

एम पी ई डी ए न्यूज़लेटर MPEDA NEWSLETTER

Vol. IV / No. 10 / JANUARY 2017



The Marine Products Export Development Authority

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

MPEDA House, Panampilly Avenue, Kochi - 682 036, Kerala, India

Phone: +91 484 2311979 Fax: +91 484 2313361

E-mail: ho@mpeda.gov.in Website: www.mpeda.gov.in

MPEDA Newsletter

Vol. IV No. 10 January 2017

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on behalf of

The Marine Products Export Development
Authority

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry,
Govt. of India)

MPEDA House, Panampilly Avenue,
Kochi - 682 036. Tel: +91 484 2311979
Email: support@mpeda.gov.in

Published at

MPEDA House
Panampilly Avenue,
Kochi - 682 036.

Asst. Editor

Mrs. Divya Mohanan K M
Junior Clerk

Cover design

Dr. T R Gibinkumar
Deputy Director (P&MP)

Printed at

PrintExPress
44/1469A, Asoka Road
Kaloor, Kochi - 682 017

On the Platter.....!!



Dear Friends,

As the New Year dawns, reports on marine products exports remain positive. I am hopeful that the trend will be sustained throughout the year and beyond. The Union budget has also brought good news with a better fund allocation for MPEDA for 2017-18.

However, we also faced up with new challenges in the form of Technical Barriers to Trade and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance measures. The US, under its Seafood Import Monitoring

Programme has notified the requirement of an Aggregated Harvest Report on all seafood consignments that reaches the country from 1st January 2018. This is done as a measure to ensure the traceability to the harvest and also to eliminate the importation of certain fish and fish products identified as being at a particular risk to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing or seafood fraud. Though farmed shrimps are currently not brought under the purview of this notification, it is expected that it will be included without delay, once the traceability information for domestic aquaculture based shrimp in US is established.

Under this notification, the exporters are expected to furnish the information of fishing vessels or aquaculture farms from where the raw material is procured to the importers. Needless to say, the system will have added efforts on documentation, which adds to the cost. However, this also prompts us to improvise our systems; and MPEDA is actively pursuing the enrolment of shrimp farms to supplement the traceability demands from importers and exporters alike.

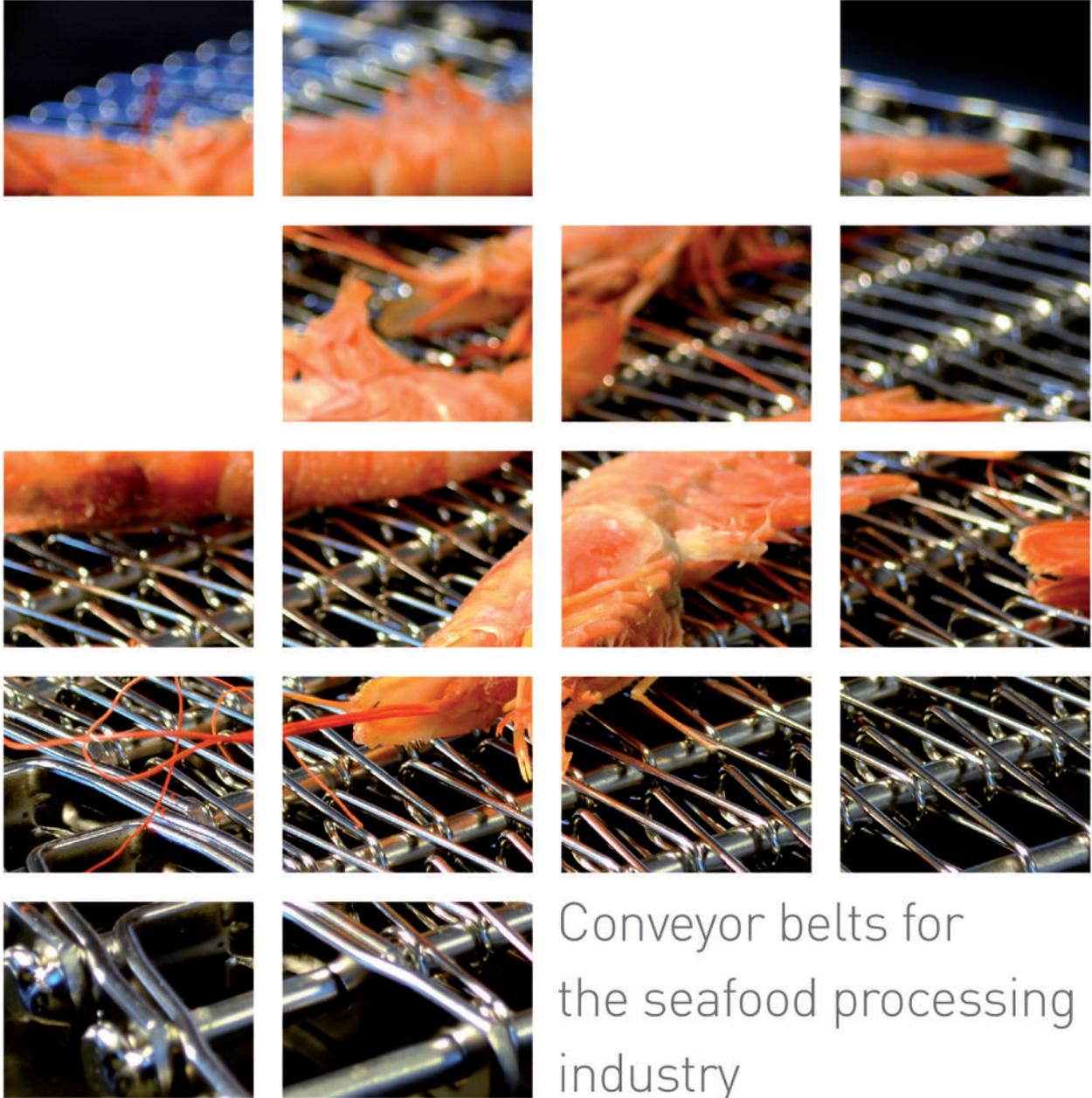
We also got the information that Saudi Arabia has banned the imports of shrimps from India in live, fresh / chilled as well as frozen forms, sourced from certain Indian states, due to the prevalence of Whitespot disease there. However, the country exempts cooked shrimp from the import ban. MPEDA feels that the decision is highly discriminatory and without any scientific backing, and hence this serves as a trade barrier to our shrimp exports to that nation. Such type of bans are claimed to be a part biosecurity measures to protect the native farmed species as well as related domestic fauna, but serves as trade blockades in effect.

These measures underline the fact that most of the countries target the products that are conventionally processed. It is the necessity of the hour that we may have to move forward to produce and export ready to eat products. We need to take up a resolution that this year we will shift our production focus from raw material supply to large scale manufacturing of high end value added products to cater to various retail markets.

Wish you all the best!

January 2017
Kochi - 36

Dr. A JAYATHILAK IAS
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Dr. A Jayathilak IAS is the new Chairman of INFOFISH

Government of India has nominated Dr. A Jayathilak IAS, Chairman, MPEDA as the new Chairman of INFOFISH, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, an intergovernmental organization for marketing information and technical advisory services for fishery products in the Asian and Pacific Region, for the year 2017. During the 31st Governing Council meeting of INFOFISH held in Putrajaya Lumpur, Malaysia, the Chairmanship has been officially handed over to India by the former Chairman of INFOFISH, Commander Sanaila Vitau Naqali of Fiji.

INFOFISH was established under a convention adopted at a conference convened by FAO in Kuala Lumpur in 1985, which entered into force in March 1987. INFOFISH has thirteen member countries viz., Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

INFOFISH is the leading source of marketing support for fish producers and exporters in the Asia-Pacific by facilitating buyer-seller interactions, publication of current and long-term marketing information and operation of technical advisory and specialized services. In addition to organizing exhibitions, conferences, workshops, seminars and training programs, INFOFISH undertakes consultancies on pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest aspects of fisheries among the member countries.



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MPEDA in Bengal Fish Fest 2017

The Bengal Fish Fest 2017 was organized jointly by the Department of Fisheries, West Bengal and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) during 6-8, January 2017 at Nalban Food Park, Kolkata. The fish festival showcased the fisheries industry in West Bengal and intended to attract more investments in the sector.

The Fest was inaugurated on 6th January by Mr. Subrata Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister of Panchayat & Rural Development, Govt. of West Bengal. Mr. Chandra Nath Sinha, Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Swapan Debnath, Hon'ble Minister of ARD & MSME, Mr. Sadhan Pande, Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs and Self Help Group & Self Employment, Mr. Indranil Sen, Hon'ble Minister of State, Tourism from Government of West Bengal, Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Hon'ble Mayor of Bidhannagar, Mr. Sumanta Chaudhuri, Managing Director, SFAC, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, and Mr. P K Mazumdar, Adviser



Visitors at MPEDA stall



Japanese delegates with MPEDA/RGCA officials at MPEDA stall



A view from the Buyer-Seller Meet

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0086-18660021004
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– Agriculture & Allied Sector to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal were present on the occasion. Representatives from a number of companies and business houses, Fisheries University & Institutes, and other stakeholders attended the event.

Amidst huge gathering, fish farmers, Fishermen Co-op Societies, CFCS etc in the different fields of fisheries sector who have performed best during 2016 were felicitated and awarded. For the highest export turnover, M/s. Magnum Exports, Kolkata was given an award.

