

India's marine fish landings increase in March

Dr. Joice V. Thomas & Dr. Afsal V.V. MPEDA-NETFISH

NETFISH collects the details of boat arrivals and marine fish landings occurring at selected major harbour/landing centres in the 9 coastal states of India to facilitate the Catch certification scheme of MPEDA. The number of boat arrivals and the quantity of various fishery items landed at these harbours are collected on a daily basis. Based on the data obtained from 95 harbours, the species-wise, harbour-wise and state-wise trend of marine landings during March 2021 were analyzed and the results are presented in this report.

I. ESTIMATION OF FISH LANDINGS

A total quantity of 60824.89 tons of marine catch landings was reported from the 95 selected harbours in March 2021. The Pelagic finfish resources contributed the highest share of 45% (27316.04 tons) to the total catch and it was followed by the Demersal finfishes with 30% share (18437.59 tons), Crustaceans with 14% share (8527.70 tons) and Molluscs with 11% share (6543.57 tons) (Fig.1).

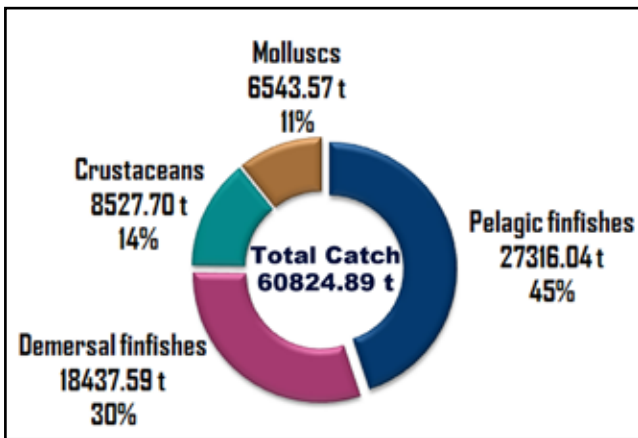


Fig. 1. Catch composition of marine landings recorded in March 2021

The total catch comprised of about 263 species of marine fishery items, of which the highest five contributors were *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (Indian mackerel), *Lepturacanthus savala* (Ribbon fish), *Nemipterus japonicus* (Japanese threadfin bream), *Katsuwonus pelamis* (Skipjack tuna) and *Loligo duvauceli* (Squid)(Table 1).

Table. 1 Major fish species landed during February 2021

Sl. No:	Common name	Scientific name	Qty. in tons
1	Indian mackerel	<i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i>	4192.23
2	Ribbon Fish	<i>Lepturacanthus savala</i>	3771.26
3	Japanese threadfin bream	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	3059.66
4	Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	2957.24
5	Squid	<i>Loligo duvauceli</i>	2464.07

Considering various groups of fishery items landed, the top five contributors were Tunas, Coastal shrimps, Croakers, Ribbon fishes and Indian Mackerel, which together constituted 39 % of the total catch (Fig 2).

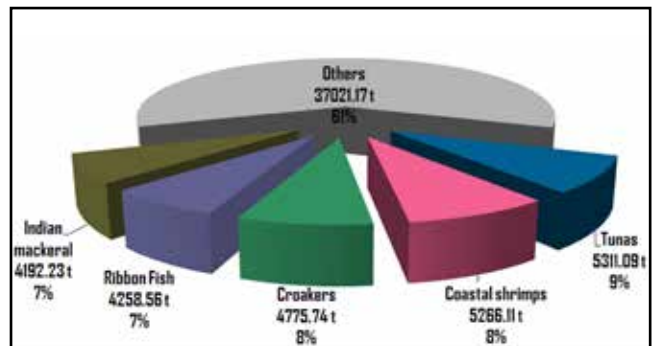


Fig. 2 Major fishery items landed during March 2021

Table 2 presents the total catch quantity of various categories of fishery items recorded during March 2021. Among the pelagic finfish resources, Tunas, Ribbon fishes & Indian mackerel were the major contributors whereas among demersal finfishes, the major contributors were Croakers & Japanese Threadfin bream. About 62% of the Crustacean catch consisted of different species of coastal shrimps, among which the highest landed species were *Parapenaeopsis*

FOCUS AREA

stylifera (Karikkadi shrimp) and *Metapenaeus dobsoni* (Poovalan shrimp). Squids and Cuttlefish were the major Molluscan varieties landed during the period.

