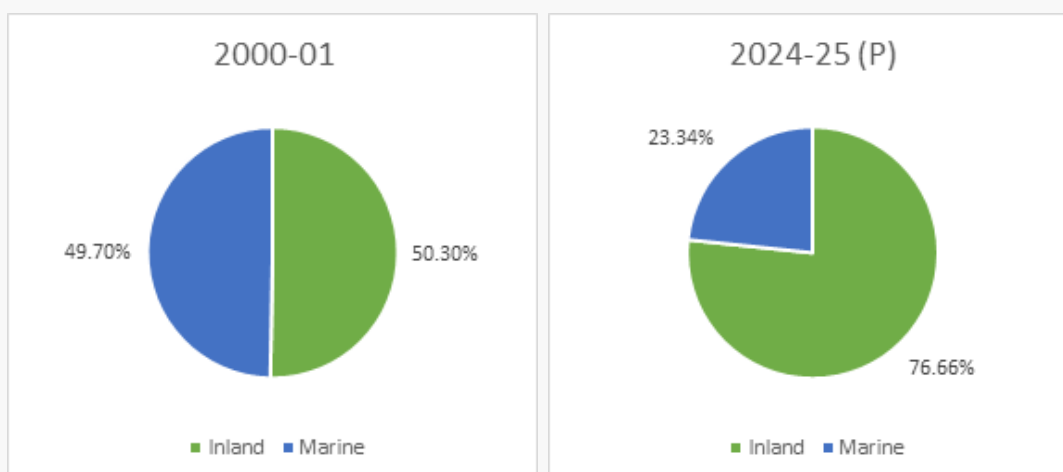
2.3 Structural Transformation of the Sector

One of the most significant developments in the fisheries sector over the past few decades has been the structural shift from capture fisheries to aquaculture, particularly within inland fisheries. India ranks second globally in aquaculture production, after China.

Inland fisheries now account for nearly 77 percent of total fish production, marking a decisive transformation in the production structure. Freshwater aquaculture, which constituted approximately 40 percent of inland fisheries in the mid-1980s, has expanded to nearly 77 percent in recent years. This shift has been driven by increased adoption of scientific culture practices, improved access to quality seed and feed, and better institutional and extension support.

Fish production has increased steadily over time, rising from 5.66 MMT in 2000-01 to 8.67 MMT in 2011-12, and further to 19.77 MMT in 2024-25, reflecting both productivity gains and expansion of aquaculture area.

Inland Fisheries Production



2.4 Historical Evolution and Institutional Development

Fisheries has been an integral part of India's socio-economic fabric since ancient times. Archaeological evidence from the Harappan civilisation and literary references from the Sangam Age (1st to 4th Century AD) attest to the importance of fishing, fish trade, and fishing communities in early Indian society.

The formal institutional recognition of fisheries dates back to the enactment of the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897, which provided a legal framework for conservation and regulation of fisheries resources. In the post-Independence period, the First Five Year Plan (1951–56) accorded systematic attention to fisheries, identifying priorities such as mechanisation of fishing crafts, development of fishing harbours, provision of ice and cold storage facilities, expansion of inland fisheries, and promotion of offshore fishing.

A major institutional milestone was achieved in February 2019 with the creation of the Department of Fisheries, followed by the establishment of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in June 2019. This restructuring enabled focused governance, improved coordination, and enhanced policy visibility for the sector.

The mandate of the Department encompasses enhancement of fish production and productivity, conservation and sustainable management of aquatic resources, strengthening of post-harvest and marketing infrastructure, and socio-economic upliftment of fishers and aquaculture farmers through employment generation and capacity development.

2.5 Constitutional Framework and Governance Architecture

Fisheries is a State subject, listed under Entry 21 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Accordingly, State Governments and Union Territories play a central role in the development, management, and regulation of fisheries resources within their jurisdictions. Historically, investments in fishing villages, fishing harbours, landing centres, and welfare measures for fishers have largely been undertaken by States.

The Government of India supplements these efforts through policy guidance, financial assistance, technological interventions, and national-level coordination. In the marine sector, responsibilities are shared between the Centre and Coastal States. Coastal States and Union Territories exercise jurisdiction over waters up to 12 nautical miles, while the Central Government is responsible for fisheries management in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending up to 200 nautical miles.

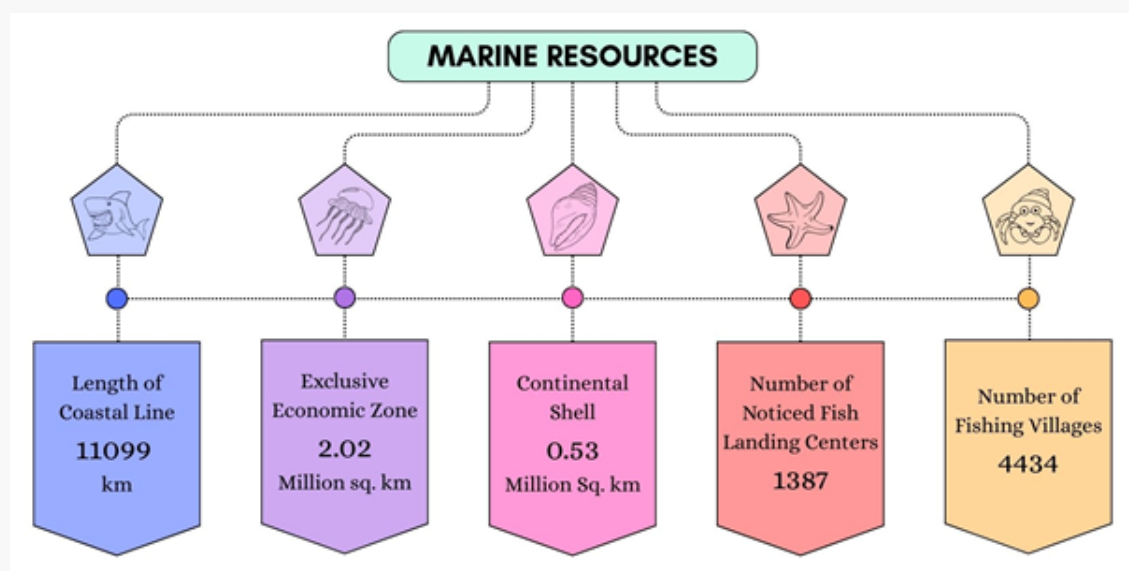
This shared governance framework enables alignment between conservation objectives, livelihood security, and economic development.

2.6 Fisheries Resource Base of India

India possesses one of the richest and most diverse fisheries resource bases in the world, accounting for over 10 percent of global fish and shellfish biodiversity.

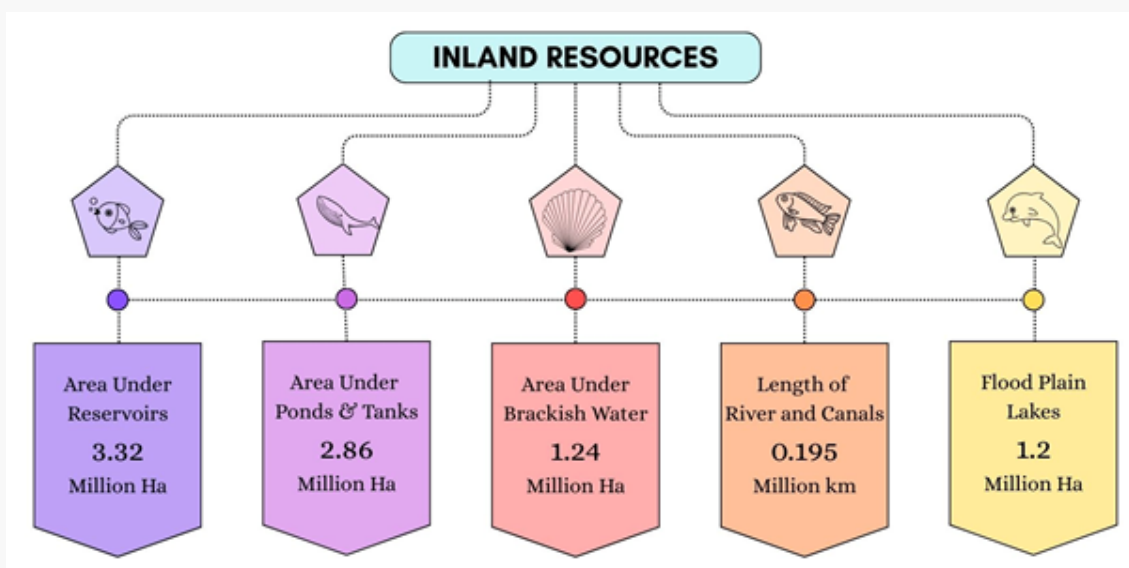
Marine Fisheries Resources

Marine fisheries resources extend across an EEZ of 2.02 million sq. km, a continental shelf area of 0.53 million sq. km, and a coastline of 11,098.81 km. The marine fisheries potential is estimated at 5.31 MMT, comprising demersal, pelagic, oceanic, and other resource groups. Mariculture activities, including sea cage farming and seaweed cultivation, are emerging as important contributors alongside traditional capture fisheries.



Inland, Brackish and Specialised Resources

India's inland fisheries resources include rivers and canals (0.195 million km), floodplain lakes (1.2 million ha), ponds and tanks (2.86 million ha), and reservoirs (3.32 million ha). Cold-water fisheries are located primarily in Himalayan and North-Eastern regions, supporting high-value species such as rainbow trout. Brackish water resources, covering 1.24 million ha, offer significant potential for finfish and shellfish culture, although only a limited proportion has been developed to date. Regulatory oversight for coastal aquaculture is provided by the Coastal Aquaculture Authority.



2.7 Value Chain, Livelihoods and Emerging Segments

The fisheries sector supports livelihoods across a multi-layered value chain extending from production to consumption. In addition to primary producers, substantial employment is generated in post-harvest handling, processing, marketing, transportation, and export-related activities. Women play a significant role, particularly in post-harvest segments such as fish processing, drying, retailing, ornamental fisheries, and seaweed cultivation.