Fisher-Fishermen/peoples/stake holders from different corners of the State, other States and countries like Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh and UAE, including President of ICC, which made the inaugural ceremony a truly colorful one.

MPEDA has taken an exhibition space of 18 sq. m. The show

participation was organized by the Regional Office and Regional Centre of MPEDA in Kolkata in association with RGCA. The stall of MPEDA exhibited live animals in four large aquarium tanks that included Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia and Mangrove crabs. Fish farmers, fisheries official, stakeholders and others visited MPEDA stall. MPEDA publications were also displayed and sold.

MPEDA through its Trade Promotion Office in Tokyo has also organized Japanese buyers for the Buyer Seller Meet held along the sidelines of the Fish Fest. 35 Buyers from 6 countries like Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh and UAE participated in the Business Meet. More than 77 exporters too participated in the Buyer Seller meet.



West Bengal Fisheries Department officials with MPEDA/RGCA staffs at MPEDA stall

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Mechanical Data : Size : 27 x 20 cms.
Printing : Offset (Multicolour)
Print Area : Full Page : 23 x 17.5 cm,
 Half Page : 11.5 x 17.5 cm

For details contact:
 Deputy Director (P & MP) / Editor, MPEDA Newsletter
 MPEDA House, Panampilly, Avenue, Cochin - 36
 Tel : +91-484-2321722, 2311979
 Telefax : +91-484-2312812
 E-mail : newslet@mpeda.gov.in, pub@mpeda.gov.in

Highlights of marine fish landings in selected harbours of India during November 2016

Sangeetha N R, Afsal V V, Neethu N J and Joice V Thomas, NETFISH-MPEDA

Introduction

Information on boat arrivals and fish landings at the major fishing harbours along the east and west coasts of India is recorded by NETFISH as part of MPEDA's catch certification system. NETFISH monitors the marine fish capture along Indian coast by recording the boat arrivals and fish landings at 46 major harbours and landing centres (Table 1) from the 9 maritime states in the country. The data collected are processed to arrive at species-wise, state-wise, region-wise and harbour-wise evaluation of landings using MS office (excel). This report highlights the marine fish landings at major harbours of India during November 2016.

Table 1. List of Harbours and landing centres selected for collecting the data

Sl. No.	State	Fishing harbour
1	Kerala	Bey pore
2		Puthiyappa
3		Thoppumpady
4		Munambam
5		Sakthikulangara
6		Thottapally
7		Kayamkulam
8		Vizhinjam

9	Karnataka	Mangalore
10		Malpe
11		Gangoli
12		Tadri
13		Karwar
14		Honnavar
15	Maharashtra	Harne
16		New Ferry Wharf
17		Ratnagiri (Mirkarwada)
18		Sasson Dock
19	Gujarat	Veraval
20		Porbandar
21		Mangrol
22	West Bengal	Digha (Sankarpur)
23		Deshapran
24		Namkhana
25		Sultanpur
26		Kakdwip
27		Raidigi
28	Odisha	Paradeep
29		Balaramgadi
30		Bahabalapur
31		Dhamara
32	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
33		Kakinada
34		Machilipatnam
35		Nizampatnam

36	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
37		Pazhaiyar
38		Nagapattinam
39		Tuticorin
40		Cuddalore
41		Mandapam
42		Chinnamuttom
43		Colachel
44		Pondicherry
45		Karaikal
46	Goa	Cutbona

Estimates based on landings

In all, around 1,04,157.92 tons of marine fishery resources were landed in 46 landing sites across the country during November 2016, into which the pelagic finfishes contributed a major share of 59,327.44 tons (57%). The share of Demersal finfishes was 22,565.94 tons (22%), whereas Shellfishes contributed 22,264.54 tons (21%) to the total catch (Fig. 1).

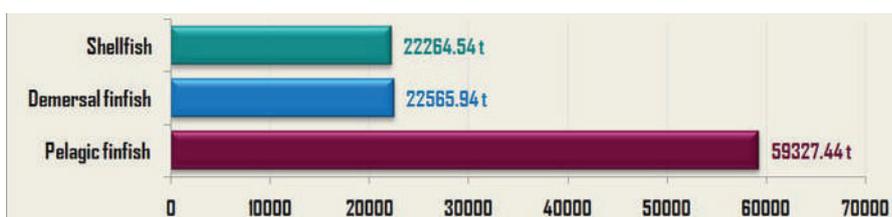


Fig. 1. Category-wise fish landings during November 2016

Among the 113 fish varieties recorded during the month, the top five species which together contributed about 53,233.19 tons (51%) to the total catch were Indian Oil Sardine, Indian Mackerel, Squid, Cuttlefish and Ribbon fish (Fig. 2). The rest of the quantity landed were

formed of 108 items, of which Dusky finned bullseye, Croaker, Japanese thread fin bream and Horse mackerel had a significant share of more than 2500 tons each. Barbed halfbeak was the species which recorded the least landing (0.05 tons).

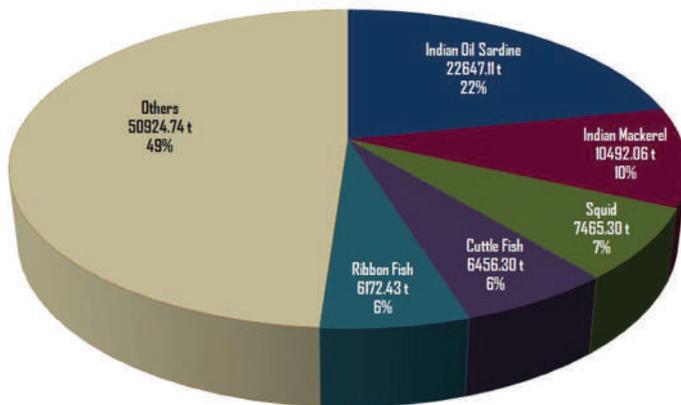


Fig. 2. Major items landed during November 2016

Total quantity of various pelagic, demersal and shellfish items recorded during the month is presented in Table 2. The species that contributed largely to the pelagic finfish landings were Indian Oil Sardine (22,647.11 tons) and Indian Mackerel (10,492.06 tons). Ribbon fish too contributed a good share of the pelagic landings (61,72.43 tons). Among demersal finfishes, Dusky finned bullseye and Blood coloured bullseye together contributed 7,603.62 tons. Croakers and Japanese Thread fin bream too clutched a good share of 3,105.67 tons and 2,739.42 tons respectively. Among the Shellfish stocks, the quantity of Molluscans landed totalled to 14,621.53 tons, which was around twice the total landing of Crustaceans (7,643.02 tons). The major share of Crustacean

landings was of Penaeid shrimps with 6,841.81 tons, out of which Karikkadi shrimp landing was the highest (2,036.08 tons). Molluscans such as Squid and Cuttlefish contributed largely to the shellfish landings with a share of 7,465.30 tons and 6,456.30 tons respectively.

Fish item	Quantity in tons	% of total catch
Pelagic finfish		
Indian oil sardine	22647.11	21.74
Indian mackerel	10492.06	10.07
Ribbon Fish	6172.43	5.93
Scads	2778.66	2.67
Horse mackerel	2509.03	2.41
Tunas	2453.60	2.36
Leather jacket	2388.10	2.29

Seer Fish	1639.45	1.57
Anchovies	1363.05	1.31
Trevallies	1147.05	1.10
Lesser Sardines	1124.42	1.08
Bombay Duck	1061.44	1.02
Snapper	706.18	0.68
Barracudas	618.56	0.59
Herrings	483.19	0.46
Hilsa	292.38	0.28
Queen fishes	287.93	0.28
Sail fish	271.83	0.26
Dolphin fish	230.81	0.22
Half beaks	160.08	0.15
Oriental Bonito	110.00	0.11
Marlins	103.20	0.10
Cobia	69.46	0.07
Mullet	57.25	0.05
Sea bass	38.54	0.04
Flat needle fish	36.96	0.04
Indian ilisha	20.93	0.02
Indian salmon	18.57	0.02
Rainbow runner	17.80	0.02
Silver sillago	15.16	0.01
Milk fish	8.90	0.01
Indian thread fish	3.35	0.00
Total	59327.44	56.96

Demersal finfish		
Bulls eyes	7603.62	7.30
Croakers	3105.67	2.98
Japanese Thread fin bream	2739.42	2.63
Cat fish	1870.58	1.80
Reef cods	1707.47	1.64
Lizard fish	1702.61	1.63
Pomfrets	1321.09	1.27
Sole fish	825.09	0.79
Eel	455.55	0.44
Goat fish	452.94	0.43
Moon fish	254.49	0.24
Rays	184.10	0.18

Ghol	73.78	0.07
Pony fishes	71.89	0.07
Emperor Bream	57.23	0.05
White snapper	42.05	0.04
Whip fin silver biddy	39.76	0.04
Long spine sea-bream	14.60	0.01
Parrot fish	13.82	0.01
Spine foots	12.35	0.01
Guitar fish	5.70	0.01
Trigger fish	5.00	0.00
Indian Halibut	3.05	0.00
Tiger Perch	1.70	0.00
Spade fish	1.50	0.00
Yellow fin sea bream	0.75	0.00
Filefish	0.16	0.00
Total	22565.94	21.67
Shellfish		
<i>Crustaceans</i>		
Penaeid Shrimps	6841.81	6.57
Sea Crab	553.84	0.53
Non-penaeid Shrimps	103.55	0.10
Lobsters	90.03	0.09
Mud Crab	53.80	0.05
Total Crustaceans	7643.02	7.34
<i>Molluscs</i>		
Squid	7465.30	7.17
Cuttlefish	6456.30	6.20
Octopus	699.93	0.67
Total Molluscs	14621.53	14.04
Total Shellfish	22264.54	21.38
Total Catch	104157.92	100.00

Region-wise landings

While assessing the landing data based on region (Fig. 3), the maximum quantity of 48,941.14 tons (47% of total catch) was recorded from South west coast comprised

of 15 of the selected landing sites spread over Kerala, Karnataka and Goa states. North West region consisting of 7 selected landing sites in Maharashtra and Gujarat too contributed a significant share of 40,637.74 tons (39%) to the total landing. Thus the landings from South west and North West together formed 86% of the total quantity

recorded during the month. Along the North east coast, landings from 7 landings sites in Odisha and West Bengal totalled to 10,608.68 tons (10%) and the least share was from South east where the contribution from 14 harbours in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh was only 3,970.36 tons (4%).

