

Marine fish landings decline in April amid fishing ban

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

Boat arrivals and marine fish landings at selected major harbour/landing centres across nine coastal states of India are being recorded by NETFISH to facilitate the Catch Certification System of MPEDA. The number of boat arrivals and the quantity of various fishery items landed at these harbours are collected on a regular basis. This report presents the species-wise, harbour-wise and state-wise trend of marine landings during April 2021, with reference to the data obtained from 93 major harbours.

I. ESTIMATION OF FISH LANDINGS

Marine catch landings reported from the 93 selected harbours during the month of April 2021 totalled 39242.44 tonnes. The Pelagic finfish resources contributed the most to the total catch with a share of 41% (16218.28 tonnes). It was followed by the Demersal finfishes with 33% share (12918.82 tonnes), Crustaceans with 13% share (5112.48 tonnes) and Molluscs with 13% share (4992.86 tonnes) (Fig.1).

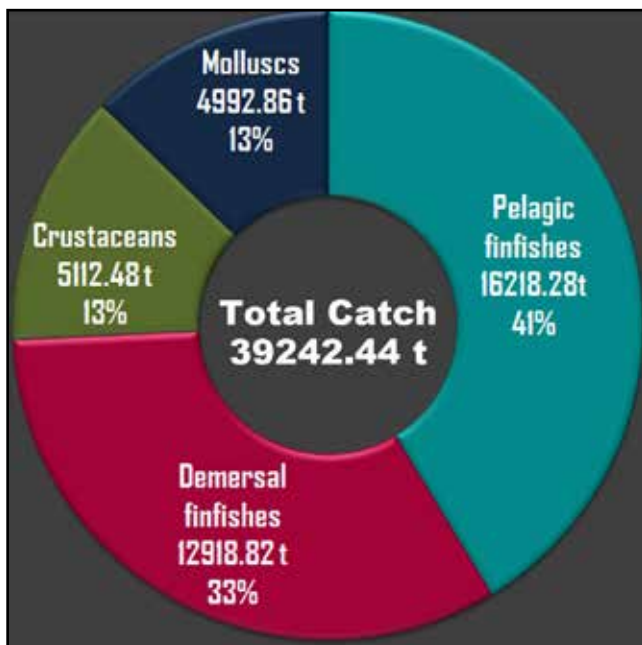


Fig.1. Catch composition of marine landings recorded in April 2021

The total catch comprised of about 247 species of marine fishery items, of which the highest five contributors were *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (Indian mackerel), *Nemipterus japonicus* (Japanese threadfin bream), *Lepturacanthus savala* (Ribbon fish), *Loligo duvauceli* (Squid) and *Harpadon nehereus* (Bombay duck) (Table 1).

Table 1. Major fish species landed during April 2021

Sl. No:	Common name	Scientific name	Qty. in tonnes
1	Indian mackerel	<i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i>	2816.90
2	Japanese threadfin bream	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	2559.44
3	Ribbon fish	<i>Lepturacanthus savala</i>	2517.80
4	Squid	<i>Loligo duvauceli</i>	2352.16
5	Bombay duck	<i>Harpadon nehereus</i>	1596.37