Emerging segments such as ornamental fisheries, seaweed cultivation, river ranching, and artificial reefs are contributing to diversification of the sector. These activities support biodiversity conservation, resource augmentation, livelihood diversification, and regional development, particularly in coastal and inland water ecosystems.

2.8 Data, Statistics and Knowledge Systems

The Department undertakes systematic compilation and dissemination of fisheries statistics. Reliable data and robust statistical systems form the backbone of effective fisheries governance, including fish production estimates and export data, through regular publications such as the Handbook on Fisheries Statistics and thematic sectoral documents.

Efforts to strengthen data governance, improve quality standards, and enhance institutional processes have resulted in measurable improvements. The Department's Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) score improved from 3.26 in Q2 FY 2022–23 to 4.04 in Q4 FY 2022–23, reflecting progress in institutional data maturity and transparency.

2.9 Thrust Areas and Way Forward

Looking ahead, the continued growth and sustainability of the fisheries sector will depend on a balanced approach encompassing productivity enhancement, resource conservation, infrastructure strengthening, and livelihood security. Key thrust areas include expansion of aquaculture in ponds, tanks, reservoirs, floodplains, and derelict water bodies; improved availability of quality seed and feed; responsible and sustainable aquaculture practices; and strengthening of post-harvest and marketing infrastructure.

Enhancing value addition, reducing post-harvest losses, and improving market access will remain important for increasing incomes of fishers and fish farmers. Continued emphasis on data quality, research, capacity building, and institutional coordination will support evidence-based decision-making and long-term sectoral resilience.

Through sustained policy support, Centre–State collaboration, and stakeholder engagement, the fisheries sector is expected to continue its contribution to food security, employment generation, and inclusive economic growth.



MAJOR SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES OF DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES



3.1 Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

To consolidate the achievements of Blue Revolution and provide focused attention to the sector, the Government of India in its Union Budget FY 2019-20 announced a new scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). As the flagship scheme, PMMSY aims to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, infuse innovation and modern technology, improve post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernize and strengthen value chain and traceability, establish framework for a robust fisheries management and fishers' welfare. Emphasis has been laid towards creating awareness for harnessing of fisheries potential in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner.

PMMSY is being implemented with active cooperation of State Governments/ Union Territories. To make it an implementable plan and a measure of building confidence among the implementing agencies, State Governments/UTs Administrations have been involved from the initial stage. The implementation plan has been formulated after the assessment of status of fisheries activities in all States/UTs. In- depth discussions have been held to arrive at workable mechanisms, streamline processes and adopt the quantum of targets to ensure smooth operations at the time of execution.

3.1.1 Objectives of PMMSY

- Harnessing of fisheries potential in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner.
- Enhancing fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification and productive utilization of land and water.
- Modernizing and strengthening of value chain, post - harvest management and quality improvement.
- Doubling fisher's and fish farmer's incomes and generation of employment.
- Enhancing contribution to national & agriculture Gross Value Added (GVA) and national exports.
- Social, physical and economic security for fishers and fish farmers.
- Robust fisheries management and regulatory framework.



3.1.2 Component of PMMSY

PMMSY is an umbrella scheme with two separate Components namely (a) Central Sector Scheme (CS) and (b) Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The CSS component is further segregated into Non-beneficiary oriented and beneficiary oriented sub-components/activities under the following three broad heads:

- Enhancement of Production and Productivity
- Infrastructure and Post-harvest Management
- Fisheries Management and Regulatory Framework

PMMSY has been initially approved at a total estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 Crores comprising of Central share of Rs. 9,407 Crores, State share of Rs. 4,880 Crores and Beneficiaries contribution of Rs. 5,763 Crores. As the approved 5 years tenure of PMMSY has ended on 31st March, 2025, the Ministry of Finance has extended the tenure of this scheme till the end of 15th Finance Commission Cycle i.e. till end of 2025-26 with an enhanced outlay of Rs. 700 crore for FY 2025-26 over and above the approved outlay of Rs. 9,407 crore and as such the total central outlay of PMMSY has been capped at Rs. 10,107 crore.

3.1.2.1 Central Sector Scheme

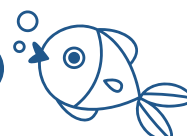
The entire project/unit cost under Central Sector Scheme of PMMSY are being borne by the Central Government (i.e. 100 percent central funding) and wherever direct beneficiary oriented i.e. individual/group activities are undertaken by the entities of Central Government including National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), the Central assistance will be up to 40 percent of the unit/project cost for General category and 60 percent for SC/ST/Women category. It envisages investment of Rs. 1,720 Crores for a period of 5 (five) years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25. The different components/activities included under Central Sector Scheme are:

- a. Genetic improvement programmes and Nucleus Breeding Centers (NBCs).
- b. Innovations and innovative projects/activities, technology demonstration including start-ups, incubators and pilot projects.
- c. Training, awareness, exposure and capacity building.
- d. Aquatic quarantine facilities.
- e. Modernization of fishing harbors of central government and its entities.
- f. Support to NFDB, Fisheries Institutions & Regulatory Authorities of Department of Fisheries, Government of India and need based assistance to State Fisheries Development Boards.
- g. Support for survey and training vessels for fisheries institutes including dredger TSD Sindhuraj owned by the Government.
- h. Disease monitoring and surveillance network.
- i. Fish data collection, fishers' survey and strengthening of fisheries database.
- j. Support to security agencies to ensure safety and security of marine fishermen at sea.
- k. Formation and strengthening of Fish Farmers Producer Organizations/ Companies (FFPOs/Cs), Cooperatives, SHGs etc.
- l. Certification, accreditation, traceability and labeling.
- m. Administrative expenses for implementation of PMMSY (to meet expenses of both CSS and components).

3.1.2.2 Central Sponsored Scheme

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Component of PMMSY is further segregated into non-beneficiary oriented and beneficiary orientated sub-components. It envisages investment of Rs.18,990.27 Crores for a period of 5 (five) years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25. The different broad components/activities included under Centrally Sponsored Scheme are as below:

Activities proposed as Centrally Sponsored Scheme Components



3.1.3 Funding Patterns of Centrally Sponsored Component

For the beneficiary oriented i.e. individual/group activities sub-components/activities under CSS Component to be implemented by the States/UTs, the Government financial assistance for both Centre and States/UTs together is limited to 40 percent of the project/unit cost for General category and 60 percent of the project/unit cost of SC/ST/Women. The Government financial assistance will in turn be shared between Centre and States/UTs in the following ratio:

1. North Eastern & the Himalayan States: 90 percent Central share and 10 percent State share
2. Other States: 60 percent Central share and 40 percent State share
3. Union Territories (with legislature and without legislature): 100 percent Central share

For the Non-beneficiary orientated sub-components/activities under CSS Component implemented by the States/UTs, the entire project/unit cost is shared between Centre and State/UTs as detailed below:

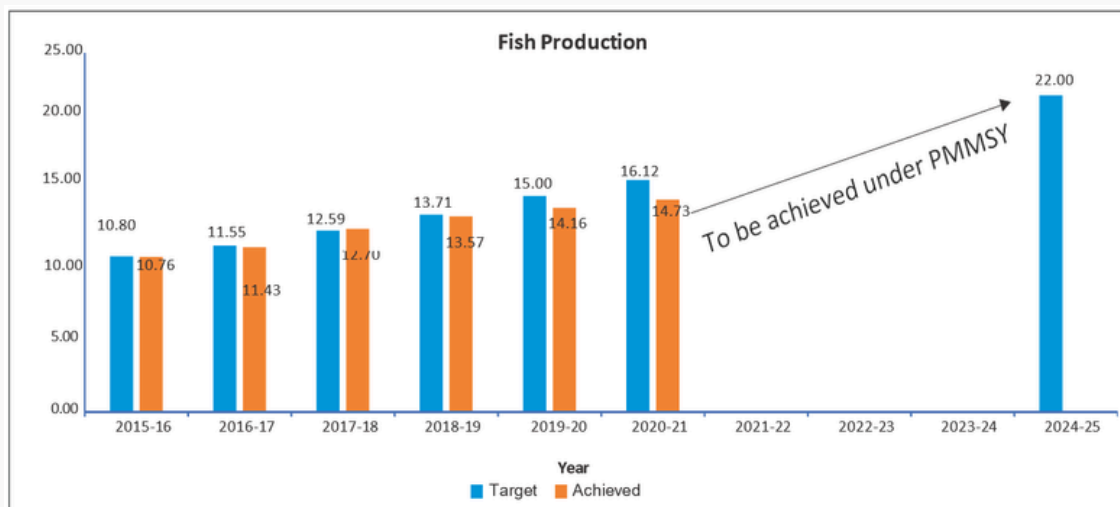
1. North Eastern & Himalayan States: 90 percent Central share and 10 percent State share
2. Other States: 60 percent Central share and 40 percent State share
3. Union Territories (with legislature and without legislature): 100 percent Central share

The funding pattern for the activity of “Livelihood and Nutritional Support for Socio-Economically backward, active traditional fisher's families for conservation of fisheries resources during fish ban/lean period” under PMMSY is summarized as below:

States/UTs	Funding pattern	Contribution
General States	50:50 Centre and General States	Centre share Rs. 1500 + State share Rs. 1500 + Beneficiary share Rs. 1500 = Rs. 4500/- year
North East and Himalayan States	80:20 Centre and NE & Himalayan States	Centre share Rs. 2400 + States share Rs. 600 + Beneficiary share Rs. 1500 = Rs. 4500/- year
Union Territories	100% as Centre share for UTs (with legislature and without legislature)	Centre share Rs. 3000 + Beneficiary share Rs. 1500 = Rs. 4500/- year

3.1.4 Outcomes of PMMSY

PMMSY targeted a growth rate of about 9 percent annually on a sustainable basis over a period of five years (2020-25). It is possible to achieve the target if production is targeted at 22MMT by end of 2024-25. The ambitious scheme will result in doubling export earnings to Rs. 1, 00,000 Crores and generate direct and indirect employment opportunities of about 55 Lakhs in the Fisheries sector over a period of five years. PMMSY further intends to increase aquaculture productivity to 5 tonnes per ha, enhance domestic fish consumption and attract investments in fisheries sector from other sources. Insurance coverage for fishing vessels has been introduced for the first time under PMMSY. The fish production (actual and target) from 2015-2019 and as per PMMSY target are given in the graph below-



3.1.5 Strategies to unlock prospects

The programs and strategies for fisheries and aquaculture development in the country under PMMSY have been developed keeping in view the objectives identified for the sector. Greater emphasis is on 'Cluster Based Approach' wherever feasible, with suitable backward and forward linkages with an equally strong focus on management and conservation of the resource as envisaged under the scheme.