Table 2. Category-wise landing of various fishery items during March 2021

FISHERY ITEM	QTY. IN TONS	% OF TOTAL CATCH
Pelagic Finfishes		
Tunas	5311.09	8.73
Ribbon fish	4258.56	7.00
Indian mackerel	4192.23	6.89
Anchovies	3044.73	5.01
Scads	2504.15	4.12
Bombay duck	1387.13	2.28
Lesser sardines	1152.38	1.89
Indian oil sardine	1103.04	1.81
Shads	1055.58	1.74
Seer fish	517.96	0.85
Sailfish	417.70	0.69
Barracudas	326.88	0.54
Swordfish	292.79	0.48
Seerfish	282.54	0.46
Mahi mahi	229.61	0.38
Trevallies	208.41	0.34

Marlins	150.99	0.25
Needlefish	141.94	0.23
Mackerels	135.56	0.22
Herring	133.23	0.22
Indian salmon	101.98	0.17
Flying fish	83.02	0.14
Queenfish	81.07	0.13
Cobia	67.48	0.11
Mullet	65.74	0.11
Mullets	29.68	0.05
Milk fish	18.72	0.03
Barramundi	11.62	0.02
Halfbeaks	8.04	0.01
Pompano	2.06	0.00
Wahoo	0.15	0.00
Total Pelagic	27316.04	44.91
Demersal Finfishes		
Croakers	4775.74	7.85
Japanese threadfin bream	3059.66	5.03
Lizard fish	1751.61	2.88

FOCUS AREA

Catfishes	1695.36	2.79
Reef cods	1143.68	1.88
Pomfrets	963.34	1.58
Sole fishes	813.44	1.34
Bullseyes	670.79	1.10
Sea breams	637.93	1.05
Moon fish	414.17	0.68
Sharks	382.60	0.63
Goatfish	327.87	0.54
Leatherjacket	321.58	0.53
Ponyfishes	277.72	0.46
Flat heads	233.98	0.38
Rays	230.19	0.38
Snappers	202.40	0.33
Eels	182.02	0.30
White Fish	102.05	0.17
Rabbit fish	83.54	0.14
Jobfish	30.02	0.05
Silver biddies	24.45	0.04
Perches	24.35	0.04

Indian threadfin	21.61	0.04
Halibut	21.43	0.04
Sweet Lip	9.31	0.02
Whiting	8.09	0.01
Sickle fish	7.48	0.01
Surgeonfish	5.21	0.01
Grouper	4.45	0.01
Spade fish	3.20	0.01
Parrot fish	2.83	0.00
Indian threadfish	2.83	0.00
Triggerfish	1.49	0.00
Grunt	0.61	0.00
Drift fish	0.55	0.00
Total Demersal	18437.59	30.31
Crustaceans		
Coastal shrimps	5266.11	8.66
Deep sea shrimps	2016.81	3.32
Crabs	1207.70	1.99
Lobsters	37.08	0.06
Total Crustaceans	8527.70	14.02

FOCUS AREA

Molluscs		
Squid	4100.65	6.74
Cuttlefish	2142.29	3.52
Octopus	297.90	0.49
Baigai	2.73	0.00
Total Molluscs	6543.57	10.76
TOTAL CATCH	60824.89	100.00

State-wise landings: Among the 9 coastal states, the highest marine catch landings was reported in Gujarat with a share of 16206.38 tons (27%) (Fig.3). Maharashtra, in the second position, contributed 10712.39 tons (18%) to the total catch. Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry together held the third position with a total landing of 8185.93 tons (13%). The least marine landing during March 2021 was reported in Goa, with 1787.14 tons (3 %).

