

Marine Fisheries in Tamilnadu – An Overview

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ABSTRACT

Marine fisheries is an essential industry of our country's economy contributing to the livelihood of millions of fisher folk dwelling in the long shoreline of India and those who are involved in the related activities. In India, the sea food industry is witnessing an extraordinary progression both in quality and quantity. Marine export is also increasing massively. The district wise survey has been made based on the fishing villages, landing centers, fisher folk population, their occupation, infrastructure facility, crafts used, fish landing and major exports.

KEY WORDS: Marine Fisheries, Exports, Quality, Infrastructure, Population

1. INTRODUCTION

Fishing is one of the largest industries in the country. It is one of the important food production sector supporting the source of revenue and food security of a huge segment of economically underprivileged population. It provides employment and profitable economic activity to millions of people. The fishing industry is getting enlarged and much of the investments are coming from the private sectors (Arciaga. 2002). The fisheries sector contributed 2680 crores to the GSDP (at 2004-2005 prices) during 2011-2012 in the state, which is 0.80 percent of the total GSDP. During 2011-2012, the export of marine harvests reached 73991 tons at the value of 2801 crore.

India is second to China in total fish production. After China, Peru, Indonesia, USA and Japan India ranks sixth in marine fish production and is third in inland capture fisheries next to China and Bangladesh and second in aquaculture after China (Ashby Jacqui, 2003).

Tamilnadu ranked fourth in marine and sixth in inland fish production in India in 2009 -2010. Tamilnadu is one of the biggest producer of marine and inland fish and fish products, which has a coastline of 1076 km, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.90 lakh sq.km and 41412 sq.km of continental shelf (Polotan-Dela Cruz, 2003). There are 13 coastal districts in Tamilnadu namely, Thiruvallur, Chennai, Kanchipuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, and Kanyakumari. At present 6728 mechanized boats and 56792 traditional crafts (24160 vallams and 32632 catamarans) are engaged in the marine fishing. The marine fish potential is valued at 7.00 lakh metric tons (L.M.T).

Fishing villages and landing centers: There are 573 fishing villages and 407 fish landing centers in the state, with the population of 8.02 lakh fishermen of which, 2.14 lakh are actively engaged in fishing as list in Table 1. There are three major fishing harbors and three medium fishing harbors.

Table.1.District Wise Number of Fishing VILLAGES and Landing Centers

District	Fishing Villages	Landing Centres
Thiruvallur	26	18
Chennai	44	14
Kanchipuram	42	42
Villupuram	19	18
Cuddalore	42	44
Nagapattinam	57	41
Thiruvarur	13	3
Thanjavur	31	25
Pudukottai	33	30
Ramanathapuram	178	90
Tuticorin	32	27
Tirunelveli	9	9
Kanyakumari	47	46
Total	573	407

Source: Marine Fisheries Census 2010

Table.1. reveals that Ramanathapuram District (178) tops in the number of fishing villages followed by Nagapattinam (57). Based on the number of landing centers 90 belongs to Ramanathapuram District and the minimum is in Thiruvarur District (3).

Fisherfolk population: There are 192697 marine fishermen households in the state with a total population of 802912 are list in Table 2.

Table.2.District Wise Number of Fisher Folk Population

District	Fisherman Families	Fisher Folk Population
Thiruvallur	7544	28109
Chennai	15176	67464
Kanchipuram	8469	29974
Villupuram	4720	18124
Cuddalore	12714	48518
Nagapattinam	21122	84369
Thiruvarur	2580	9995
Thanjavur	6530	29489
Pudukottai	6398	29663
Ramanathapuram	41048	193413
Tuticorin	19998	82560
Tirunelveli	6132	24639
Kanyakumari	40266	156595
Total	192697	802912

Source: Marine Fisheries Census 2010

From Table 2 it is clear that the maximum population is in Ramanathapuram district followed by Kanyakumari, Nagapattinam, Tuticorin and Chennai. The least number of Fisher Folk populations is in Thiruvarur District.

Occupation of fisher folk: There are 214064 active fishermen and 71541 fisher folk who are engaged in other fishing activities like marketing, labourers, curing/processing, making or repairing net and peeling.

Table.3.District wise occupation of Fisher Folk Population

District	Active Fishermen	Other Allied Fishing Activities
Thiruvallur	7526	2089
Chennai	14398	8389
Kanchipuram	9539	6645
Villupuram	4696	4754
Cuddalore	14698	3098
Nagapattinam	23289	11215
Thiruvarur	2634	1852
Thanjavur	7523	2012
Pudukottai	8227	2935
Ramanathapuram	48798	16886
Tuticorin	21772	4836
Tirunelveli	5947	808
Kanyakumari	45017	6022
Total	214064	71541

Source: Marine Fisheries Census 2010

Table.3.shows that Ramanathapuram District (48798 and 11215) ranks first both in the number of active fishermen and fishermen involved in other allied activities.