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

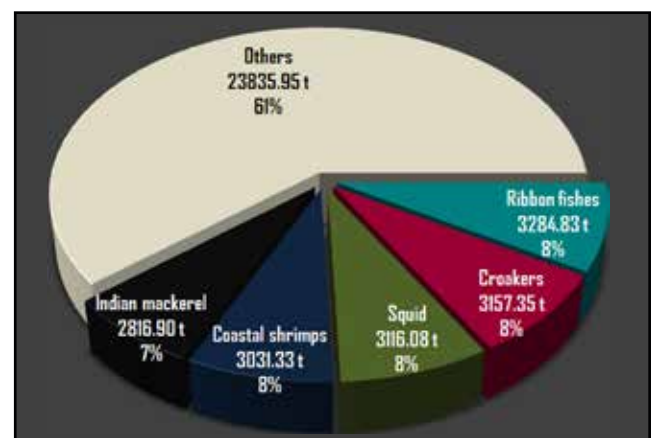


Fig. 2. Major fishery items landed during April 2021

FOCUS AREA

Table 2 presents the total catch quantity of various categories of fishery items recorded during April 2021. Among the Pelagic finfish resources, Ribbon fishes, Indian mackerel & Tunas were the major contributors with a landing of more than 2000 tonnes. Croakers & Japanese Threadfin brems were the most landed items among the Demersal finfishes, each contributing more than 2500 tonnes. About 59% of the Crustacean catch comprised different species of Coastal shrimps whereas, among the Molluscs, Squids and Cuttlefishes were the major items landed.

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

FISHERY ITEM	QUANTITY LANDED (TONNES)	% OF TOTAL CATCH
Pelagic Finfishes		
Ribbon fishes	3284.83	8.37
Indian mackerel	2816.90	7.18
Tunas	2119.81	5.40
Anchovies	1815.76	4.63
Scads	1793.40	4.57
Bombay duck	1596.37	4.07
Indian oil sardine	629.87	1.61
Lesser sardines	419.33	1.07
Seer fishes	392.48	1.00
Shads	232.25	0.59
Barracudas	189.14	0.48
Trevallies	142.55	0.36
Mahi mahi	127.88	0.33
Sailfish	113.07	0.29

Flying fish	102.48	0.26
Swordfish	94.13	0.24
Needlefish	70.61	0.18
Herrings	68.67	0.17
Marlins	55.74	0.14
Mullets	44.56	0.11
Queen fish	39.34	0.10
Cobia	26.02	0.07
Indian Salmon	25.57	0.07
Milk fish	7.93	0.02
Halfbeaks	7.69	0.02
Sea bass	1.25	0.00
Pompano	0.66	0.00
Total Pelagic	16218.28	41.33
Demersal finfishes		
Croakers	3157.35	8.05
Japanese threadfin bream	2559.44	6.52
Lizard fishes	1786.57	4.55
Sea catfishes	1124.55	2.87
Reef cods	584.51	1.49
Bulls eyes	518.64	1.32
Sole fish	514.61	1.31

FOCUS AREA

Sea breams	492.95	1.26
Pomfrets	394.51	1.01
Moon fish	371.95	0.95
Trigger fishes	259.74	0.66
Flat heads	182.53	0.47
Goat fishes	166.84	0.43
Sharks	153.81	0.39
Leatherjacket	128.08	0.33
Eels	108.57	0.28
Pony fishes	87.26	0.22
Snappers	75.93	0.19
Rays	70.36	0.18
White fish	70.34	0.18
Emperor breams	30.03	0.08
Rabbit fishes	19.05	0.05
Threadfin	13.27	0.03
Silver biddy	11.37	0.03
Perches	10.39	0.03
Halibut	7.71	0.02
Groupers	4.03	0.01
Indian threadfish	3.49	0.01
Whiting	3.34	0.01
Sweet lips	2.33	0.01

Threadfin breams	2.08	0.01
Spade Fish	1.49	0.00
Grunts	0.55	0.00
Parrot fish	0.44	0.00
Sickle fish	0.39	0.00
Surgeonfish	0.21	0.00
Pony fishes	0.12	0.00
Total Demersal	12918.82	32.92
Crustaceans		
Coastal shrimps	3031.33	7.72
Deep sea shrimps	1480.56	3.77
Crabs	573.41	1.46
Lobsters	27.18	0.07
Total Crustaceans	5112.48	13.03
Molluscs		
Squid	3116.08	7.94
Cuttlefish	1575.75	4.02
Octopus	255.06	0.65
Whelk	45.97	0.12
Total Molluscs	4992.86	12.72
TOTAL CATCH	39242.44	100.00

State-wise landings: Of the 9 coastal states, Gujarat reported the highest marine catch landings during April 2021, with a quantity of 14217.71 tonnes (36%) (Fig.3). Maharashtra, in the second position, contributed 7034.57 tonnes (18%) to the total catch. Karnataka

FOCUS AREA

held the third position with a total landing of 4900.75 tonnes (12%). The least marine landing during the month was reported in West Bengal, with a meagre quantity of 932.99 tonnes (2%) of catch.