3.1.6 Integrated approach for fisheries development

Integration of various production-oriented activities such as: (i) Production of quality fish seeds by establishing hatchery (ii) Production of cost effective feed from locally available ingredients (iii) Availability of feasible aquaculture technology (iv) Creation of post-harvest facilities (v) Marketing facilities in close vicinity where commercial aquaculture is undertaken would enhance fish production and cluster based approach by forming groups among entrepreneurs and progressive fish farmers are being encouraged to adopt Good Aquaculture Practice (GAP).

- a. **Pond Aquaculture:** It is the most common method of aquaculture and major source of fish production in the country. Effective utilization of the existing ponds and tanks resources through semi-intensive to intensive aquaculture is one of the priority activities of the Department.
- b. **Culture based fisheries in wetlands and reservoirs:** When the fish harvest in an open water system depends solely or mainly on artificial recruitment (stocking) it is referred to as a culture-based fisheries. Reservoir fisheries management through different approaches such as Culture-Based Fisheries (CBF) and enclosure culture techniques like cage farming in reservoirs are gaining momentum these days as they have proven to create employment for the growing human resource of the country. Wetlands are amongst the most productive aquatic ecosystems support rich biodiversity and are important feeding and breeding grounds of freshwater fishes. Besides, flood plain wetlands are an important resource for production and livelihood. Supplementary stocking of fingerlings of native species in wetland and reservoir, developing adequate rearing space for ex-situ fingerling production and in-situ seed production in floating cages and pens will be instrumental in enhancing fish production from reservoir and wetland.

- c. **Fish seed production:** Quality fish seed is a prime requirement for aquaculture and culture based fisheries. A National Freshwater Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB) is established by National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) for production of good quality brooders of commercially important species with the technical support of ICAR- Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) and ICAR- National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR). Other issues to be considered for strengthening seed production sector are establishment of brood banks in each State and up-gradation of hatcheries for maintaining and holding the quality brood as well as nursery rearing. Transfer of breeding and seed production technology from laboratory to farmers' field needs to be addressed.
- d. **Promotion of feed-based aquaculture:** Development of fish feed mills and scaling up of feed production from the existing feed mills is envisaged besides popularization of extruded feed based aquaculture to achieve targeted production and productivity.
- e. **Diversification of culture species:** Freshwater aquaculture in India is carp- centric hence introduction of exotic and other diversified species that can contribute to increase in fish production, without any adverse impact on the native species and the ecosystem shall be promoted.
- f. **Additional infrastructure for Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) shrimp seed:** Shrimp Brood Multiplication Centres (BMCs) are the facilities which receive the Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) Post Larvae (PL) from Nucleus Breeding Centre (NMB) and rear PL up to adult brood stock for supply to hatcheries under strict bio security and close disease surveillance. It is proposed to establish more BMCs and hatcheries to fill the gap of shrimp seed requirements.

Areas which require policy level interventions for enhancing fish production and productivity for convergence with related schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Sagarmala etc.

3.1.7 National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD)

Fisheries and aquaculture remain important sources of food, nutrition, income and livelihood for millions of people around the world. Per capita fish supply reached a new record due to vigorous growth in aquaculture. The Aquaculture sector is witnessing an impressive growth over the years, however, the diseases are the major constraint to the growth of the aquaculture. Surveillance for aquatic animal diseases is essential for early detection of diseases, thereby minimizing their impacts.

Disease outbreak as well as spreading of pathogens to new areas is the significant threat to growth of aquaculture due to intensification and diversification of aquaculture practices. National level disease surveillance provides information on the disease situation in the country. In case of aquatic animals, it allows better targeting of efforts to control and reduce the risk of spread of aquatic animal diseases, provides early warning of disease emergencies, facilitates more specific contingency planning and strengthens international confidence on country's aquatic animal health status.

The National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) was initiated in April, 2013 for the purpose of monitoring of aquatic animal diseases of national and international concern and control of their spread. It has become a primary requirement for effective health management and ultimately for sustainable aquaculture. This programme is also aimed at providing scientifically accurate and cost-effective information for assessing and managing risks of pathogen transfer associated with trade in aquatic animals and improve production efficiency. The



other objective of the Programme is rapid detection of new and exotic infectious diseases through advanced diagnostic techniques. It also helps in certifying freedom from diseases of concern within a defined geographical area or a specific population and gives boost to our aquatic animal exports. The Programme implemented to cover 19 selected States and 3 Union Territories of aquaculture importance through the involvement of 31 identified collaborating centres in the country in a network mode involving ICAR Fisheries Institutes, Colleges of Fisheries, State Fisheries Departments and other relevant collaborating partners in the Phase-I till March, 2022.

The National Surveillance Programme on Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) is being supported under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana with active involvement of stakeholders. The programme in the second phase implemented through 59 centres including all the State Fisheries Departments and all the NSPAAD collaborating centres comprising 10 ICAR research institutes, 15 Colleges of Fisheries (CoFs) under State/Central Fisheries/Agricultural/Veterinary universities. Implementation of NSPAAD in Phase-II for a period of three years from 1st April, 2022 to 31st March, 2025 has been approved. Further the programme was extended up to 31.03.2026 with no additional financial liability. Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease Reports for all the four quarters during the year under report were compiled based on the inputs generated from NSPAAD and submitted to WOAHP Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific and Network of Aquaculture Centre in Asia Pacific.

Early detection of diseases is important for eradication and containment. Many cases of diseases in aquaculture go unreported due to unavailability of the field-level disease reporting mechanism. Therefore, there is a necessity of a mechanism that can connect farmers, field-level officers, and fish health experts. With a view to strengthen the farmer-based disease reporting system and for improving the reporting of aquatic animal diseases in the country, Department of Fisheries, GoI, launched the Report Fish Disease(RFD) App which is one of the key initiatives under the Surveillance Programme.

The App would support farmers in improving farmer-based reporting, getting scientific advice, and reducing losses due to diseases, thereby increasing farmers' income. Also, Fish Disease Reporting App shall have a massive impact on fish disease management, promoting early detection, rapid response, collaboration, and knowledge sharing. It will contribute to the sustainability and resilience of aquaculture systems by minimizing the negative impacts of fish diseases on fish population, industry, and ecosystems.

ICAR-NBFGR has been recognized as WOAHP Referral Laboratory for Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans*.

ICAR-NBFGR developed Positive controls for Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus and Necrotizing hepatopancreatitis bacterium under the programme.

ICAR-NBFGR participated in Proficiency Testing programme conducted by Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness, CSIRO, Australia.

A total number of 14 new diseases have been reported from the country for the first time under the surveillance programme and a disease i.e. bacillary necrosis of pangas caused by *Edwardsiella ictaluri* was reported for the first time from the country during April, 2025 to January, 2026.

Three laboratories namely ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow; ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai; and ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai have obtained ISO/IEC 17025:2017 certification, demonstrating their technical competence and commitment to quality.

During the reporting period, over 121 awareness programmes involving 3820 fish farmers have been organised. Besides, to strengthen diagnostic capability of officers of State Fisheries Departments, 39 training programmes involving 1225 officers have been organised whereby the officers are sensitized about major diseases and their diagnosis as well as management measures to minimize the losses.

Under the passive disease surveillance, about 773 disease cases have been investigated and scientific advice is being provided to the farmers to manage the diseases in order to minimize the losses due to aquatic animal diseases.

It is envisaged that the programme would increase the capacity to detect and control diseases at national level, and will have a major impact on reducing losses due to aquatic animal diseases and thereby, sustainable growth of aquaculture in the country.

3.1.8 Directorate of Aquatic Animal Health and Quarantine (DAAHQ)

Quarantine, in the strict sense, is the confinement of aquatic animals of unknown or questionable health status in secure facilities such that neither they nor any pathogens they may be carrying can escape into the external environment. In order to adhere the principle, the Directorate of Aquatic Animal Health & Quarantine (DAAHQ) was set up in the Department of Fisheries for establishing Aquatic Animal Quarantine Unit (AAQU) and Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (DDL) one each on East Coast in Chennai and West Coast near Mumbai with a Coordinating Unit at Head Quarter in New Delhi. For the AAQU & DDL in Chennai, the land was acquired at Padappai, Kanchipuram District of Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The building work of the aquatic animal quarantine unit and disease diagnostic laboratory has been completed by the CPWD. The consultancy services has been appointed and the layout of the internal facility includes detailed drawing for water supply, aeration system, drainage system with ETP, and water treatment plant to AAQU along with the bio-security arrangements for the facility submitted by CPWD has been approved. CPWD has now requested to submit the preliminary estimate for the internal facility. For setting up of the AAQU and DDL around Mumbai for the West Coast, the Department has undertaken preliminary inspection of the alternative sites offered by Government of Maharashtra. The transfer of the land for the said facilities is under active consideration.

Besides, special focus is being given for establishment of aquatic quarantine facilities in the country for aquatic animals and their products under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. Approximately 5 Aquatic Quarantine Facilities will be established in the country based on the requirement under PMMSY. The unit cost for each AQF will be as per DPR with an upper ceiling of Rs. 20 crores for project.

3.1.9 Achievements of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

PMMSY with diverse interventions and activities along the fisheries value chain in terms of production and productivity, quality, technology, infrastructure and management has aimed to transform the fisheries sector and usher economic prosperity for fishers and fish farmers. The inland fish production dominates the total fish production in India contributing around 75% of the total production in the country.