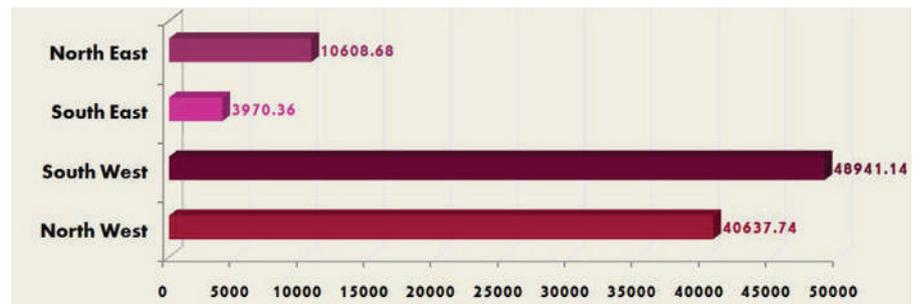


Fig. 3. Region-wise landings recorded during November 2016

In the South west and North West regions, pelagic finfish stocks dominated the landings and the quantity of pelagic finfishes landed in South west coast was significantly high during the month (Fig. 4). In the contrary, the North east and south east coasts recorded more landings

of shellfishes than pelagic finfishes. However, the difference was not much significant. The landings of Demersal finfishes were more than that of shellfishes in South west and North west regions where as in South east and North east coasts it was the least.

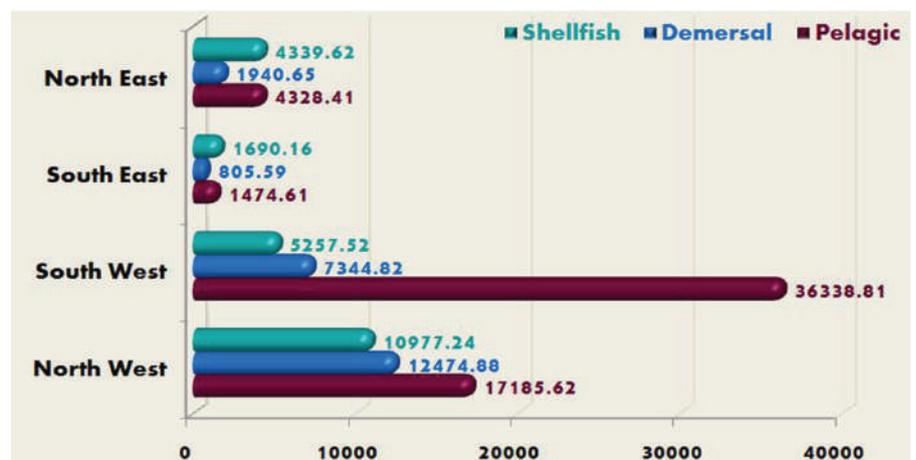


Fig. 4. Comparison of category-wise contribution (in tons) to the total landings of each region

Major five fishery items which contributed predominantly to the landings in each region are given in Table 3. Squid and Cuttlefish had attained positions among the major five items in South west, North West and South east regions with a percentage share varying around 4 to 12 and the maximum quantity was recorded from North West region. Indian Mackerel had contributed significantly (ranging from 7% to 12%) to the landings of South west, North west and North east regions among which the maximum quantity was recorded in South west. Ribbon fish too added 6-8% to the total quantity landed in North west, South east and North east coasts. The landing of Indian Oil Sardine was exceptionally high in South west coast whereas from other regions quantities ranging from 130-1500 tons only were recorded. The quantity of Dusky finned bullseye landed in South west and North West regions was also notably high and no record of the species was found along East coast during the month.

Table 3. Major items landed in each region during November 2016

Item	Quantity in tons	% of total landings of the region
South West		
Indian Oil Sardine	20527.85	41.94
Indian mackerel	5975.31	12.21
Bull's eye- dusky finned	2864.89	5.85
Squid	2087.30	4.26
Cuttlefish	1883.07	3.85

North West		
Squid	4875.897	12.00
Cuttlefish	3858.079	9.49
Indian mackerel	3547.360	8.73
Ribbon Fish	3384.465	8.33
Bull's eye- dusky finned	2320.300	5.71
South East		
Cuttlefish	510.415	12.86
Squid	253.545	6.39
Ribbon Fish	245.635	6.19
Tuna	209.200	5.27
Poovalan Shrimp	198.440	5.00
North East		
Karikkadi Shrimp	1364.299	12.86
Croaker	960.311	9.05
Deep sea Shrimp	834.518	7.87
Indian mackerel	807.113	7.61
Ribbon Fish	747.881	7.05

State-wise landings

In November 2016, Karnataka recorded the maximum marine fish landing (35,097.24 tons) grasping nearly 34% share of the total catch (Fig. 5). The subsequent positions were occupied by Gujarat and Maharashtra with a catch of 25,655.15 tons (25%) and 14,982.60 tons (14%) respectively. Together,

these three states accounted for around 73% of the total landings. Kerala, which recorded 12,438.62 tons, too contributed a significant share to the total catch during the month. Along East coast, West Bengal recorded the maximum quantity (7,522.53 tons). The state that recorded lowest landing was Andhra Pradesh (1,169.15 tons).

The major five fishery items that contributed significantly to the landings in each state during November are given in Table 4. Indian Mackerel, Indian Oil Sardine and Ribbon fish had recorded as the fishery items, which contributed considerably to the landings of 5 maritime states. In Karnataka, the landing of Indian Oil Sardine was exceptionally high as it formed more than 54% of the total landings. More than 60% of the landing in Goa was Indian Mackerel. In Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Squid had attained a position among the major 5 items of the state whereas Cuttlefish had got enlisted among the major items in Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In the East coast states, especially Andhra

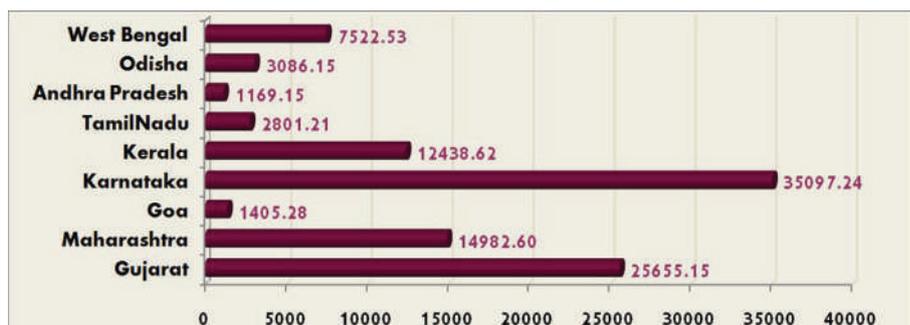


Fig. 5. State-wise fish landings (in tons) during November 2016

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Table 4. Major items landed in various states during November 2016

Item	Quantity in tons	% of total landings of the state
Kerala		
Bull's eye- blood coloured	1828.30	14.70
Squid	1241.05	9.98
Indian Oil Sardine	1180.21	9.49
Indian mackerel	1150.76	9.25
Cuttlefish	1103.29	8.87
Karnataka		
Indian Oil Sardine	19044.34	54.26
Indian mackerel	3972.05	11.32
Bull's eye-dusky finned	2864.89	8.16
Ribbon Fish	1242.41	3.54
Layang Scad	996.52	2.84
Goa		
Indian mackerel	852.50	60.66
Indian Oil Sardine	303.30	21.58
Tuna	129.60	9.22
Horse mackerel	42.90	3.05
Needle fish	34.90	2.48
Maharashtra		
Indian mackerel	3238.26	21.61
Horse mackerel	2039.53	13.61
Indian Oil Sardine	1458.96	9.74
Squid	1377.90	9.20
Deep Bodied sardinella	674.35	4.50

Gujarat		
Cuttlefish	3647.00	14.22
Squid	3498.00	13.63
Ribbon Fish	3107.00	12.11
Bull's eye-dusky finned	2320.30	9.04
Japanese Thread fin bream	2135.50	8.32
Tamil Nadu		
Cuttlefish	488.55	17.44
Squid	228.05	8.14
Indian Scad	139.81	4.99
Indian Oil Sardine	138.82	4.96
Ribbon Fish	126.04	4.50
Andhra Pradesh		
Pink Shrimp	150.88	12.91
Tuna	133.45	11.41
Ribbon Fish	119.60	10.23
Sea Crab	83.26	7.12
Flower Prawn	81.47	6.97
Odisha		
Karikkadi Shrimp	518.26	16.79
Ribbon Fish	505.52	16.38
Croaker	411.09	13.32
Cat fish	173.43	5.62
Poovalan Shrimp	153.39	4.97
West Bengal		
Karikkadi Shrimp	846.04	11.25
Deep sea Shrimp	834.52	11.09
Indian mackerel	702.48	9.34
Croaker	549.22	7.30
Bombay Duck	537.31	7.14

Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal shrimps were found to accomplish position among the major species.