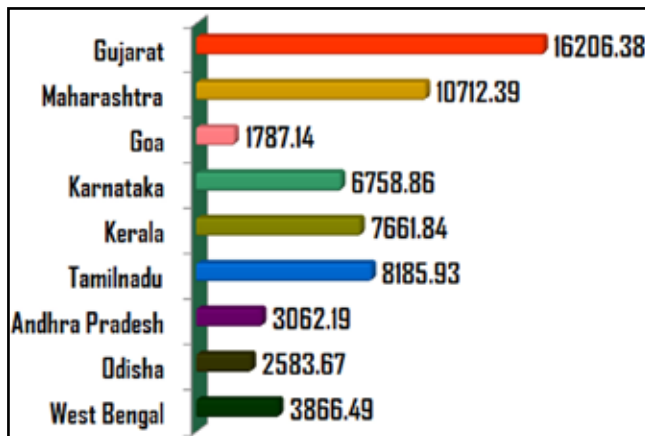


Fig.3 State- wise (in tons) during March 2021

Harbour-wise landings: The total landing reported from each harbour is given in Table 3. Of the 95 harbours, the New Ferry Wharf harbour in Maharashtra recorded the maximum fish landing, which was to the tune of 5046.62 tons (8%) and it was followed by the Porbandar and Okha harbours in Gujarat with 3952.24 tons (6.5%) and 3691.45 tons (6%) respectively. The least landing was reported from Jagathapatnam harbour in Tamil Nadu (0.56 tons).

Table 3. Harbour-wise catch quantity & boat arrivals during March 2021

State	Harbour	Catch Quantity (tons)	Boat arrivals (nos.)
West Bengal	Namkhana	1344.47	365
	Raidighi	847.66	294
	Deshapran	522.24	183
	Sankarpur	450.95	173
	Fraser Ganj	358.19	267
	Kakdwip	257.76	181
	Soula	85.21	59
Odisha	Paradeep	1438.44	307
	Bahabalpur	389.07	173
	Balramgadi	386.30	184
	Dhamara	234.32	90
	Balugaon	135.55	497
Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	1365.98	396
	Nizampatnam	527.45	156
	Kakinada	350.01	185
	Vodarevu	283.39	415
	Yanam	268.78	175
	Machilipatnam	206.96	147
	Pudimadaka	59.62	216

FOCUS AREA

Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	Chennai	1857.69	410	Kerala	Kottaipatnam	10.81	86
	Nagapattinam	1241.18	499		Jagathapatinam	0.56	7
	Karaikal	1185.93	344		Thoppumpady	2407.78	385
	Tharuvaikulam	1106.79	276		Sakthikulangara	1916.44	1298
	Thengaipattinam	1061.28	625		Munambam	1029.49	663
	Colachel	600.17	246		Neendakara	820.78	811
	Pazhayar	303.99	582		Beypore	327.42	321
	Poompuhar	173.12	490		Vypin	223.73	152
	Pondicherry	147.54	106		Kayamkulam	175.04	191
	Kodiyakarai	89.55	490		Chellanam	140.33	357
	Tuticorin	81.62	246		Azheekkal	101.66	304
	Rameswaram	68.87	177		Puthiyappa	92.22	89
	Mudasalodi	66.24	275		Cheruvathur	70.10	183
	Mandapam	47.45	266		Thangassery	68.08	248
	Pulicat	45.71	662		Munakkadavu	52.52	263
	Cuddalore	35.79	402		Ponnani	50.89	196
	Mallipatnam	35.29	214		Koyilandi	50.86	188
	Chinnamuttom	26.38	483		Mopla Bay	44.25	333
						Thottappally	39.67
				Vaadi	27.88	285	
				Chettuva	13.23	99	
				Vizhinjam	9.50	284	

FOCUS AREA

Karnataka	Malpe	2457.94	1072
	Mangalore	1960.35	830
	Honnavar	1043.18	396
	Bhatkal	395.35	683
	Amdalli	301.37	199
	Gangolli	201.43	438
	Karwar	174.62	178
	Belekeri	121.29	95
	Tadri	103.35	187
Goa	Malim	1005.64	475
	Cutbona	465.53	216
	Vasco	272.54	208
	Chapora	43.43	309
Maharashtra	New Ferry Wharf	5046.62	942
	Sasoon Dock	1752.50	555
	Ratnagiri	1143.10	310
	Arnala	1132.74	468
	Harne	296.56	556
	Satpati	282.24	188
	Uttan	215.70	148
	Alibagh Koliwada	199.02	420