To harness its full potential PMMSY is expanding, intensifying and diversifying inland fisheries through technology infusion, establishing new fresh water hatcheries and brood banks, constructing new rearing and grow-out ponds, constructing cages and pens in reservoirs,



developing cold-water fisheries. The projects sanctioned are being implemented across 35 States/UTs in the country under centrally supported and centrally sponsored components of PMMSY.

PMMSY is driving-in technology based fish farming for increasing the production and productivity of the land and water. The Department is fostering advanced modern fish farming technologies like Biofloc Technology and Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) with investing Rs. 1,236 crores (2020-21 to 2024-25). Installation of sea cages and pen culture in the reservoirs are being implemented through an investment of Rs 636.00 Crores.

There are about 5,701 large dams in the country and many medium and small reservoirs with coverage of over 32 lakh hectares. These reservoirs are the 'sleeping giants' and PMMSY is targeting to harness their potential by development of integrated reservoirs. The Department has successfully installed more than the targeted 20,000 cages in the reservoirs and water bodies which in turn would produce additional 60,000 MT of fishes by 2025.

India's aquaculture export growth is predominantly due to the success of brackish water aquaculture of shrimp. India has 11.86 lakh ha of land suitable for brackish water aquaculture. However, only 1.84 lakh ha (15.5%) area is used for brackish water aquaculture. Additionally, India has 2.73 lakh ha of Saline/Alkaline soil of which only 726 ha (0.27%) is put to use. The Department is thus promoting technologies to harness the potential of unutilized saline-alkaline culture and brackish water body for commercial fish farming.

Under PMMSY, area expansions of inland regions having alkaline and saline soils in a cluster-based approach by converting the 'waste lands into wealth lands' are of prime focus. Accordingly, Rs. 526 Crores has been earmarked under PMMSY for bringing in additional 4,000 Ha of saline area under shrimp aquaculture in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The Himalayan region of India is bestowed with extensive hill ranges and forests with diverse aquatic resources in the form of large rivers, tributaries, hill streams, lakes, and reservoirs. With such immense and varied cold-water resources, the Himalayan States/UTs have treasured indigenous fish germplasm and species endemic to the region. At the higher altitudes there is a tremendous scope for the development of "low-volume, high-value species" such as Trout, especially Rainbow species, Snow Trout, Brown Trout as well as Mahseer, and Exotic Carps. With the aim of development of cold-water fishery, it is envisaged investing Rs 852 Crores for the cold-water fishery. We are constantly exploring ways to further strengthen the entire cold water fishery value chain to unleash its true potential.

Ornamental fish keeping is the second most common hobby in the world, second to photography. It forms an important commercial component of aquaculture, providing for aesthetic requirements and upkeep of the environment. To provide stimulus to ornamental and recreational fishery PMMSY has been developing this sector with targeted investment of Rs 576.00 Crore for creating employment and lively opportunity for 1 lakh rural youth. PMMSY is supporting ornamental fish cultivation by establishing production units, introducing commercially important exotic species, importing breeding technology, extending technological marketing and logistical support to the entrepreneurs. Seaweed farming has emerged as a sector with the potential to transform the lives of coastal communities, providing large scale employment and diversifying incomes. Under PMMSY, it is envisaged to revolutionize the Seaweed farming sector with an increase in the seaweed production in the country from the current levels to 11.2 lakh tonnes weight in 5 years. An investment of Rs. 640 Crores has been earmarked for development of seaweed farming, wherein Seaweed seed banks, nurseries, tissue culture units, processing, and marketing units, etc. will be established in all coastal States and UTs. For promoting seaweed cultivation

grounding of the Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu with an investment of Rs 127 Crores, notification for development of seaweed cluster in Lakshadweep, approval of 1.12 lakh rafts & monolinetube nets for cultivation at suitable locations and a pilot project with fisheries institute and private entrepreneur at Kutch, Gujarat for cultivating seaweed on commercial scale.

For the purpose of minimizing the post-harvest losses, DoF is strengthening the supply chain gaps by providing efficient logistic solutions, modernization of fishing harbour, fish landing centre with state-of-the-art infrastructure and amenities for fish transportation facility with ancillary units, ice plants and cold storages. PMMSY have earmarked Rs 3,340 Cores for modernization and development of Fishing harbors and fish landing centres. Entrepreneurship model for value addition and better price realization to the farmers is being promoted.

The Department has adopted a holistic approach for the overall development of the sector with focus on raising overall fish production as well as consumption. For creating a retail network of organized fish sales, PMMSY has earmarked Rs 1000 Crores for establishing a retail network by setting up ultra-modern fish kiosks and other market infrastructure in the urban, peri-urban and semi urban locations.

PMMSY inter-alia, provides financial assistance for setting up of Fish Farmers Producer Organizations (FFPOs) to economically empower the fishers and fish farmers and enhance their bargaining power. The Department of Fisheries has so far accorded approval for setting up of a total of 2195 FFPOs at a total project cost of Rs. 544.85 crore comprising formation of existing 2000 fisheries cooperative as FFPOs and 195 new FFPOs. The Department has conferred approval to National Co-operative for Disease Control (NCDC) for setting up of 1070 FFPOs at a total cost of Rs. 225.50 Crores, Small Farmers' Agri- Business Consortium (SFAC) for 550 FFPOs at a total cost of Rs. 100.70 Crores, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) for setting up of 550 FFPOs at a total cost of Rs. 100.70 Crores and Rs. 13 Crores to National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) for setting up of 25 FFPOs under PMMSY.

The marine fishery potential in the Indian waters have has been estimated at 5.31 MMT and PMMSY is promoting sustainable fishing by modernizing and upgrading the fishing vessels, purchase of deep- sea fishing vessels, replacement of boat, open sea cage culture and creation of infrastructure such as fishing harbour, fish landing centre, development of integrated modern coastal villages.

The scheme also extends livelihood support to fishermen fisher folk annually during lean and ban period and provides social safety and security net to the fishermen and fisher folk. Under PMMSY, financial assistance of Rs 4,500 per family is provided as a financial support during the fishing ban and lean period. Group Accidental Insurance Scheme (GAIS) has also been launched for fishermen with a total coverage of Rs 5.00 Lakh against death and permanent disability, Rs. 2.5 Lakh against partial disability and Rs. 25,000 against accidental hospitalization.

With the outset adoption of the proposed interventions, the PMMSY scheme is poised to realize 9% of average annual growth rate and accomplish its production target of 22 MMT by year 2025, from its current production of 18.40 MMT . This will be realized by gradually stepping up from subsistence to scientific methods of fish farming by skilling and capacity building of the fishermen and fisher folk.

Major achievements from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024- 25 (as on 31st January, 2025) are as follows:

- a. 31551.33 ha area for Inland aquaculture:
- b. 12,301 nos of Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and 4,137 nos of Biofloc approved.
- c. Approved installation of 56,794 nos cages and 560.7 ha pens in reservoirs and other open water bodies.

- d. Approved establishment of 981 nos of fish and 5 scampi hatcheries and 10 marine hatcheries
- e. Approved 3,159.39 ha of pond area approved under saline-alkaline culture, 4,734 ha of freshwater biofloc pond area and 1,574.86 hectares of pond area for brackishwater
- f. Approved 2,494 nos of Ornamental fish rearing units and 207 nos of Integrated Ornamental fish units (breeding and rearing)
- g. 4780.07 hectares area of new pond, 5711 new raceway units, 61 Trout hatcheries and 46 nos of RAS for coldwater fisheries
- h. 2307 Bivalve cultivation (including mussels, clams, pearl etc.) units
- i. 47,245 nos rafts and 65,180 nos monoline tube net for seaweed cultivation
- j. Approved 485 Deep Sea Fishing Vessels and 1,180 up gradation of existing fishing vessels
- k. 1,525 nos of sea cages
- l. 18 Disease diagnostic centre and quality testing labs, 28 Mobile centres and testing labs and 8 Aquatic referral labs for Aquatic Health management
- m. 8 Integrated Modern Coastal Villages and 937 units of artificial reefs
- n. 6,818 nos replacement boats and nets for fishermen
- o. Approved 734 cold storages and 1,114 feed mill units, 22 Wholesale fish markets, 202 Fish retail markets and 6410 fish kiosks including ornamental kiosks
- p. 27,301 units of fish transportation facilities refrigerated and insulated trucks, Live Fish Vending Centres, auto rickshaws, motorcycles and bicycles with ice box
- q. 27 Integrated Development of Reservoirs,
- r. Livelihood and nutritional support for 5,97,913 fishers' families for conservation of fisheries resources during fishing ban/lean period
- s. 2494 Sagar Mitras and 102 nos Matsya Seva Kendra for extension and support services

With the immense support from all States Governments, UT administrations, apex research and Government organizations and other stake holders, the Department is determined to take the fisheries sector to newer heights and contribute towards making a 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.

3.1.10 Promotion of Tilapia culture

Tilapia holds vast promise to become an important species for aquaculture in India, considering the demand for more fish, Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) is one of the important candidate species for aquaculture in India. It has become a fish of choice because it is fast growing and an affordable source of animal protein. Per hectare productivity of this species is more than Indian Major Carps (IMC) and other carps. Tilapia has huge export potential in USA, Europe, Japan and Middle East. The primary focus of increasing tilapia production in India is to increase rural livelihoods and job opportunities to women and youth.



In order to leverage the potential of tilapia, Department has taken various steps under PMMSY such as establishment of Tilapia hatchery, culture of Tilapia in Reservoir Cage culture, RAS and Biofloc, Brood Bank for Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT), establishment of hatchery for GIFT seed production. Government of India has permitted only culture of Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia in closed or confined water resources. Tilapia culture is not allowed in open water bodies in India. This GIFT species is an ideal species for culture in RAS and cages in reservoir. Further, existing ponds are also utilized for GIFT culture. Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Kerala are potential states that will be instrumental in achieving the target production of Tilapia.



3.1.11 Promotion of Scampi Culture

Scampi is one of the most important cultivable native species in freshwater aquaculture systems due to its high price, large size, faster growth, good taste and high demand in domestic and export market. Further, this species can be cultured either in freshwater or slightly brackish water (<7 ppt) and both in monoculture or polyculture system. However, the major problem was the lack of availability of quality seeds for stocking. Farmers had to depend on the seed of unknown quality, probably inbred seeds which lead to slow growth and poor survival thereby decreasing production. Frequent outbreak of diseases also caused huge loss to farmers.