Harbour-wise landings

From the 46 harbours selected for data collection, 22 belonged to West coast and 24 to the East coast. Harbour-wise landings along West coast and East coast are graphically presented in figures 6 & 7 respectively. Among these harbours, Veraval harbour in Gujarat registered the maximum landing of 10,852.34 tons (10%). The second and third positions were occupied by Honnavar and Porbandar harbours with landings of 9,828.45 tons and 9,777.31 tons respectively. Deshapran harbour in West Bengal with a contribution of 3,252.60 tons had the maximum landing along East coast. Out of the 46 landing sites, 22 recorded a landing of more than 1000 tons. Of which 18 harbours belonged to the West coast and the remaining were in East coast. The least quantity landed was at Vizhinjam harbour in Kerala (25.24 tons).

Comparative analysis

Table 6 shows a comparative analysis of the November month's data with that of September and October. The total fish landing decreased in November by around 5,600 tons compared to that of October. The Pelagic finfish landing has increased by 4% during November and accordingly, the percentage share of Shellfish and Demersal finfish landings had decreased. Indian Oil Sardine continued in the top most position by recording maximum landing among the various fishery items

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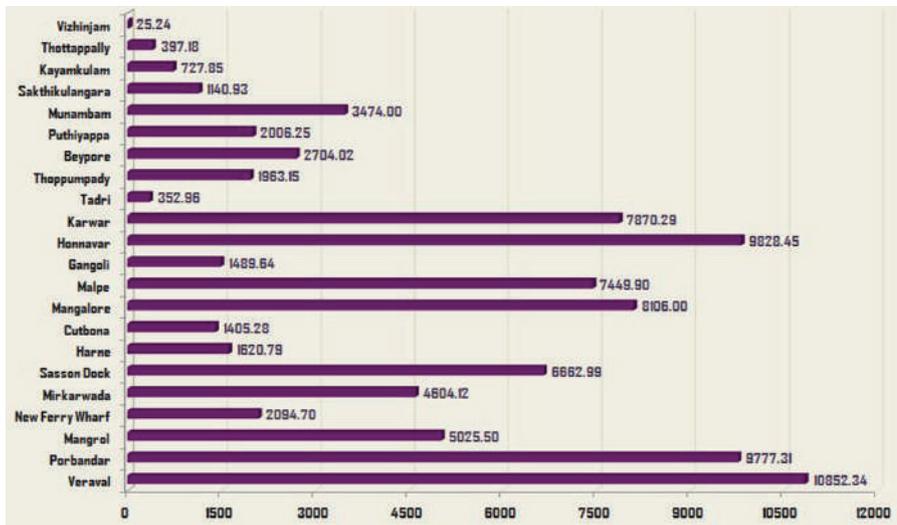


Fig. 6. Landings (in tons) at harbours along west coast during November 2016

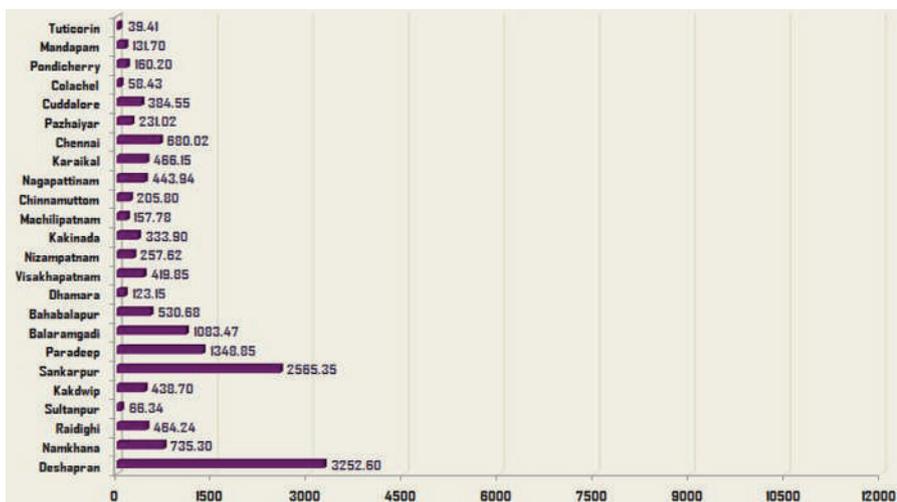


Fig. 7. Landings (in tons) at harbours along east coast during November 2016

Estimates based on boat arrival

In all, 35,597 boat arrivals were registered during the month in the selected harbours. Harbours those recorded more than 1000 boat landings are given in table 5. Veraval and Porbandar fishing harbours in Gujarat were in the top positions in the number of boat arrivals. From Veraval, 4,497 boat arrivals and from Porbandar 2,926 boat arrivals were recorded during November. Mangalore and Malpe harbours in Karnataka also recorded more than 2000 boat arrivals during the period. More than 80% of the fishing vessels operated was trawlers, and the remaining were purse seiners, ring seiners, gill netters and traditional crafts.

Table 5. Fishing harbours which recorded > 1000 boat landings during November 2016

Sl. No.	Fishing harbours	State	Number of boat landings
1	Veraval	Gujarat	4497
2	Porbandar	Gujarat	2926
3	Mangrol	Karnataka	2110
4	Malpe	Karnataka	2006
5	New Ferry Wharf	Maharashtra	1642
6	Mangalore	Karnataka	1642
7	Sasson Dock	Maharashtra	1630
8	Harne	Maharashtra	1314
9	Honnavar	Karnataka	1140
10	Karwar	Karnataka	1027
11	Deshapran	West Bengal	1006
12	Sankarpur	West Bengal	1001

landed and Karnataka stayed on the apex position among the states in terms of fish landings. Veraval harbour continued in the position of the harbour with highest landing, though a decrease in percentage share was observed over the months. Total boat landings decreased in November by recording around 3700 boats less than that of October.

Table 6. Comparative analysis of the data

	September 2016	October 2016	November 2016
Total Landings	88,248.95 t	1,09,796.41 t	1,04,157.92 t
Landing of Pelagic finfishes	43%	53%	57%
Landing of Demersal finfishes	25%	23%	22%
Landing of Shellfishes	32%	24%	21%
Species recorded highest landing	Squid (12%)	Indian Oil Sardine (16%)	Indian Oil Sardine (22%)
State recorded highest landing	Gujarat (29%)	Karnataka (33%)	Karnataka (34%)
Harbour recorded highest landing	Veraval (16%)	Veraval (12%)	Veraval (10%)
Total Boat landings	34,716	39,305	35,597

Conclusion

In November 2016, a total of 1,04,157.92 tons of marine fish landings was recorded from 46 major fishing harbours of India wherein pelagic finfish (57%) contributed more quantity than demersal finfish (22%) and shellfish (21%) stocks. Karnataka recorded the highest landing among the 9 maritime states and the landings from West coast states together formed 86% of the total catch. More than 1000 tons of fish landings were reported from 22 of the selected harbours and the Veraval harbour recorded the highest landing with the maximum boat arrivals.

NETFISH organizes medical camps for fishers in Paradeep

Paradeep is one among the major harbours in Odisha where a huge number of fishers, boat crews, harbour workers and fish traders are involved in the day to day fishing business. For a good medical facility, these people have to travel a fairly long distance from the harbour. Identifying the importance of medical fitness among the users of the harbour, NETFISH has decided to organize free medical camps in the harbour at regular intervals.

Accordingly, two medical camps were organized in Paradeep harbour on 26th December 2016 and 24th January 2017. NETFISH State Coordinator Mr. Subhrakanta Mohapatra along with Mr. Gayadhar Jena from SRMSS, member NGO, did the arrangements for the medical camp with the support of a medical team including two doctors, one pathologist, one pharmacist and supporting staff. Publicity works including mike announcement were done in the fishing harbour and all cooperative societies were communicated over phone to inform respective crew members and trawler owners on the health check-up through medical camp. Trawler owners association also coordinated the efforts for this medical camp.

Around 204 fishers attended the medical camp held in December and the one held in January had participation from 203 fishers. General medical examinations such as height, weight, BMI, fat content, random blood glucose level, blood

pressure, etc. and blood grouping were done by the medical team and those detected with minor and major ailments were further directed for pathology test. Based on the pathology test report medicines were prescribed and free medicines were dispensed to them. The medical

camps thus helped to bring free healthcare and health information to the fishers and to identify the common health problems of the community. Awareness on the need for personal hygiene in prevention of serious diseases was also done as part of these camps.



A view of the medical camp



Medical team with NETFISH coordinators

MPEDA awareness campaigns to promote ornamental fish culture

Regional Office, Kochi

MPEDA, Regional Office, Kochi has organized 3 awareness programmes on 16th, 27th and 31st of December, 2016, at Kothamangalam, Kasargod and Chalakkudy of Kerala

respectively. The programmes were aimed at creating awareness on ornamental fish culture and financial assistance schemes extended by MPEDA. These programmes benefitted 215 participants. The campaigns had lectures by Dr.

C R Renjith Kumar, Technical Consultant, MPEDA RO, Kochi, on the basic aspects of ornamental fish culture and the financial schemes of MPEDA to establish Ornamental Fish Breeding Units.



