

Hooked on Fishing

Understanding India's fisheries

- Almost half of the population are fish-eaters; fish is the cheapest source of animal protein
- There are more than 35,000 registered trawlers in India; 240,000 fishing crafts operate along the Indian coast
- India has 33 Marine Protected Areas and 3 Marine Biosphere Reserves; these cover 1.3% of the Indian coastline
- There are more than 1 million active fishermen in India; 1.4 million people are employed in the fisheries sector (fully, partial or in subsidiary activities)
- There are more than 1,375 fish landing centers and harbors in India
- Approximately 3,651 coastal village economies depend on fisheries activities in India
- The clam fishery of Ashtamudi Lake in Kerala, will be the only MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certified fishery in India
- India is the third largest producer of fish in the world, contributing almost 5% global fish production
- The total annual marine landing is approximately 3.94 million tons; 20% of the annual marine landing is low-value by-catch, of which about 10% is discarded
- The total value of annual fish catch in India is more than INR 190,000,000,000 (190 billion)
- More than 50 species of fish and shellfish from India are exported to 75 countries around the world
- Oil sardines, Indian mackerels, perches, carangids, ribbon-fishes and shrimps are the most commonly caught marine species in India; 55% of marine fish are caught in the pelagic zone
- Women from 48% of the marine fisher-folk population, with 948 females for every 1,000 males