Therefore, the Department has funded a project under PMMSY by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar at a total cost of Rs. 4 Crores to scaling up of the existing Genetic Improvement Programme of Freshwater Prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (Scampi) and to cater to the brooder seed demand in the country for production of quality and disease free scampi seed. The scaling up of the existing programme will produce 120 to 150 families of improved breed every year and will provide the quality and disease free brooder seed to private scampi hatcheries for acting as multiplier unit and further supply to scampi seed to aqua farmers. At present ICAR-CIFA has produced 113 families and signed MoUs with eight multiplier hatcheries and supplying breeder seed to these hatcheries for production of quality seed. National Freshwater Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB) at Bhubaneswar established by the Department also has provision for brood bank facility of Scampi in addition to freshwater fish. The Department has conducted many training programmes for promotion of polyculture of Scampi in land locked states.

3.2 Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

Background and Overview

The Government of India approved the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) in February 2024 as a Central Sector sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for a period of four years, from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27. The scheme is designed to strengthen the fisheries and aquaculture sector through formalisation, improved access to finance, risk mitigation, and enhanced value-chain integration.

The total estimated outlay of PM-MKSSY is ₹6,000 crore, of which ₹3,000 crore is funded by the Government of India, comprising external assistance of ₹1,125 crore from the World Bank, ₹375 crore from Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and ₹1,500 crore as counterpart funding under PMMSY. The remaining ₹3,000 crore is expected to be mobilised as investment from beneficiaries and the private sector.

The broad objectives of the scheme include formalisation of the unorganised fisheries sector through work-based digital identities, facilitation of institutional credit including working capital, promotion of aquaculture insurance, incentivisation of fisheries and aquaculture micro and small enterprises through performance-based grants, development of safe and efficient supply chains, and integration and consolidation of fisheries value chains.

3.2.1. Components of PM-MKSSY

PM-MKSSY is implemented through the following components:

- **Component 1-A:** Formalisation of the fisheries sector and facilitation of access by fisheries microenterprises to Government of India programmes for working capital financing
- **Component 1-B:** Promotion of adoption of aquaculture insurance
- **Component 2:** Support to fisheries microenterprises for improving value-chain efficiencies
- **Component 3:** Adoption and expansion of fish and fishery product safety and quality assurance systems, including traceability
- **Component 4:** Project management, monitoring and reporting

3.2.2. Targeted Beneficiaries

The sub-scheme is being implemented across all States and Union Territories for the following targeted beneficiaries:

- Fishers, aquaculture farmers, fish workers, fish vendors, and other individuals directly engaged in fisheries and aquaculture value chains
- Micro and Small Enterprises, including Proprietary Firms, Partnership Firms, Companies registered in India, Societies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), Cooperatives, Federations, Village-level Organisations such as Self Help Groups (SHGs), Fish Farmers Producer Organisations (FFPOs), Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs), and Start-ups engaged in fisheries and aquaculture
- Any other category of beneficiaries as may be notified by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India

3.2.3. Funding Pattern

PM-MKSSY is implemented as a Central Sector Component under PMMSY with 100 per cent funding by the Central Government.

3.2.4. Implementing Agencies

The scheme is implemented by the following agencies:

1. Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India.
2. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).

Any other agency or entity entrusted by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India

3.2.5. National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP)

The National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) was launched on 11 September 2024 under PM-MKSSY to enable formalisation of the fisheries and aquaculture sector through the creation of work-based digital identities for all stakeholders. The platform serves as a one-stop digital solution for access to institutional credit and for availing benefits under PM-MKSSY, including performance-based incentives, aquaculture insurance, claims for eligible financial incentives, strengthening of fisheries cooperatives, traceability systems, and capacity-building initiatives.

Dedicated modules have been developed on the NFDP for Institutional Credit, Strengthening of Cooperatives, Aquaculture Insurance, Performance Grants, Traceability, and Training & Capacity Building.

As on 7 January 2026, over 29 lakh fishers, fish farmers, fish vendors, and other stakeholders have been registered on the platform. A total of 2,786 primary fisheries cooperatives have been approved for strengthening at a cost of ₹52.93 crore. Under the Aquaculture Insurance component, 29 applications covering 98.56 hectares have been approved. Further, 194 institutional credit loans amounting to ₹13.63 crore have been sanctioned by banks through the platform.

3.2.6. National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Department of Fisheries released the National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2025 on the occasion of World Fisheries Day on 21 November 2025. The framework envisages the establishment of a unified national digital traceability system to ensure compliance with domestic and international regulations, promote food safety and quality assurance, enhance sustainability, and improve market access for Indian fish and fishery products.

The key objectives of the framework include establishment of a national traceability system, compliance with regulatory requirements, promotion of food safety and hygiene, discouragement of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, enhancement of transparency and consumer confidence, empowerment of regulators through digital tools, facilitation of participation of small-scale fishers and farmers in trade, and support for data-driven governance and ease of doing business.

The framework envisages traceability across the entire fisheries and aquaculture value chains, covering production, post-harvest activities, processing, and marketing, through a phased, inclusive, and technology-driven approach.

For effective implementation, the framework provides for the constitution of a National Level Governance Committee (NLGC) for strategic oversight and inter-agency coordination, along with an Adoption Committee to recommend mechanisms for adoption of IT-based traceability systems. Provisions have also been made for training, capacity building, and stakeholder orientation.

3.2.7. Provisions for Traceability under PM-MKSSY

Recognising that existing traceability systems in India are fragmented, Component 3 of PM-MKSSY provides for the development of comprehensive traceability modules and their integration with the NFDP to ensure end-to-end traceability across fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

Indicative activities supported under this component include projects on traceability for specific value chains or segments thereof, pilot projects for selected activities, and pilot studies to assess feasibility and requirements for implementing traceability systems. Financial assistance is provided up to ₹10 crore per project for comprehensive value-chain projects, ₹5 crore per project for segment-specific projects, ₹30 lakh per project for pilot projects, and ₹10 lakh per project for pilot studies, with eligibility extended to Central and State Government agencies, research institutions, and experienced private entities under appropriate modes including PPP.

3.3 Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FAIDF)

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) is a scheme launched by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying in order to address the infrastructure requirement for fisheries sector to boost fish production, create infrastructure facilities in both marine and inland fisheries. Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) was created with an estimated fund outlay of Rs 7522.48 Crore, consists of Rs. 5266.40 crore to be given as loan by the Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs), Rs. 1316.60 crore by beneficiaries as equity contribution and Rs. 939.48 crore of the budgetary support by Gol for interest subvention. Further, the Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister approved extension of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), with credit guarantee facility under FIDF during the extended period of another 3 years from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026 (FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26). FIDF will continue to provide concessional finance to the eligible entities, including state governments/Union territories, cooperatives and private entrepreneurs for development of identified fisheries infrastructure facilities through Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs) namely National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Bank(NABARD), National Cooperative Development Corporation(NCDC) and Scheduled Banks in all States and Union Territories.

Under FIDF, NABARD has been providing loan to the State/UT government projects, NCDC for Cooperative Sector either through State Governments/UTs or directly to Eligible Cooperative Societies & Federations and for private entrepreneurs/ individual beneficiaries by scheduled banks.

Broad investment activities under FIDF are:

1. Establishment of Fishing Harbours
2. Establishment of Fish Landing Centers
3. Construction of Ice Plants (Marine & Inland Fisheries Sectors)
4. Construction of Cold storage (Marine & Inland Sectors)
5. Fish Transport Facilities (Marine & Inland Fisheries sector)
6. Integrated Cold Chain (Marine & Inland Sector)
7. Development of Modern Fish Markets
8. Setting up of Brood Banks
9. Development of Hatcheries
10. Development of Aquaculture
11. Modernization State Fish Seed Farms
12. Establishment of state of art of Fisheries Training Centres
13. Fish Processing Units
14. Fish Feed Mills/Plants
15. Establishment of Cage culture in Reservoir
16. Introduction of Deep Sea Fishing Vessels
17. Establishment of Disease Diagnostic Laboratories
18. Development of Mari culture (Sea cage culture/Hatcheries/Nursery Area / Seaweed / Bivalve/Pearl cultures)
19. Establishment of Aquatic Quarantine Facilities
20. Any other innovative projects/activities designed to enhance fish production / productivity/value.



Achievements

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying during the implementation period of FIDF, since 2018-19 has approved a total 238 project proposals/project at a total cost of Rs. 6781.64 crore with project cost restricted for interest subvention at Rs. 4605.58 crore to various States/UTs including the proposals of private beneficiaries of Rs. 850.51 crore restricting the project cost for interest subvention at Rs. 561.05 crore. Out of this, 150 were Govt. Projects amounting to Rs. 5931.28 Crore and 88 Private Projects at total projects cost of Rs. 850.51 Crores. Key projects consists of 29 fishing harbours 60 fish landing centres with approved total projects outlay of Rs. 5426.98 crore, 33 modern state fish Seed farms, 11 state of art fisheries training centres with total approved projects outlay of Rs.200.21 crore, fish/shrimp processing plants, including modernization, expansion and value addition facilities approved with total outlay of Rs.285.46 crore. In addition to fish/shrimp hatcheries, brood banks, fish feed plants, cage culture, biofloc culture, development of other aquaculture units, ice plants, cold storage units, fish markets and several(>50) innovative/any other fisheries infrastructure projects in various states/UT's of India. Out of approved, 68 (60 Govt&8 Private) projects were completed, remaining projects under various stages and benefiting to estimated more than 2.50 lakhs fishers, fish farmers, stakeholder and local Populations.

3.4 Kisan Credit Card to Animal Husbandry

Pursuant to the Reserve Bank of India circular No. FIDD.CO.FSD.BC.12/05.05.010/2018-19 dated 4 February 2019, the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was extended to fishers, fish farmers and animal husbandry farmers to provide timely and affordable working capital. The extension of KCC to these allied activities has strengthened institutional credit access for a segment traditionally dependent on informal sources, thereby supporting income stability and formalisation of livelihoods.