Regional Office, Visakhapatnam

Two awareness programmes were organized through MPEDA Regional Office, Visakhapatnam on 7th and 20th December 2016. The campaigns were organized in the districts of Visakhapatnam and

Vijayanagaram of Andhra Pradesh. Dr. A Ansar Ali, Deputy Director, MPEDA RO, Visakhapatnam inaugurating the programme has explained the present status of the ornamental fish Industry. The campaigns were marked with the

presence of 80 members from different SHGs, Societies and some interested farmer groups. Mr. K Anil Kumar, Technical Consultant, MPEDA RO, Visakhapatnam has explained the food and feeding habits of ornamental fishes. The



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participants were also detailed about the assistance schemes operated by MPEDA in establishing Ornamental Fish Breeding Units. Literatures relevant to the dealt topics were also distributed to the participants.

Sub Regional Office, Mangalore

MPEDA, Sub-Regional Office, Mangalore, has organized 4

awareness programmes at the villages of Tagghalli, Kennalu, Saloor and Sirsi of Karnataka on 10th, 11th, 15th and 28th of December, 2016 respectively. The programmes were attended by 71 beneficiaries, from different SHGs involving both men and women members, wherein they were explained about the financial

assistance schemes operated by MPEDA for setting up of Ornamental Fish Breeding Units. Technical Consultant, Mr. Varuna Baglodi, has also briefed the participants on the general aspects of ornamental fish culture and trade. Brochures and pamphlets imprinted with relevant literatures were distributed to the attendees of the programmes.



Technical Consultant, Bihar

MPEDA organized 4 awareness programmes during December, 2016, through Mr. Avinash Kumar Shrivastava, Technical Consultant

(Ornamental Fish Division), stationed at Bihar. The campaigns were conducted in the villages of Kapchahi (6th December 2016) and Bakarganj (26th and 27th

December 2016). 99 farmers were given awareness on the financial assistance schemes of MPEDA. The participants were also explained about the culture aspects of ornamental fish and its advantages.





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Sundarban Kristi Mela -O- Loko Sanskriti Utsab – a report

The 21st Sundarban Kristi Mela -O- Loko Sanskriti Utsab, a 10-day long Mega Exhibition-cum-Agriculture, Small Industry, Science and Cultural fair, from 20-29, December 2016 was organized by Kultali Milan Tirtha Society, Kultali, Basanti, South 24 Parganas. The fair has gained recognition every year as one of the great and colourful fair through the participation of the Governments, both central and state and other private organizations together with notable NGOs. 40 Central govt. department/organizations, 7 state govt. department/organizations and nearly 200 private organizations were attended the Mela. MPEDA had displayed banners on knowledge based management to conduct extension and awareness activities, trainings etc. through Network for Fish Quality Management and Sustainable Fishing (NETFISH) & National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA).

The exhibition was inaugurated by Justice Narayan Chandra Shil, Ex-Chairman, Human Rights Commission. Many dignitaries such as Ministers, ex-ministers, MPs, MLAs, eminent officials from Government, financial, banking sectors, etc. were participated in the fair. The Exhibition-cum-Fair was purely educative with a view to disseminate information regarding nationwide development programmes to the people of Sundarbans, who are extremely backward and poor.

The Exhibition-cum-Fair had been divided into mainly five zones, those were- (1) Education & Culture Park, (2) Amusement Park, (3) Buying & Selling Park, (4) Food Park and (5) Badaban park. More than five lakh visitors turned out in ten days from remote villages of the Sundarbans and other regions. The fair had educative exhibition, discussions with constructive criticisms,

workshop/seminars, various competitions, blood donation camp etc. Seminar on Digital India; Carrier Guidance; the Theme Vision of India for a New Era; Sustainable Water Management; Agro Forestry System, Swacha Bharat, Fasal Bima Yojona; Beti Bachao, Beti Padoo etc. were organized by Kultali Milan Tirtha Society; Workshop on cash less payment by NIELIT was organized by the Mela committee.



Hon'ble Justice Narayan Chandra Shil lighting lamp during inauguration



A display of MPEDA banner

AQUACULTURE SCENE

Training programmes and campaigns in aquaculture by MPEDA field offices

Satellite Centre, Ratnagiri

MPEDA Satellite Centre, Ratnagiri organized a 5-day training programme for SC/ST beneficiaries from 20-24, September 2016 on 'Eco-friendly and sustainable shrimp/prawn farming and diversification of aquaculture' at Nanij village in Ratnagiri district. The programme was attended by 20 beneficiaries.

The training programme was inaugurated by Mrs. Sharmila Gawade, Sarpanch, Nanij village. The technical sessions were handled by Dr. Vishnudas Gunaga, Junior Technical officer (Aqua), Satellite Centre, Ratnagiri, Mr. Mangesh Gawade, Field Supervisor, MPEDA Regional Centre, Panvel and resource persons from College of Fisheries. Topics such as site selection, harvest and culture techniques involved in crab/seabass/tilapia were presented and discussed. Leaflets related to shrimp farming and diversification of aquaculture were also distributed to the trainees.

On the last day of the programme, a group discussion was arranged where the participants could interact with the MPEDA officials/resource persons on various issues related to shrimp farming and diversification of aquaculture. Certificates were also distributed to the trainees at the end.

Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar

MPEDA Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar organized a 3-day training programme from 23-25, November 2016 on "Adoption of BMPs in shrimp farming & species diversification" in the meeting hall at Talamala village in Puri district, Odisha for 21 shrimp farmers.

The training programme was inaugurated by Mr. Balkrishna Penthoi, Sarpanch, Talamala Panchayat, Puri district. Technical sessions were handled by Mr. U C Mohapatra, Deputy Director, Mr. S M Shirodkar, Junior Technical Officer, MPEDA, Mr. Sakrajit Patashani, Field Manger, NaSCA and resource person from State Fisheries



Dr. Patan, Associate Professor, College of Fisheries, Ratnagiri delivering a guest lecture



A view of the participants

Department. Topics such as status of aquaculture in Odisha, adoption of BMPs and other technical aspects from site selection, pond construction to harvesting, assistance/financial schemes of MPEDA, biological aspects of shrimp, selection of quality seeds, transportation, acclimatization and stocking of seeds, pond preparation, soil/water quality management, feed and feeding management, disease prevention and avoiding use of banned antibiotics/ medicine, bio security measures, economics of shrimp farming, farm enrollment and GPS in aquaculture, aqua society formation and its benefits, introduction of diversified species, viz; mud crab, sea bass, tilapia etc. were presented and discussed. Pond data registers, booklets on BMPs in shrimp farming, leaflets against antibiotic abuse in aquaculture and other relevant literatures were provided to the trainees during registration. A short film on Shrimp farming, Crab culture, Sea bass culture, Tilapia culture was also shown.

On 24th November 2016, a field visit was arranged to nearby *P. monodon* / *L. vannamei* farms to provide an opportunity to the trainees to familiarize with bio security measures, shrimp health check, feed check tray observation, monitoring and maintaining water quality, etc.

A group discussion was also arranged for trainees on 25th November 2016 to interact with MPEDA/State Fisheries officials and to summarize technical aspects taught during three days. The valedictory function was attended by Mr. Madhusudhan Giri, Assistant Fisheries Officer, Puri district the certificates and stipend.



Mr. B Penthoi, Sarpanch delivering inaugural address



Mr. U C Mohapatra, Deputy Director addressing the farmers



A view of trainees

Shrimp Farmers' Meet on "Responsible shrimp farming & diversification in aquaculture"

Scientific shrimp culture is gaining momentum in Gop and Kakatpur blocks of Puri district after a good result seen in the nearby Astarang block. Introduction of *L. vannamei* has contributed for development of more shrimp farms in these areas. Majority of the tiger shrimp farms are being converted to *L. vannamei* farms while the new farms target *L. vannamei* only. Puri district is suitable for higher production as it has natural source of good quality tidal water unlike the areas near Chilka in the district. Some farmers have shown interest in tilapia and mud crab culture also.

A Shrimp Farmers' meet was organized by the MPEDA Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar on "Responsible shrimp farming and diversification in aquaculture" in Astaranga, Puri district on 20th December 2016. 112 participants including shrimp farmers, feed dealers/input suppliers and officials of MPEDA, NaCSA, ICAR-CIFA, CMFRI, State Fishery Department attended the meet. Participants were provided with promotional materials, leaflets, etc.

Dr. P Jayasankar, Director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar inaugurated the programme. Mr. Swadin Kumar Nayak, Chairman, Astaranga Panchayat Samiti was the Guest of honour. Other dignitaries present

were Mr. Santosh Dalai, District Fisheries Officer, Puri, Dr. Reeta Jayasankar, Principal Scientist, CMFRI, Puri and Mr. Binod Kumar Swain Block Development Officer, Astaranga.

In the welcome address, Mr. U C Mohapatra, Deputy Director (Aquaculture), MPEDA, Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar presented a brief account on the recent trends of shrimp culture development in Odisha and its share in country's export. He explained various promotional activities of the MPEDA, financial schemes and its work programmes including GPS mapping and farm enrollment, diversification of aquaculture for export, cooperative approach through Aqua Clubs, revamping of

PCR diagnostic lab at Gopalpur, QC lab at Bhubaneswar etc.

Dr. P Jayasankar, Director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar while appreciating MPEDA to organize such a programme, suggested to address the issues responsibly and make the venture viable and sustainable. He has requested the farmers to update themselves on the recent developments in aquaculture through regular interactions with technical experts. He has advised the farmers to utilize the areas as per species suitability and on maintaining the mineral balance in *L. vannamei* culture ponds, besides adopting good management practices.