Gujarat	Sakharinate	196.92	188
	Versova	116.59	111
	Malvan	111.11	409
	Devgad	64.20	412
	Dabhol	57.49	264
	Vasai	52.11	60
	Dahanu	45.51	211
	Porbandar	3952.24	1441
	Okha	3691.45	1073
	Veraval	3458.50	2092
	Mangrol	2208.89	1779
	Vanakbara	1689.10	949
	Jaffrabad	757.55	320
	Chorwad	244.72	775
	Kotada	203.93	87

II. ESTIMATION OF BOAT ARRIVALS

A total of 37241 boat arrivals were recorded from the 95 harbours during the month. State-wise figures (fig. 4) show that the highest number of boat arrivals had occurred in Gujarat (23 %) followed by Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry (18 %) and Kerala (18 %). Harbour-wise details of boat arrivals are given in Table 3. The highest recording was from Veraval (2092 nos.), Mangrol (1779 nos.) and Porbandar (1441 nos.) harbours in Gujarat.

FOCUS AREA

The Jagathapatnam harbour in Maharashtra had the least number of boat arrivals.

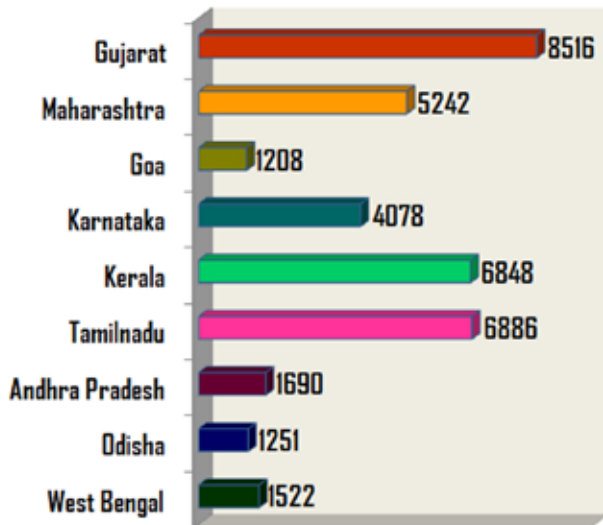


Fig.4 State-wise boat arrivals during March 2021

Summary: In March 2021, a total of 60824.89 tons of marine catch landings and 34189 nos. of boat arrivals were reported from 95 major fish landing sites of India. The total catch has shown an increase by around 1145 tons, compared to that of February 2021, the number of boat arrivals has also increased by around 3052 numbers. Pelagic finfish continued to be the major contributor to the total landings and the Indian mackerel has maintained its 1st position among the most landed fish species for the month.

However, Tuna was the fishery item which recorded the highest total landings during the month. As in previous months, the state of Gujarat and the New Ferry Wharf harbour in Maharashtra continued in the first position in terms of total catch landed whereas, in the case of number of boat arrivals, the Gujarat state and the Veraval harbour in the state maintained its top position.



Sea Cucumbers - Significance & issues in conservation

Dr. T R Gibinkumar, Deputy Director MPEDA
(Market Promotion & Statistics)

Sea cucumbers are echinoderms belonging to the class Holothuroidea and so are also referred to as holothurians. They are marine organisms with a leathery skin and an elongated body containing a single, branched gonad. They are also called "Teatfish" in the US and some other parts of the world.

Sea cucumbers live chiefly among corals but are also found among rocks and in muddy and sandy flats. They are distributed from the shore to the greatest depths. Their lengths range from a few millimeters to more than 2m and they occur in all colour combinations. Some of them are really very beautiful while alive and are kept in marine ornamental aquariums. The Chinese, Japanese and Koreans consider them as a delicacy. The toxins of sea cucumbers are considered to have antiviral, antitumoral, anti cancerous, antifertility properties and find use in the pharmaceutical industry.



Distribution Map © Wikipedia

Holothurians have been harvested commercially for at least a thousand years, occasionally for the raw body wall or viscera, but mostly in order to be processed into a dry product called *bêche-de-mer* in French; *Iriko* in Japanese; *Teripang* in Indonesian; or *hai-som* in Chinese, which is considered a delicacy and a medicinal food by Chinese, Japanese, Koreans,