The scheme is implemented by Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) under the overall guidance of the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

Coverage and Eligibility

The scheme covers both inland and marine fisheries, including aquaculture and Mariculture activities. Eligible beneficiaries include individual farmers as well as groups such as Self Help Groups, Joint Liability Groups and women collectives. Beneficiaries are required to own or lease fisheries-related assets and hold necessary State-specific licences or authorisations. This inclusive design enables coverage across small and marginal operators and supports collective models of production.

Credit Framework

KCC limits are fixed as per the Scale of Finance determined by the District or State Level Technical Committees, ensuring region- and activity-specific credit assessment. For existing KCC holders, interest subvention and prompt repayment incentives are admissible up to a credit limit of ₹3 lakh, including fisheries activities. For new beneficiaries in the fisheries sector, a credit limit of ₹2 lakh is provided to meet working capital requirements.

Interest Subvention and Collateral Norms

Loans under the scheme are extended at a concessional interest rate of 7%, inclusive of an interest subvention of 1.5% to lending institutions. Farmers who repay promptly are eligible for an additional 3% incentive, reducing the effective interest rate to 4% per annum. In line with the objective of improving credit access, the collateral-free limit for short-term agricultural credit, including fisheries, has been enhanced from ₹1.60 lakh to ₹2.00 lakh.

Progress and Outcomes

As on 9th January 2026, 5,01,900 KCCs have been sanctioned to fishers and fish farmers, with a total disbursement of ₹3,692.73 crore. The steady uptake of KCCs in the fisheries sector reflects growing integration of allied agricultural activities into the formal credit system and contributes to improved liquidity, productivity and resilience of the sector. State-wise details are provided at Annexure-II.

3.5 Key initiatives undertaken

3.5.1 Fisheries Production and Processing Clusters

The Department of Fisheries is focusing on a cluster-based development approach to drive holistic, value chain-oriented growth in the fisheries sector. By integrating production, input supply, infrastructure, technology adoption, processing, value addition, and market linkages within defined geographies, this approach moves beyond fragmented interventions to achieve scale, efficiency, and competitiveness. In this context the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has envisaged a strategic focus on cluster development across key areas, including Pearl cluster in Hazaribagh, Seaweed in Lakshadweep, Ornamental Fisheries in Madurai, Pearl cluster in Jharkhand, Reservoir Fisheries in Madhya Pradesh, Fishing Harbours in Gujarat and Puducherry, Saline Water Aquaculture in Sirsa, Punjab and Rajasthan, Cold Water Fisheries in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh, Sea Cage Culture in Karnataka, Brackish-Water Fisheries in Andhra Pradesh, Tuna in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Tilapia in Chhattisgarh, Organic Fisheries in Sikkim and Meghalaya, Wetland Fisheries in Bihar, Murrel in Telangana, Pearl Spot in Kerala, Scampi in Odisha, Pangasius in Uttar Pradesh, Dry Fish Cluster in West Bengal, Integrated fish farming cluster in Nagaland, Pengba Fish Cluster in Manipur, Riverine Fish Cluster in Assam, Paddy cum Fish Cluster in Mizoram, Aqua Tourism Cluster in Arunachal Pradesh, Estuarine Cage Cluster in Goa, Pabda Fisheries Cluster in Tripura and Fisheries Cooperatives Cluster in Maharashtra.

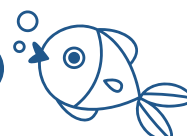
The cluster-based approach enhances competitiveness and efficiency by uniting geographically connected enterprises of all sizes—micro, small, medium, and large—across the entire value chain, from production to exports. This collaborative model improves financial viability through strong linkages, addresses value chain gaps, and creates new business opportunities and livelihoods.

By fostering partnerships and resource sharing, it aims to reduce costs, promote innovation, and support sustainable practices. This also aims to amplify outcomes and achieve integrated development within the sector. Thus, to continue and sustain the sectoral growth momentum, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India is further increasing its efforts on adoption of

production and processing fisheries cluster-based approach with end-to-end value chain in fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The cluster-based development framework is positioning the fisheries sector for sustained and balanced growth by enabling targeted interventions, fostering enterprise-led development, and strengthening regional specialization. By deepening coordination among stakeholders and aligning investments with local strengths, the approach is expected to accelerate income enhancement, employment generation, and market integration. Continued emphasis on fisheries production and processing clusters will play a critical role in scaling outcomes, improving sectoral resilience, and advancing India's transition towards a modern, value-driven, and globally competitive fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Fisheries Production and Processing Clusters



3.5.2 Vessel Communication and Support System (VCSS)

Under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has approved the **National Rollout Plan for Vessel Communication and Support System (VCSS)**. The project aims to install **indigenously developed transponders on 1 lakh marine fishing vessels**, covering mechanized and motorized boats across **all 13 coastal States and Union Territories**, with a total outlay of **₹364 crore**.

The project is being implemented by **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** with technical support from the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. The transponders are provided **free of cost to fishermen**, following a **60:40 funding pattern between the Centre and States, and 100% central funding for Union Territories**. The project was **launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30 August 2024 at Palghar, Maharashtra**, and installation is currently underway.

Key Features of VCSS

- **Two-way communication system** enabling fishermen to send short messages using Android mobile phones while operating up to **200 nautical miles**, covering the entire **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.
- **Real-time weather alerts**, including cyclone and disaster warnings, along with **safe route navigation**.
- **Maritime Boundary Line (MBL)** alerts to prevent unintentional transgression into foreign waters.
- **Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ)** information provided through the **NABHMITRA mobile application**.
- **Multilingual access** to all services through the **National Fisheries Application – NABHMITRA**, ensuring ease of use for fishermen.
- **Harbour management tools**, including a **digital token system for vessel entry and exit**, and facilities to record crew and vessel details.
- **Fish catch traceability** through geotagged catch data entry, supporting compliance with international norms on **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**.

Significance

The VCSS enhances **safety at sea**, improves **fishermen's livelihoods**, strengthens **maritime security**, and supports **sustainable fisheries management** through technology-driven monitoring and traceability.

3.5.3 Achievement of Fishing Harbour/Fish Landing Centre in Calendar Year 2025

A) SOP on “Development and Management of Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour”

- In alignment with this vision of harnessing the potential of marine resources, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, has prioritized the development of Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbours across the country. These harbours are envisaged as technologically



advanced, environmentally sustainable, and socially inclusive hubs that will elevate operational efficiency, ensure compliance with global standards, and strengthen the socio-economic fabric of coastal communities.

- ii. In this regard, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has prepared Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that outlines details on Smart and integrated components along with local community engagement mechanisms, land leasing mechanisms, zoning in the periphery Fishing Harbour and relevant global best practices. This SoP on Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour will serve as a guiding document for the planning, development and management of Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbours to States/UTs/Implementation agencies and **also bring in uniformity among the States & UTs and promote ease of doing business**. The copy of the same is enclosed herewith for ready reference and the same can also be accessed from department website www.dof.gov.in.
- iii. The SoP was officially launched by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India on World Fisheries Day, 2025.

B). SOP on “Development of Minimum Basic Facilities at the Notified Marine Fish Landing Centres”

- i. In this context, considering the importance of marine fish landing centres, it is important to transform the notified, uncovered, and untouched marine fish landing centres into well-equipped fish landing centres with basic facilities. This will facilitate streamlining of fish landings, handling, and post-harvest operations along with creation of ample alternative livelihood opportunities for coastal communities.
- ii. In this regard, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has prepared Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for development of minimum basic facilities at the uncovered & untouched notified marine fish landing centres to facilitate speedy implementation that will act as guidance document to State(s)/UTs/Implementing agencies. The copy of the same is enclosed herewith for ready reference and the same can also be accessed from department website www.dof.gov.in
- iii. The SoP was officially launched by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India on World Fisheries Day, 2025.

3.6 Important Programmes Organized

3.6.1 Northeast Region States Meet 2025 – 6 January

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, organized the Northeast Region States Meet 2025 at Guwahati, Assam on 6th January, 2025. The meet focused on strengthening fisheries and aquaculture development in the Northeastern Region. During the event, key projects worth about ₹50 crore were inaugurated and foundation stones laid under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). These initiatives reflect the Government's commitment to building a self-sustaining fisheries sector and are expected to generate around 4,530 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

3.6.2 NFDP Registration Outreach Program in Madhya Pradesh- 20th Feb

As part of a nationwide special campaign, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying organized a Mobilization Camp for registrations on the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) on 20 February 2025 at Depalpur, District Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The outreach programme aimed to enhance digital inclusion of fishers and stakeholders. During the event, an Aqua Park and Research Centre project in Madhya Pradesh was announced with a project cost of ₹25 crore. In addition, a Fish Parlor was inaugurated to promote fish consumption and improve market access for fishery products.

3.6.3 Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation – 21st Feb

India assumed the Chairmanship of the Bay of Bengal (BoB) Inter-Governmental Organisation from Bangladesh during the 13th Governing Council Meeting held at Malé, Maldives, in the presence of senior government representatives from Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bangladesh. The meeting was organized as part of the high-level conference on *Policy Guidance for Mainstreaming Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)* in Small-Scale Fisheries, held from 20 to 22 February 2025 at Lankanfinolhu, Maldives.

3.6.4 Fisheries Startup Conclave 2.0, Hyderabad – March 8th

To promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D), organized the *Fisheries Startup Conclave 2.0* in Hyderabad, Telangana,. The conclave brought together policymakers, industry leaders, startups, and other stakeholders to discuss emerging opportunities and technological advancements.

During the event, the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) Mobile Application, developed under PM-MKSSY, was launched. Available on the Google Play Store, the app enables startups to access digital services, scheme information, and benefits through a user-friendly interface. The *Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge 2.0* was also unveiled with an earmarked fund of ₹1 crore to support innovative and sustainable solutions in fisheries and aquaculture, including financial incentives and incubation support for selected startups.