Dr. P Jayasankar, Director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar inaugurating the programme

Mr. Santosh Dalai, District Fisheries Officer, Puri during his felicitation, urged the farmers to register their shrimp farms with CAA. He has explained State Government assistance schemes, procedure for CAA registration and assured to help in this regard to follow code of practices, guidelines for better growth in aquaculture sector.

Dr. Reeta Jayasankar, Principal Scientist, CMFRI, Puri suggested to lower the production cost to sustain in the sector. She has requested the farmers to make aqua clubs and have interactions with MPEDA officials regularly for interactions on recent issues and developments in the trade. She has also dealt with culture and production of mud crab, mussels, and other brackish water fin fishes in suitable areas to increase farmers' income.

Mr. Swadin Kumar Nayak, Chairman, Astaranga Panchayat Samiti recalled that he was benefitted by MPEDA earlier and started scientific shrimp farming first time in Puri district to get higher production. He has expressed confidence that the farmers will get successful production, if the ponds are managed carefully.

Mr. Prabitra Swain, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar and Mr. Binod Kumar Swain, Block

Development Officer, Astaranga also spoke. Mr. N V Tambada, Assistant Director, MPEDA RC, Bhubaneswar proposed the vote of thanks.

During the technical session, topics such as *L. vannamei* culture practices, diversification in aquaculture for exportable species, viz., Mud Crab and Tilapia, common

shrimp diseases and their prevention were presented and discussed. A short film in local language on adoption of BMPs through Aqua Society was also shown to the participants.

A group discussion was arranged afterwards to clear the doubts of farmers on various topics.



Mr. U C Mohapatra, Deputy Director, MPEDA, Bhubaneswar addressing farmers



A view of participants



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MPEDA participates in Haritholsavam 2016 at Cochin

Haritholsavam 2016 (Poultry Ayur Agro Pet Expo 2016) was organised from 7-16, October 2016 at Marine Drive, Ernakulam organized by Farmers Association of India, Ernakulam with the support of central and state government. 'World Egg Day' was also observed on 9th October 2016.

In the exhibition, stalls for entrepreneur education such as Hi-tech Poultry, Ayurveda, Organic Farming, Pet-Show, Waste-management, Animal Protection, Tourism, Sports, Cultural activities and commercial stalls was organized. In addition, seminars and workshops for a variety of subject and various programmes hosted by

prominent artists and organizations and attended by many ministers, MPs, MLAs, prominent artists including a Hi-tech Amusement Park was being organised as a part of the Poultry Ayur Agro Pet-Expo 2016.

The expo was inaugurated by Mr. K T Jaleel, Hon'ble Minister for Local Self Governments, Welfare of Minorities, Wakf and Haj Pilgrimage, Government of Kerala. The stalls were opened by Mr. Hybi Eden, MLA on 7th October 2016. Around 50 organizations participated in the expo. The exhibition presented latest developments in the field of Science & Technology including organic farming, poultry science,

waste management, apiculture, mushroom cultivation, aquaponics etc.

MPEDA has participated in the expo through its Regional Centre, Kochi, by taking an exhibition space of 9 sq. m. MPEDA stall has displayed Aquaponics system, which is a combination of fish and plant production using aquaculture and hydroponics systems, ornamental fish aquarium etc. Exhibition stall was visited by more than 1000 people from all walks of life including Ministers, entrepreneurs, academicians, researchers, students and beneficiaries of MPEDA programmes during this 10 days expo.



A view of the exhibition

MPEDA organizes campaign on digital payments In Andhra Pradesh during National Youth Day

A campaign on activities on digital payments was conducted by MPEDA Regional Centre (Aqua), Vijayawada in Krishna Revu, Nagayalanka Centre, Krishna district on 12th January 2017 as a part of the commemoration of National Youth day.

The campaign was attended by 16 farmers, mostly farming mud crabs,

from nearby areas. The concept of digital transaction was discussed in detail. The farmers were requested to do transaction through net banking and to increase the use of card payments for all utilities to move towards cashless economy. Most of the farmers were found to hold debit cards. The various modes of making transactions with debit cards were explained including the

security basics to be executed. All transactions, from sourcing of inputs to utility payments were explained to transfer to cashless mode. The prototype of the online payments was demonstrated. The concept of internet banking was also explained and the benefits were also established among the farmers. The meeting was also attended by NaCSA officials.



Mr. Archiman Lahiri, Assistant Director explaining the features and usages of debit cards

Carrefour Belgium decides to stop selling pangasius

Carrefour Belgium has decided to stop stocking pangasius and to discontinue sales of this particular fish in both its fresh seafood (fish counter and self-service) and frozen foods sections. This decision affects both its own-brand products, as well as those of national brands.

The practice of consuming pangasius has been drawing criticism for a number of years now. Carrefour has always taken

all necessary precautions to ensure that the merchandise that it sells is of a high quality. It does this by holding its suppliers to the strict requirements detailed in the specifications that it imposes on them and by carrying out regular checks at farms and production sites.

However, although Carrefour is absolutely certain that the quality of the pangasius that it has been

selling has been impeccable, the impact that these fish farms has been having on the environment cannot be controlled (water pollution generated by large quantities of excreta and food waste).

In France, Carrefour also stopped selling the pangasius to fresh fish counters

- www.carrefour.com

Blue revolution: West Bengal eyes fishery as sunrise sector

West Bengal has categorized fisheries sector as a sunrise sector providing investment opportunities in areas of fish production, fish exports, fish processing and fish tourism. While the state wants to give a major boost in fish production to unleash the target of the National Fisheries Development Board of increasing productivity by 8% annually to touch 15 million tones of production by 2020, it wants to tap a considerable portion of the Rs 3,000 crore umbrella scheme, which seeks to bring about blue revolution and integrated development and management of fisheries.

Soumyajit Das, Director, West Bengal State Fisheries Board,

said the state has send a Rs 250 crore first phase proposal, which comprise Rs 100 crore de-siltation, Rs 50 crore seed culture and Rs 100 crore processing. But as a part of integrated development and management of fisheries, the state along with development of pisciculture have taken steps in creation of infrastructural facilities like construction of rural roads, housing, rural electrification, tube wells community halls and auditorium in both inland and marine fishing villages.

The state has carved out 810 large water bodies for fisheries, for which Rs 23 crore have been spent on providing fish food. The government will create an integrated

fisheries zone, develop fishery estates, develop Sunderbans and Digha as special fishery zones, promote farming of large fish and provide land and associated legal documents to homeless fishermen as a part of integrated development and management of fisheries. According to Chandranath Sinha, state's minister for fisheries, the government has framed West Bengal Fisheries Investment Policy -2015 for micro, small, medium & large enterprises in fisheries sector, which focuses on extending fiscal incentives for setting up of new micro, small, medium and large enterprises. "This will propel the growth of the sector as a whole and encourage the development of

these enterprises even in the least developed areas of the state,” Sinha said.

He said since West Bengal accounted for 20% of the country's total fish production at 16.71 lakh metric ton in 2016 and total exports of marine products was \$ 530.91 million implying 11.33% of the total marine products exports worth \$ 4687.94 million from India in 2016, we can consider enhancing both production, processing and exports to fetch more revenue for the state. “We are working closely with the National Fisheries Board to this end,” Sinha said adding that the state has tied up with the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to attract investment in fisheries sector and promote it as a sunrise sector. Both ICC and the state government have joined hands in organizing Bengal Fish Fest, an initiative to attract investment in the state fishery sector.

However, such fest should go beyond the boundaries of Bengal and even beyond the boundaries of India for promoting it as a sunrise sector, felt a fishery department official.

ICC president Aditya Agarwal said if investments were to be attracted there could be certain initiatives from the government's part including defined timelines with regard to all clearances and labour dispute resolution mechanism that would create a more conducive business environment. The government could lease out water bodies on a private- public –partnership mode to encourage joint ventures with the private sector in the entire value chain of the fisheries industry in areas of infrastructure, research and international marketing. Moreover skill development programmes on a large scale could be established that would enhance the quality of

human resources in the sector and bolster investment.

Das said West Bengal was poised to produce more than 18 lakh metric ton fish in FY 17 of which 75% was fresh water and 25% brackish water. Although crab, shrimp and fresh water prawn exports were on the rise, Vietnam was emerging as a close competitor to India especially in the area of tiger prawn. Although India was a major importer of Hilsa from Bangladesh, Bangladesh was emerging as a new export market for India besides the conventional markets of Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, UAE and parts of Europe.

The state will have to work on market intervention scheme for identifying new markets. Fish tourism could be promulgated on a large scale to invite private companies for investment, Agarwal said.

- www.financialexpress.com

CMFRI lists climate change impact on fisheries to SAARC body

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has submitted the Country Status Report (CSR) on the impact of climate change on the coastal fisheries and aquaculture sectors in India.

The report was presented during a video conference convened by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) with representatives from SAARC nations.

The video conference was part of the Dhaka headquartered SAC's

initiative to assess the impact of climate change on the agriculture sectors of the SAARC member countries and come up with resilient strategies.

A three-member team headed by CMFRI Director A Gopalakrishnan represented India in the conference.

The team presented the report, which included details of issues and challenges developing owing to climate change in the coastal

fisheries and aquaculture sectors in India.