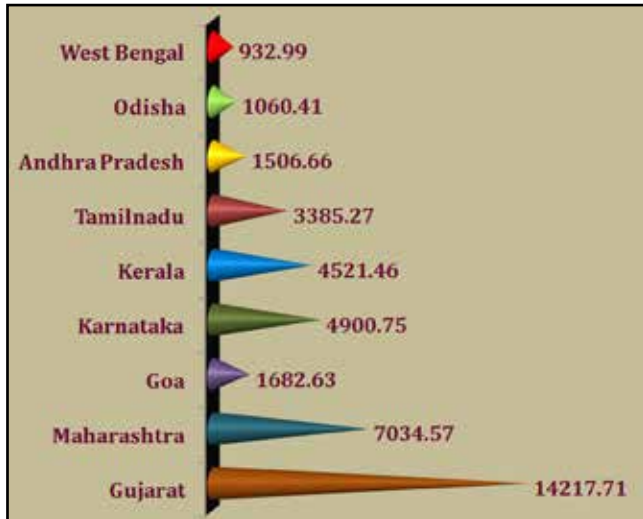


Fig.3 State-wise fish landings (in tonnes) during April 2021

Harbour-wise landings: The total marine landing reported from each harbour is given in Table 3. Among the 93 harbours, Porbandar harbour in Gujarat recorded the maximum fish landing, which was to the tune of 4077.43 tonnes (10%) and it was followed by New Ferry Wharf and Veraval harbours with 3560.69 tonnes (9%) and 3069.26 tonnes (8%) respectively. The least landing was reported from Jagathapatnam harbour in Tamil Nadu (1.12 tonnes).

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

State	Harbour	Catch Quantity (tonnes)	Boat arrivals (nos.)
West Bengal	Namkhana	546.25	179
	Raidighi	194.05	72
	Petuaghat Deshpran	93.32	23
	Fraser Ganj	47.87	48
	Digha Sankarpur	36.12	18
	Kakdwip	12.04	19
	Soula	3.34	15

Odisha	Paradeep	459.23	105
	Balramgadi	271.88	158
	Balugaon	136.50	478
	Bahabalpur	114.56	53
	Dhamara	78.25	30
Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	1042.73	248
	Yanam	122.96	82
	Vodarevu	92.72	152
	Nizampatnam	91.92	26
	Kakinada	74.57	43
	Machilipatnam	56.68	38
	Pudimadaka	25.09	103
	Chennai	707.05	404
Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	Colachel	539.76	261
	Tharuvaikulam	509.26	171
	Thengaipattinam	479.22	468
	Karaikal	393.48	204
	Pazhayar	230.80	470
	Nagapattinam	212.97	387
	Poompuhar	92.41	495
	Pondicherry	51.27	54
	Pulicat	31.29	432

FOCUS AREA

	Mudalalodi	28.38	185		Thottappally	55.48	204	
	Kodiyakarai	24.32	442		Munakkadavu	52.59	244	
	Cuddalore	22.84	253		Vizhinjam	52.19	451	
	Rameswaram	19.61	55		Mopla Bay	32.52	251	
	Chinnamuttom	18.63	428		Koyilandi	32.28	199	
	Mallapatnam	15.06	127		Chettuva	10.07	82	
	Kottaipatnam	5.37	55		Karna- taka	Malpe	2133.93	872
	Mandapam	2.44	19			Mangalore	1887.73	688
	Jagathapathi- nam	1.12	12			Honnarar	466.31	203
Kerala	Sakthikulangara	1094.73	730	Gangolli		143.08	435	
	Munambam	734.76	550	Bhatkal		93.12	384	
	Thoppumpady Cochin	656.25	286	Amdalli		62.90	139	
	Neendakara	521.71	581	Karwar		43.57	82	
	Kayamkulam	321.62	229	Tadri		43.28	129	
	Bey pore	272.66	277	Belekeri		26.83	71	
	Vypin	129.36	100	Goa	Malim	1052.18	371	
	Azheekkal	102.95	219		Cutbona	359.69	157	
	Thangassery	100.25	217		Vasco	236.84	171	
	Chellanam	80.69	326		Chapora	33.92	259	
	Cheruvathur	76.61	143	Maha- rashtra	New Ferry Wharf	3560.69	657	
	Puthiyappa	65.89	89		Ratnagiri	1126.74	302	
	Ponnani	64.52	210		Sasoon Dock	897.36	324	
Vaadi	64.36	240	Sakharinate		281.27	184		