3.6.5 Coastal States Fisheries Meet 2025 – 28th April

The Coastal States Fisheries Meet held in Mumbai witnessed wide participation from all coastal States and Union Territories. During the meet, key fisheries projects worth ₹255 crore were inaugurated and foundation stones laid. Major initiatives launched included the 5th Marine Fisheries Census Operations, PMMSY guidelines on the Turtle Excluder Device, and the Standard Operating Procedure for the Vessel Communication and Support System. Tablets enabled with the digital application VyAS-NAV were distributed, and the first-ever aqua insurance sanction-cum-release orders were awarded to beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY). The event also marked the commencement of the 5th Marine Fisheries Census, scheduled for completion by December 2025.

3.6.6 Foundation Stone was laid for an Integrated Aquapark in Tripura- 18th May

On 18th May, 2025, a Foundation Stone was laid for an Integrated Aquapark under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), worth ₹42.4 crores in Kailashahar, Tripura by Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Panchayati Raj in an event held in Agartala, Tripura. In addition, the event featured an exhibition and inauguration of the Fish Festival highlighting the rich culture and diverse fishes of the state.

3.6.7 “Fisheries Secretaries Conference 2025” & “National Workshop on Harnessing Technology and Innovation in Aquaculture” held - 23rd May

The Department of Fisheries (DoF) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D), convened a “Fisheries Secretaries Conference 2025” and National Workshop on Harnessing Technology and Innovation in Aquaculture on 23rd May 2025 in New Delhi, to review the progress of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), and implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) with focus on achievements and key deliverables across schemes.

3.6.8 “Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Meet 2025” – 13th June

An “Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Meet 2025” was organized by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying on 13th June 2025 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh. The event also saw the gracious presence of Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State, MoFAH&D and Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Shri George Kurian, Minister of State, MoFAH&D and Ministry of Minority Affairs.

3.6.9 Special Campaign 5.0 – 24th Oct

The Department of Fisheries actively participated in the Special Campaign 5.0 for disposal of pending matters to promote cleanliness, efficiency and a better work environment. The campaign focuses on expeditious disposal of pending matters, including references from Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister's Office, VIPs, and State Governments, along with timely resolution of public grievances. Simultaneously, the Department is adopting sustainable office practices through systematic waste management and responsible disposal of e-waste, redundant materials, and obsolete files.

3.6.10 Marine Fisheries Census 2025 launched – 31 October

The Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 Household Enumeration and the VyAS-BHARAT and VyAS-SUTRA applications were launched at Kochi, marking a historic shift to a digital and paperless national enumeration process. MFC 2025 will generate a comprehensive, granular and geo-referenced database to support evidence-based planning. The census will digitally enumerate about 1.2 million fisher households across nearly 5,000 villages and habitations in 13 coastal States and Union Territories, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Household data collected during 3rd November to 18th December 2025. The exercise was supported by multilingual VyAS mobile applications developed by ICAR-CMFRI.

3.6.11 World Fisheries Day 2025 – 21st November

The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, celebrated World Fisheries Day 2025 in New Delhi under the theme “India’s Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports.” On this occasion Hon’ble Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh addressed the participants via a video message. Ministers of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel and Shri George Kurian graced the event in New Delhi. The Department released the National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries and Aquaculture 2025 and unveiled several key initiatives including the SOP for Mariculture, SOP on Development and Management of Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbours, SOP on Development of Minimum Basic Infrastructure at Notified Marine Fish Landing Centres, Guidelines for Reservoir Fisheries Management and the Compendium of Coastal Aquaculture Guidelines.

3.6.12 India and Russia strengthen bilateral cooperation in fisheries – 4 December

On the sidelines of the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit, a bilateral meeting was held in New Delhi, between the Ministers of Fisheries and Agriculture of India and the Russian Federation. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation through expansion of mutual trade in fisheries, animal and dairy products, addressing market access issues, and expediting establishment listings for exports. Both sides also explored avenues for collaboration in research, education and emerging aquaculture technologies, including deep-sea fishing vessels, advanced aquaculture systems and fisheries processing.

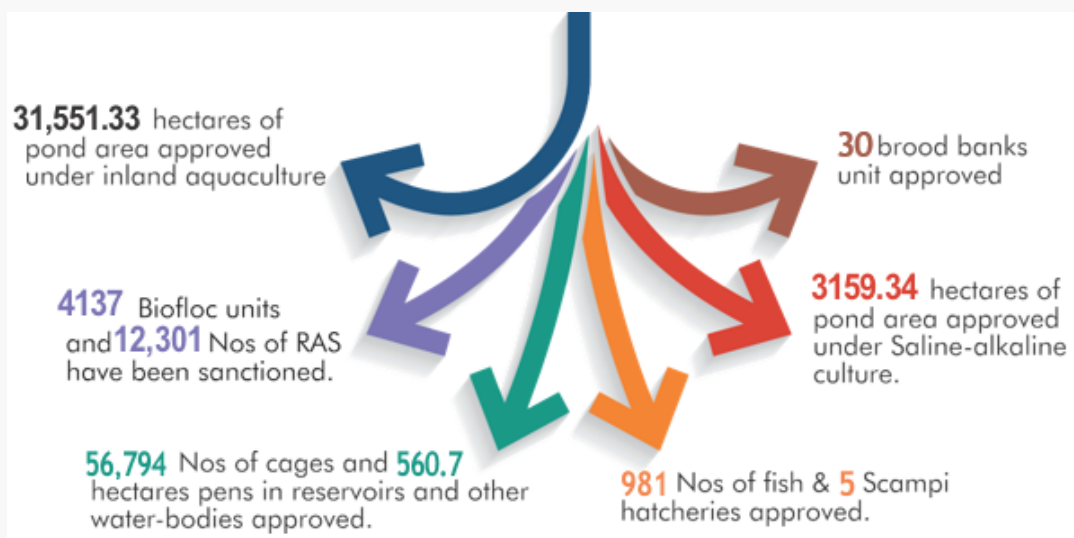
3.6.13 Investors’ Meet organized in Lakshadweep Islands – 13th December

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD), Government of India, in collaboration with the U.T. Administration of Lakshadweep, successfully organized the Investors’ Meet on “Investment Opportunities in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Lakshadweep Islands” at Bangaram Island, UT of Lakshadweep on 13th December, 2025. This was a first-of-its-kind Investors’ Meet in the Island wherein various Investors from across the country participated. During the Meet, an Interactive session held to provide platforms to the Investors to share experiences and highlight challenges. The Investors outlined several issues including transportation of the production to the mainland, cold storage requirement, ice plants, and development of chilled fish handling centres for post-harvest management.

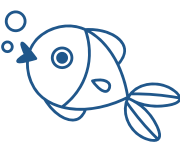
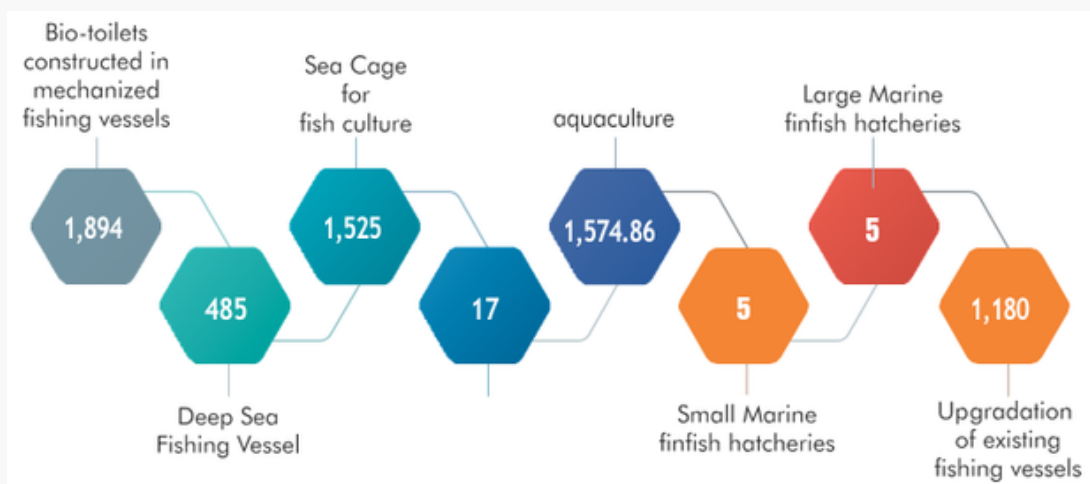
PMMSY PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Details of sector-wise Achievements under PMMSY till 31st December, 2025