Craft in the fishery: There are 46070 crafts in the fishery of which 10692 are mechanized, 24942 are motorized and 10436 are non-motorized.

Table.4.District Wise Craft in the Fishery

District	Mechanized	Motorized	Non-Motorized
Thiruvallur	0	1519	192
Chennai	701	1328	665
Kanchipuram	0	2079	863
Villupuram	0	1610	620
Cuddalore	1049	2255	836
Nagapattinam	927	4016	1146
Thiruvarur	0	82	38
Thanjavur	212	1201	336
Pudukottai	443	998	718
Ramanathapuram	4790	372	1926
Tuticorin	1520	1699	294
Tirunelveli	0	1111	205
Kanyakumari	1050	6672	2597
Total	10692	24942	10436

Source: Marine Fisheries Census 2010

Table 4 clearly portrays that Ramanathapuram District (4790) Fisher Folk mostly uses mechanized crafts followed by Tuticorin (1520). In case of Motorized craft Kanyakumari district (6672) ranks first followed by Nagapattinam (4016). Kanyakumari District (2597) tops in using non-motorized crafts followed by Ramanathapuram (1926).

Table.5.District Wise Usage of Mechanized Craft in the Fishery

District	Trawlers	Gillnetters	Liners	Ring seiners	Others
Chennai	569	132	0	0	0
Cuddalore	643	152	0	249	5
Nagapattinam	927	0	0	0	0
Thanjavur	212	0	0	0	0
Pudukottai	443	0	0	0	0
Ramanathapuram	1995	2622	0	57	116
Tuticorin	333	1067	0	0	90
Kanyakumari	645	25	380	0	0
Total	5767	4028	380	306	211

Source: Marine Fisheries Census 2010

From Table 5, Ramanathapuram district uses gillnetters (2622) more followed by Trawlers (1995).

Infrastructure facility: In Tamilnadu there are 64 boat yards, 105 ice factories, 41 cold storages, 6 freezing plants, 45 curing units, 24 peeling sheds and 3 processing plants.

Table.6.District Wise Infrastructure Facility

District	Boat Yards	Ice Factories	Cold Storages	Freezing Plants	Curing Yards	Peeling Sheds	Processing Plants	Extraction Plants
Thiruvallur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chennai	8	7	23	1	24	2	0	0
Kanchipuram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Villupuram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cuddalore	1	5	5	2	2	6	0	0
Nagapattinam	7	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thiruvarur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thanjavur	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pudukottai	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ramanathapuram	4	20	4	1	0	9	1	0
Tuticorin	19	16	2	1	19	4	1	0
Tirunelveli	3	3	0	1	0	0	1	0

Kanyakumari	22	26	6	0	0	3	0	5
Total	64	105	41	6	45	24	3	5

Source: Marine Fisheries Census 2010

Table 6, shows that boat yards and ice factories are more in Kanyakumari District (22 and 26), cold storages and curing yards are more in Chennai (23 and 24), 2 freezing plants in Cuddalore, 9 peeling sheds in Ramanathapuram respectively.

Total marine fish landing: For the year 2013, the assessment of all India annual marine fish landings is 3.78 million t as against the all-time high of 3.94 million t during 2012 registering a decline of 1.56 lakh t (4%). Gujarat contributed the highest at 7.17 lakh t followed by Tamilnadu with 6.88 lakh t and Kerala with 6.71 lakh t.

The total fish landing of 6.88 lakh t in Tamilnadu is contributed mainly by pelagic resources (56.5%) followed by demersal (28.9%), crustacean (5.9%) and molluscan (3.8%) resources.

With regard to the number of species landed, Tamilnadu is at the top with 328 followed by Kerala with 308 and the minimum is 61 for Goa. Among the 328 species landed in Tamilnadu 45 species unique to the state.

Table.7.Components of Marine Fish Landings in India

Species	Percentage (%)
Pelagic	56
Mollusc	5
Crustacean	13
Demersal	26

Source: CMFRI Annual Report 2012-13

From Table 7, it is clear that the pelagic species (56%) landing is more in India.

Table.8.Components of Pelagic Species Landing in India

Pelagic Species	Percentage (%)
Oil SARDINES	28
Ribbon fishes	12
Carangids	12
Mackerel	91
Other Sardines	8
Anchovies	7
Bombay Duck	6
Tunnies	4

Source: CMFRI Annual Report 2012-13

Table 8 reveals that in India Mackerel (91%) landing is high followed by Oil Sardines (28%).