PU Zacharia, Project Coordinator of National Innovations on Climate Resilient Aquaculture (NICRA), and Grinson George, Senior Scientist, CMFRI, were the other members of the CMFRI team who prepared the CSR which exposed disruptions occurring due to climate change in areas such as marine ecosystem, fish stock, harvesting sector, aquaculture, market and trade.

The present condition of fishing communities was also included in the report.

Remedial steps

During the conference, the SAARC representatives reviewed the remedial steps to be taken to mitigate

the impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture, and finalised a set of recommendations to be followed by the member countries in future.

The meeting prioritised, in the recommendations, developing collaborative and comprehensive

efforts to address climate vulnerabilities and commissioning of a SAARC-level task force to formulate strategies to mitigate climate change impact.

- Business Line

Training-cum-capacity building program at Daseipur, Gopalaganda Reservoir, Ganjam district, Odisha

With a view to popularize the newly evolved harvest and post harvest techniques among the tribal fishermen and women a training program-cum-field demonstration was organized under Tribal Sub Plan of ICAR-CIFT at Daseipur village of Gopalaganda Reservoir, Ganjam Dist., Orissa during 1-3 December, 2016. In the program, improved harvest and post harvest practices for inland fisheries developed by ICAR-CIFT was demonstrated to the tribal fishers. The Department of Fisheries, Government of Odisha rendered logistic support in conducting the program which was attended by about 80 fisherwomen and men.

The Chief Guest Mr. R N Mishra, Associate Professor, College of Fisheries, Rangeilunda, Berhampur in his inaugural address emphasized the importance of new technologies developed by ICAR-CIFT under the aegis of ICAR. He also mentioned that ICAR is making effort to improve the livelihood of tribal fishers through

the TSP program and that fishers are the main stakeholders of any innovative technology developed by the scientists. Other dignitaries who were present inaugural session were Dr. U Sreedhar, Principal Scientist, Ms. Jesmi Debbarma, Scientist, Mr. B K Pradhan, ACTO from ICAR-CIFT ICAR-CIFT, Mr. Siba Prasad Bhoi, Deputy Director, Mr. Girija Shankar Prasad Mishra, District Fisheries Officer-Cum-CEO, FFDA & BFDA and Mr. N K Moharana, Assistant Fisheries Officer of Department of Fisheries, Government of Odisha. Mrs. Sandhya Rani Gouda, President, Maabehara Patra Primary Fisher Women Co-operative Society (PFWCS), Mrs. Rasmita Kumari Sahu, Secretary, PFWCS also attended the program.

Dr. Sreedhar in his address told the fishers on importance of adoption of new technologies. He explained the various types of technologies available with ICAR-CIFT in both harvest and post harvest sector. Ms. Jesmi Debbarma explained the

various post harvest technologies and value added products on which the training will be conducted and also impressed the participants on the role of fish in nutrition, child development and also to teenagers. Mr. B Pradhan, ACTO translated the talks from English/Hindi to local colloquial Odiya for better communication.

Three types of improved gills nets designed by ICAR-CIFT, two new designs of foldable traps and the entire necessary implements for the preparation of fish cutlets, fish pickle and fish pakoda etc. were also distributed to the participants for further use.

During the three days program lectures were delivered on importance of fish as food, hygienic handling of fish at different stages right from harvest to post harvest, product development, storage till it reaches the consumer/plate; reasons for spoilage of fish and the measures to control the same, preparation of different value added

fish products namely fish pickle, fish cutlet, fish pakoda etc. and uses of eco-friendly fishing gears. Field demonstration cum interactive sessions were also arranged for the harvest technologies developed by ICAR-CIFT. Gillnets designed and fabricated at ICAR-CIFT which were promulgated to the fisher folks were tested. A survey of the reservoir was also conducted

along with fishermen about the topography of the reservoir. The detail of the various types of crafts and gears used by the fisherfolks was collected. During the program training was given in preparation of value added products such as fish pickle, fish cutlet, and fish pakoda. On the concluding day an interactive session was conducted between the fisherfolks, scientists

and the state officials. During interactive session, the fisherfolks expressed that awareness was created among them through the training and the field demonstrations and they thanked the ICAR-CIFT for introducing the Tribal Sub Plan in their villages and for providing the technical guidance for improving their livelihood.

- CIFT

‘Vannamei’ key to fisheries export growth: MPEDA

Introduction of exotic ‘Vannamei’ shrimp into India’s coastal aquaculture system has significantly contributed to maintaining the momentum in the country’s marine product exports, according to MPEDA.

“Indian marine product exports are doing quite well over the last few years. Major factor that contributed to the increase in exports was the introduction of Vannamei shrimp variety into our coastal aquaculture systems,” Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) Chairman A Jayathilak told PTI.

2 major varieties

“As the shrimp production saw a surge, our exports also grew accordingly, given frozen shrimp is the major item of export from the country,” he said.

Indian marine products are principally supported by frozen shrimp, which is mainly sourced from the coastal aquaculture farms.

India farms mainly two varieties of shrimp — ‘Pacific White Leg Shrimp’ (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) and ‘Indian Black Tiger Shrimp’ (*Penaeus monodon*).

Black Tiger Shrimp is mostly farmed in the traditional ponds of West Bengal, Odisha and Kerala, whereas the exotic Vannamei variety is farmed mainly in states like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Odisha, he said.

India has produced 4.09 lakh tons of Vannamei shrimp during 2015-16. The broodstock of Vannamei variety is imported from abroad right now. The import quarantine facility for Vannamei broodstock is located at Chennai and is operated by the MPEDA’s subsidiary organisation, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA).

Shrimp seeds

MPEDA has also developed high health shrimp seeds for farmers so

that crop failures can be minimised.

“It has also developed technology for seed production and farming of variety of species such as Tilapia, Seabass and Mangrove crab. Many farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Odisha have taken up the farming of those varieties. MPEDA is hopeful that those varieties also will substantially contribute to the country’s export production in the near future,” he said.

“However, we have utilised just 11% of our potential area suitable for coastal aquaculture. It is important that the governing bodies shall identify and notify specific aquaculture zones, which will give a fillip to the long standing demand of farmers to augment production with least social conflicts,” he said.

Good demand

Indian shrimp especially enjoys very good demand in all major overseas

markets. Despite prevailing anti-dumping duty on frozen shrimp, India remains the largest supplier of the item to the US market, he said.

The bigger sizes of shrimp offered

by India at very reasonable rate is much enjoyed by the US and European buyers alike. It is also a leading supplier of frozen shrimp to Japan and Europe as well. Indian

Black Tiger shrimp from traditional farms enjoys a niche market in Japan, he revealed.

- Business Line

47 of 68 fish species in India under threat, says study

More fish species on the east coast, especially in the waters off Odisha and West Bengal, are highly vulnerable to climate change, according to a first-of-its-kind assessment by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

That vulnerability stems not only from changes in climate but from fishing pressure and lower productivity.

Overall, 69% of the 68 fish species studied were found to be vulnerable to climatic changes. They include Bombay duck, tuna, sharks, various shrimp, pomfret, and catfish, among others. "The west coast also has high fishing pressure but is richer in fish so it is a bit less vulnerable," said Dr P U Zacharia, CMFRI scientist and lead author of the report.

Fish inhabiting surface or near surface waters like tuna, mackerel and sardine are most affected by temperature change; they also account for a sizeable chunk of the catch.

Overfishing plays a major role in the vulnerability of 16 species.

"Overfishing leads to increased sensitivity to climatic fluctuations," Zacharia said. Vulnerability hinges on the ability of a species to adapt to climatic change. Their spawning patterns, geographic location and the availability of prey would eventually determine their numbers. Species most under pressure include Bombay duck on the western coast, hilsa in the east and the oil sardines found off Tamil Nadu.

For the assessment, the CMFRI studied important fish species in four geographic zones: northwest (comprising Gujarat and Maharashtra), southeast (Goa, Karnataka, and Kerala), southeast (TN and a part of AP), and southwest (northern AP, Odisha and WB).

Scientists looked at how exposed each zone was to changes in sea surface temperature, ocean current speed and rainfall. Sea surface temperature rose by between 0.50.8C along the Indian coast since 1975, with the highest increases on the west coast. Fish that inhabit

surface or near surface waters are most affected by temperature change. These pelagic fish, as they are called, comprised more than 50% of fish landings in India last year, and include Bombay duck, ribbon fishes, mackerel (bangda), tuna, and sardines (taarli).

As important as climatic changes is a species' sensitivity to those changes and its capacity to adapt to them. The study determined this by looking at biological characteristics of each species--whether it feeds on a variety of prey or has a long spawning season for example--as well as whether its population was already under pressure from fishing.

Some like Bombay duck, golden anchovy and hilsa are more vulnerable because they inhabit a limited geographic range. By contrast, fish with a wide geographical distribution like seer fishes (surmai), sardines and lizard fishes may have a higher chance of survival.

- The Times of India

ICAR-CIFT, Cochin signs MoU with Department of Fisheries, Government of Himachal Pradesh

The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), Kochi, has signed a MoU with Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh for setting up of canning and fish processing unit with the technical consultancy of ICAR-CIFT on 9th January, 2017 in presence of Mr. Thakur Singh Bharmouri, Hon'ble Minister of Forest and Fisheries, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh. Gracing the occasion Mr. Thakur Singh Bharmouri lauded the role of ICAR-CIFT scientists to bring an euphoria among the fisher population of the state through their scientific interventions and said that the MoU will strengthen the linkage between ICAR-CIFT and Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh to go ahead in fishery sector development. In his presidential address Dr. C N Ravishankar, Director, ICAR-CIFT

briefed the accomplishments of the Institute since its inception and citing the example of Himachal Pradesh asked for the cooperation of the line departments of other states to address the problems in harvesting and post harvesting sectors of fisheries across the country.