FOCUS AREA

	Harne	272.66	603
	Arnala	213.12	91
	Alibagh Koliwada	156.60	378
	Versova	125.95	113
	Malvan	116.71	370
	Satpati	93.98	118
	Taramumbari Devgad	65.47	411
	Dahanu	59.82	250
	Onni Bhatti Dabhol	44.65	166
	Uttan	19.54	13
Gujarat	Porbandar	4077.43	1366
	Veraval	3069.26	1887
	Mangrol	2084.99	1487
	Okha	2044.55	859
	Jafrabad	1450.00	435
	Vanakbara	1116.21	638
	Kotada	200.24	60
	Chorwad	175.03	634

II. ESTIMATION OF BOAT ARRIVALS

A total of 27747 boat arrivals were recorded from the 93 harbours during April 2021. State-wise figures

(fig. 4) show that the highest number of boat arrivals had occurred in Gujarat (27%) and then in Kerala (20%) and Tamil Nadu (18%). The harbour-wise details of boat arrivals are given in table 3. The highest recording was from Veraval (1887 nos.), Mangrol (1487 nos.) and Porbandar (1366 nos.) harbours in Gujarat. The Jagathapatnam harbour in Tamil Nadu had the least number of boat arrivals.

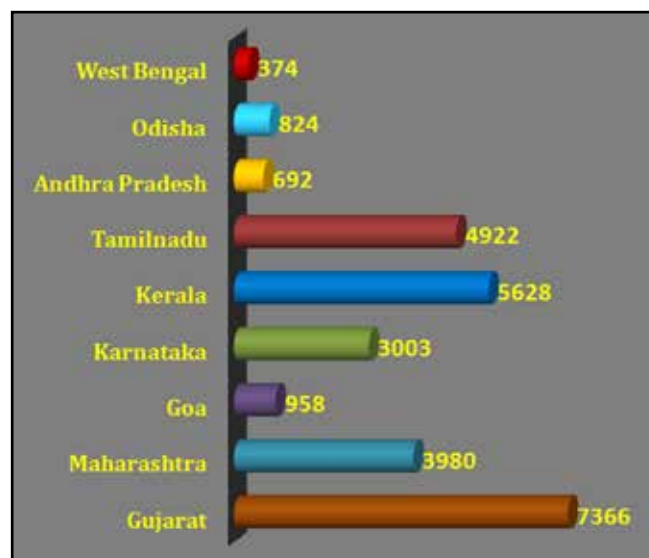


Fig.4 State-wise boat arrivals (nos.) during April 2021

Summary: In April 2021, a total of 39242.44 tonnes of marine catch landings and 27747 nos. of boat arrivals were reported from the 93 major fish landing sites of India. The total catch has shown a decrease by around 21582 tonnes, when compared to that of March 2021 and the number of boat arrivals decreased by around 6442 numbers. The reduction in catch and boat arrivals during the period can be attributed to the monsoon fishing ban implemented in the East Coast from the mid of April 2021.

Pelagic finfish continued to be the major contributor to the total landings and the Indian mackerel maintained its top position among the most landed fish species for the month. However, among the various groups of fishery items Ribbon fish recorded the highest landings during the period.

As in previous months, Gujarat continued in the first position among the states in terms of total catch landed whereas the Porbandar harbour has taken over the prime position among the harbours. In terms of boat arrivals, Gujarat state and Veraval harbour in the state maintained its first position.