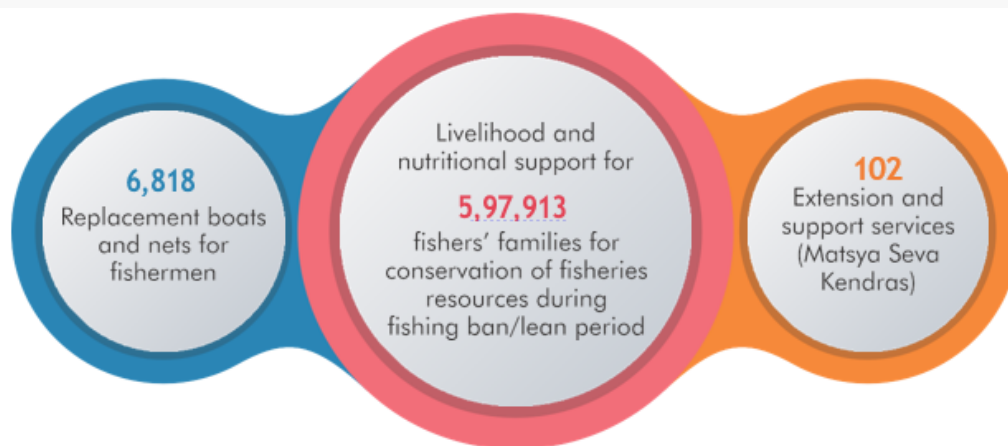
INLAND FISHERIES



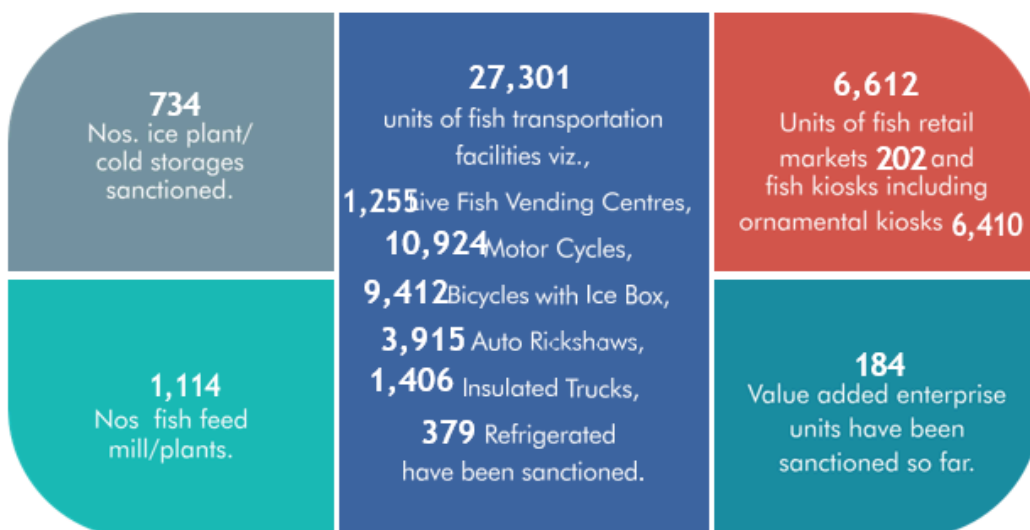
MARINE FISHERIES



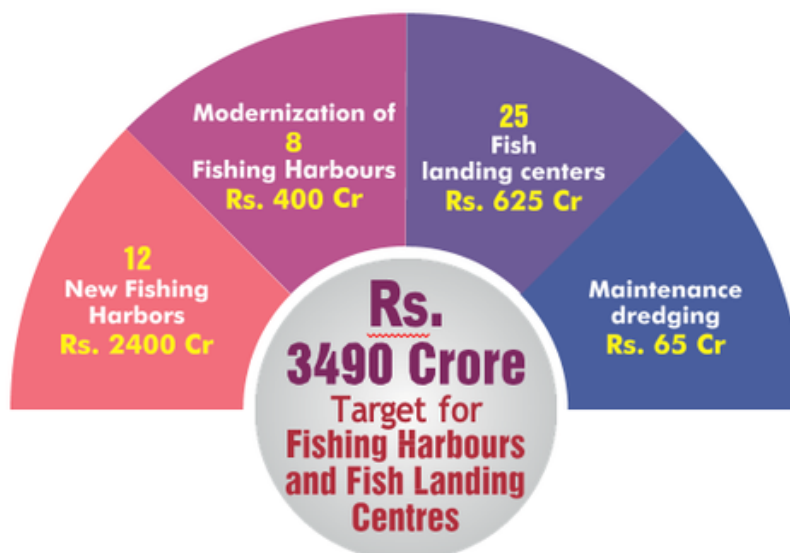
FISHERMEN WELFARE



FISHERIES INFRASTRUCTURE



FISHING HARBOURS & FISH LANDING CENTRES



Targets and Achievements of Fishing Harbour & Fish Landing Centre projects under PMMSY

(Rs. in crore)

Target/ componen	Target				Achievement		
	Item	No.	Investme nt	Central share	No.	Investme nt	Central Share
PMMSY Central Sector	FH modernizatio n	3	15.000	15.000	5	65.114	494.30*
PMMSY Centrally sponsored	FH modernizatio	5	25.000	15.000	11	26.354	15.812
	FH development	12	2,400.00	1,440.00	10	198.783	813.03**
	FLC development	25	62.500	37.500	22	32.658	20.497
	Maintenance dredging at existing FHs	13	6.500	3.900	10	5.223	2.803
	Total	58	3,490.00	2,154.00	58	328.132	1,698.46

* includes Rs.247.15 crore by MoPSW

** includes Rs.120 crore by MoPSW

AQUATIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT

18

Disease diagnostic
centre and quality
testing labs

28

Mobile centres
and
testing labs

8

Aquatic
referral lab

ORNAMENTA FISHERIES

2494

Ornamental fish rearing units
have been approved.

207

Integrated Ornamental fish
units (breeding and rearing)
have been approved.

SEAWEED CULTIVATION

65,480

Monoline tubenet approved
for seaweed culture.

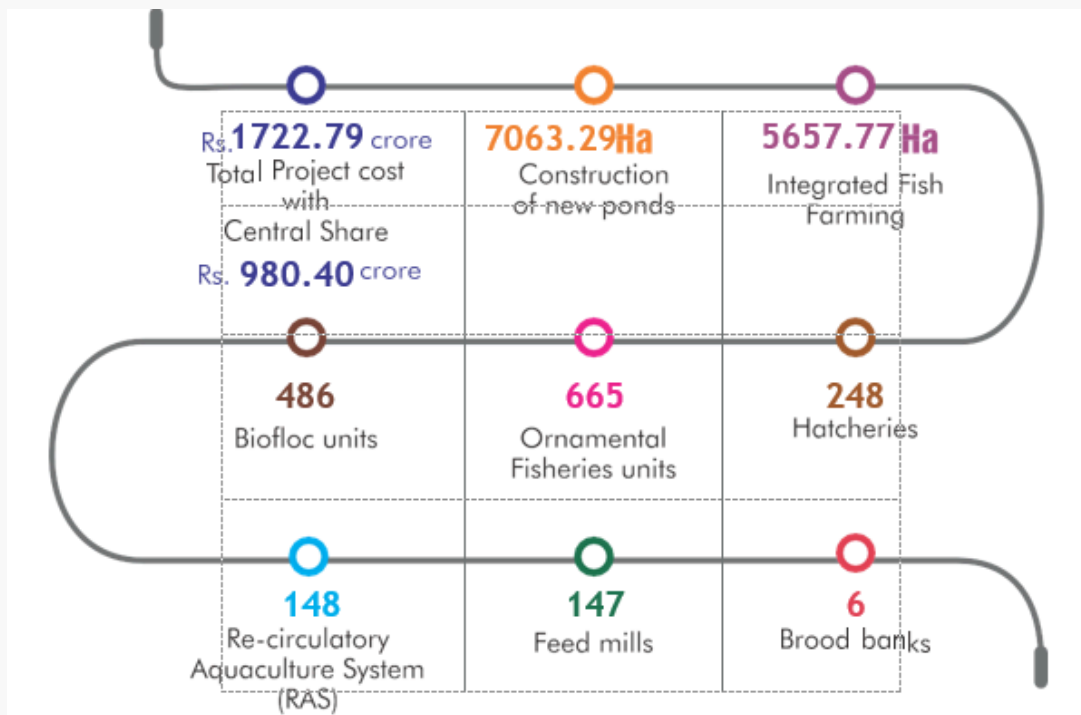
47,245

Rafts approved for
seaweed cultivation.

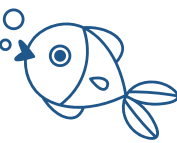
RIVER RANCHING

1007.59
Lakh
fingerlings
ranchd

DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH-EAST REGIONS



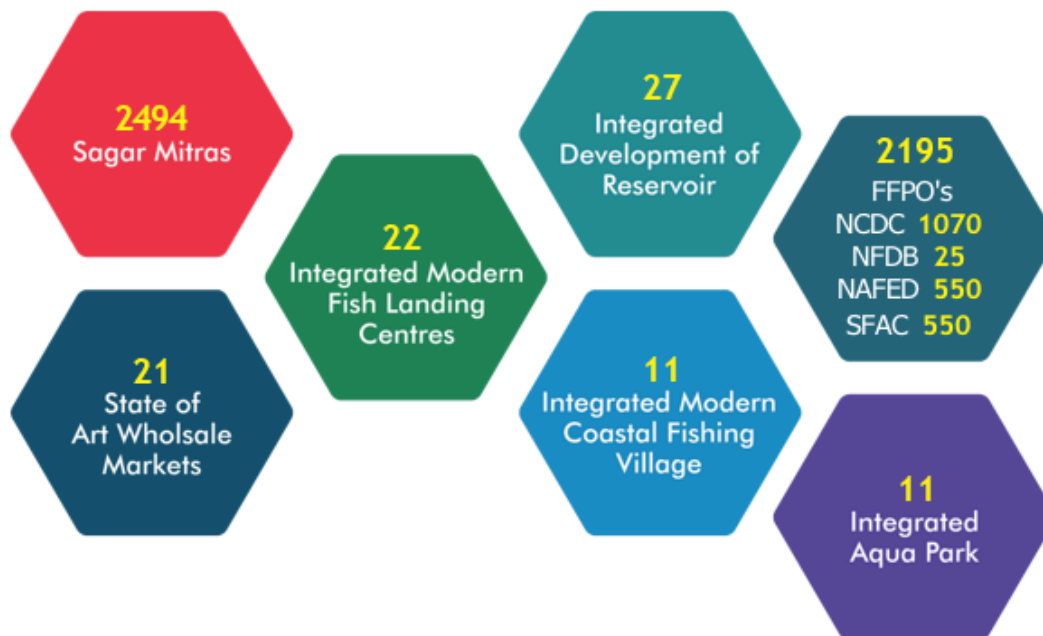
COLDWATER FISHERIES



ARTIFICIAL REEF

937
reef units

OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES



GALLERY

Northeast Region States Meet 2025 – 6th January







Fisheries Startup Conclave 2.0, Hyderabad – 8th March



Coastal States Fisheries Meet 2025 – 28th April











Foundation Stone was laid for an Integrated Aqua Park in Tripura- 18th May









“Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Meet 2025” – 13th June









Investors' Meet organized in Lakshadweep Islands – 13th December





World Fisheries Day 2025 – 21st November



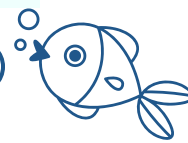
Hindi Salahakar Samiti



FISHERIES TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE GLOSSARY- June 16-20, 2025



Official Language Fortnight 14-28 Sept 2025





International Yoga Day