Mr. Gurcharan Singh, Director, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh appreciated the prompt and timely initiatives by ICAR-CIFT for taking up field survey and situation analysis on status of fishery in Himachal Pradesh, which enabled them to formulate policy strategy for the development of the sector. According to him Himachal Pradesh is the leading state in trout production and Dept. of Fisheries, HP is taking all the efforts to increase the production of other cultivable varieties of fishes as per the recommendation of ICAR-CIFT.

Dr. K Ashok Kumar, Head, Fish processing Division stated that as per the MoU, ICAR-CIFT will provide the details like design of processing units, procurement of equipments and training of Fisheries Department officials and fishermen on processing and value addition. Processing units will be constructed at Gobind Sagar, Pong, Solan and Una. For implementing this, Department of Fisheries, Himachal Pradesh has transferred Rs. 82.2 lakhs to ICAR-CIFT. Dr. George Ninan, Principal Scientist & Principal Investigator for Agri-Business Incubation Centre at ICAR-CIFT and Mr. Gurucharan Singh, Director cum Warden, Department of Fisheries, Himachal Pradesh signed the MoU in presence of Mr. Thakur Singh Bharmouri and Dr. Ravishankar, C N, Director, ICAR-CIFT.

- CIFT



Exchange of MoU between Mr. Gurucharan Singh and Dr. C N Ravishankar

Training program for fisherwomen on improved fish dryers at ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi

As part of the Institute research project on 'Quality improvement of Indian fishing fleet and engineering interventions in post harvest sector', a two days training program on "Improved Fish Dryers" was jointly organized by ICAR-CIFT, Kochi, NETFISH, MPEDA and ADC&SW Society, Alappuzha for the benefit of fisherwomen during 8-9 December, 2016 at ICAR-CIFT, Kochi. A total of 25 fisherwomen belonging to ADC&SW Society, Alappuzha attended the training program. Dr. C N Ravishankar, Director, ICAR-CIFT inaugurated the program. Dr. Manoj P Samuel, HOD, Engineering welcomed the gathering and Mr. Joice V Thomas, CEO, NETFISH, MPEDA and Fr. Nixy, Joint-Director, ADC&SW Society, Alappuzha offered felicitations. Dr. S Ashaletha, Principal Scientist proposed vote of thanks.

Technical session on "Improved fish drying methods" was handled by Dr. Manoj P Samuel. A talk on "Women-led enterprises: The problems and prospects in fisheries" was

delivered by Dr. S Ashaletha. Dr. A A Zynudheen, Principal Scientist handled the theoretical aspects of "Fish handling and pre-processing operations" while Mrs. V A Minimol, Scientist handled the practical session on the same theme. Practical session on the solar fish drying technique using ICAR-CIFT Solar dryers was conducted by Dr. S Murali, Scientist. Dr. C O Mohan, Scientist handled the class on "Packaging of dried fish". A class on Business model for the dry fish production in fisherwomen cluster

was handled by Ms. Elizabeth, Business Manager of Agri Business Incubation Centre, ICAR-CIFT. The participants also visited various labs, pilot plant and ABI in ICAR-CIFT. Dr. A K Mohanthy, HOD, EIS was the Chief Guest during the concluding session.

The fisherwomen brought their own fresh fishes and they could take back packaged dried fish by participating in the practical sessions of the training program.

- CIFT



Practical session in progress

App for sea-related info a hit among fishermen

mKRISHI@Fisheries, the mobile advisory service providing information related to the sea, is getting overwhelming response, with the app making fishing activities less expensive and helping fishermen get improved catch.

The technology of the mobile advisory service was developed by the Mumbai Research Centre of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and materialised by the Indian National

Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) along with Tata Consultancy Service (TCS), under the National Agriculture Innovation Project (NAIP).

A study conducted by the

CMFRI in 13 fishermen societies in Maharashtra found that the fishermen could save up to 30% of fuel consumption with the help of the mobile app. The reduction of the fuel consumption has benefits in terms of environmental impact where an estimated 1.2% of global oil production is consumed in fisheries.

This study also revealed that the app had a positive impact on the livelihood of the fishermen community with improved catch and reduced cost along with providing them safety and security in the sea.

The app provides information on Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) generated by INCOIS, sea surface temperature, weather and the presence of phytoplankton which form the food of several fish species based on the remote sensing data received from NOAA and Indian satellites. It consolidates these information and presents advisories in local languages, with easy to use icons on Java and Android mobile phones.

CMFRI has already piloted this service in 56 fishermen societies in Maharashtra.

V V Singh, Scientist-in-Charge of CMFRI's Mumbai Research Centre, said that the app is widely being used among the fishermen to plan their fishing activities. The information on the presence of potential fishing zone has helped fishers reduce unnecessary trips and the associated cost of diesel, ice and labour, he said adding that the app is beneficial to the fishermen to get to know the wind speed and direction, wave heights in a colour coded band helping them identify the unsafe regions in sea.

- Business Line

Seafood sector urges govt to free fresh, brackish water for aquaculture

The seafood industry has urged the government to free its fresh and brackish waters for organised aquaculture activities to achieve a Blue Revolution.

There is potential wealth stored in the 4.5 million hectare fresh water resources in the country. Also, India has an estimated 11 lakh hectares available for brackish water shrimp cultivation, of which only 8.5% or 1 lakh hectares has been brought under cultivation, offering enormous production potential, Kamlesh Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director, WestCoast Group, a fully integrated aquaculture and seafood company said.

If the right measures are adopted,

India, with its huge resources, has the potential to be the top player in seafood production, he said.

Indian fisheries and aquaculture contributes to more than 6% of the global fish production, more than 1% of the GDP, more than 5% of the agriculture GDP and provides employment to 14 million people.

There are many private players in the country interested in aquaculture and fisheries. However, the capital intensiveness of aspects such as maintenance of aqua farms, seafood processing and maintaining a cold chain has deterred many from investing in these sectors. The government needs to announce tax

holidays in aquaculture, he said.

"We also need tax exemptions in areas such as seafood processing and cold chain promotion. Incentives will help bringing down the cost of operations and make seafood more affordable," he added.

Fisheries and aquaculture should get the same benefits as that of agriculture. However, this is not happening despite the fact that the sector comes under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture. Ideally, there has to be a separate Ministry of Fisheries, he said.

- Business Line

Giant tuna fetches £500,000 at Tokyo's famed Tsukiji New Year's fish auction

In what could be the last New Year's auction at Tokyo's famed Tsukiji fish market, a wealthy restaurant owner has paid more than £500,000 to snap up a gigantic tuna.

The world's largest fish market was supposed to be relocated last November to make way for a road needed for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, but was delayed due to environmental concerns.

The delay allowed for Tsukiji to hold

at least one more New Year's auction, which is considered auspicious and a great way for the winning bidder to gain some publicity.

For the sixth straight year, Kiyoshi Kimura, president of Kiyomura Corp, which owns the Sushi Zanmai restaurant chain, had the winning bid, paying 72 million yen (£504,000) for a 210kg Pacific bluefin tuna - a species experts warn is being overfished.



Kiyoshi Kimura with the 72 million yen tuna Credit: Aflo/Rex/Shutterstock

That was well above last year's winning bid of 14 million yen, but half the record of 155 million yen paid in 2013.

Afterward, Mr. Kimura posed with a sword-like knife in front of the big, dark-silvery fish, caught off the coast of northern Japan.

The Tokyo government wants to move the 80-year-old Tsukiji market,

set on prime real estate on Tokyo Bay, not far from the prestigious Ginza shopping district, to a man-made island called Toyosu located 2km (1.24 miles) away.

But the plan was delayed after concerns emerged about toxic pollution at its proposed new home, where a gas plant once stood.

The Tokyo government, which

decided on the move 15 years ago, is expected to get results from environmental tests at the new location within weeks.

The delay has left fishmongers, many of whom oppose the move, in limbo.

"We are in a state of confusion," said Nobuyuki Aoki, another wholesaler. "I hope that this new year will bring clarity to the new venue's safety, and remove us from the uncertainty."

The outlook for bluefin tuna, considered the king of sushi, is also uncertain.

Global appetite for sushi has driven numbers of the species to dangerously low levels. Scientific assessments completed in July showed that the number of Pacific bluefin has fallen to just 2.6% of its original estimated size.

"This tuna is being fished at rates up to three times higher than scientists say is sustainable," said Amanda Nickson, director of global tuna conservation at The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Pew and a dozen other environmental groups have called for a two-year moratorium on commercial fishing of the species.

- *The Telegraph*

Promotion

- Dr. A S Upadhyay, Deputy Director (Aqua), MPEDA (on deputation to EIC) promoted as Joint Director (Aqua).

Transfers

- Dr. S Kandan, Deputy Director (Aqua), MPEDA Regional Centre, Vijayawada transferred to RGCA as Project Director.
- Mrs. Sherly Arby, Sr. Stenographer, MPEDA Head Office transferred to MPEDA Regional Centre, Vijayawada.

Retirements

- Dr. D Manikumar, Junior Technical Officer (Aqua) upon superannuation after completing 26 years and 8 months of service.
- Mr. Paulose K X, Sr. Stenographer upon superannuation after completing 30 years and 6 months of service. ■

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