Table.9.Components of Mollusc Species Landing in India

Mollusc Species	Percentage (%)
Squids	51
Cuttlefishes	42
Octopus	3
Bivalves	3
Gastropods	1

Source: CMFRI Annual Report 2012-13

Table 9 reveals that in India Squids (51%) landing is high followed by Cuttle fishes (42%).

Table.10.Components of Crustacean Species Landing in India

Crustacean Species	Percentage (%)
Penaeid Prawns	41
Non-Penaeid pRawns	45
Crabs	9.4
Stomatopods	4.3
Lobsters	0.3

Source: CMFRI Annual Report 2012-13

Table 10 reveals that in India Non-Penaeid prawns (45%) landing is high followed by Penaeid prawns (41%).

Table.11.Components of Demersal Species Landing in India

Demersal Species	Percentage (%)
Threadfin Breams	18
Croakers	18
Silverbellies	12
Catfishes	9
Elasmobranchs	5
Ponfrets	5
Lizard Fishes	6
Other Perches	13

Source: CMFRI Annual Report 2012-13

Table 11 reveals that in India Threadfin breams and Croakers (18%) landing is high followed by other perches (13%).

Marine exports: Exports of marine products reached an all-time high of USD 5511.12 million during the financial year 2014-15. In quantity, rupee value and USD terms, marine product exports crossed all previous records. Exports aggregated to 1051243 MT valued at Rs. 33441.61 crores and USD 5511.12 million. Seafood exports recorded a growth of 6.86 % in quantity, 10.69% in rupee and 10.05 % growth in USD earnings when compared to the previous year.

Table.12.Item Wise Marine Exports in India during 2013-14 and 2014-15

Item		2013-14	2014-15
Fr. Shrimp	Quantity in ton	301435.00	357505.00
	Value in Crore	19368.30	22468.12
	US\$ Million	3210.94	3709.76
Fr. Fin Fish	Quantity in ton	324359.00	309434.00
	Value in Crore	4294.81	3778.50
	US\$ Million	708.63	619.66
Fr. Cuttlefish	Quantity in ton	68577.00	82353.00
	Value in Crore	1386.98	1833.21
	US\$ Million	228.13	300.69
Fr. Squid	Quantity in ton	87437.00	69569.00
	Value in Crore	1731.97	1275.25
	US\$ Million	284.60	209.84
Dried items	Quantity in ton	67901.00	70544.00
	Value in Crore	998.00	1010.16
	US\$ Million	167.89	165.52
Live items	Quantity in ton	5080.00	5488.00
	Value in Crore	281.85	301.51
	US\$ Million	46.70	49.62
Chilled items	Quantity in ton	19755.00	31404.00
	Value in Crore	527.84	635.93
	US\$ Million	88.48	104.71
Others	Quantity in ton	109212.00	124947.00

	Value in Crore	1623.50	2138.94
	US\$ Million	272.34	351.31
Total	Quantity in ton	983756.00	1051243.00
	Value in Crore	30213.26	33441.61
	US\$ Million	5007.70	5511.12

Source: MPEDA

Table 12 portrays that the overall marine export has been increased during the financial year 2014-15 when compared to 2013-14. Item wise frozen cuttle fish is exported more in case of quantity in tonnes during both financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15 other than other fishes exported. Based on the value in crore frozen shrimp ranks first in both the financial years.

Table.13.Port wise Marine Exports in India during 2013-14 and 2014-15

Port		2013-14	2014-15
Tuticorin	Quantity in ton	39547.00	42203.00
	Value in Crore	2163.18	2328.27
	US\$ Million	358.60	383.92
Chennai	Quantity in ton	55282.00	46671.00
	Value in Crore	2709.97	2458.20
	US\$ Million	456.79	405.71

Source: MPEDA

Table 13 shows that the marine export has increased in Tuticorin port in 2014-15 compared to 2013-14. But in Chennai port the marine exports has been decreased in 2014-15 when compared to 2013-14.

2. CONCLUSION

Marine fisheries is an essential industry of our country's economy contributing to the livelihood of millions of fisher folk dwelling in the long shoreline of India and those who are involved in the related activities. Based on the survey, Ramanathapuram District tops in the number of fishing villages, number of landing centers, fisher folk population, number of active fishermen, mechanized craft users, etc. Number of cold storages are more in Chennai. Kanyakumari ranks next to Ramanathapuram District. The marine exports are increasing in both quantity and value. Marine sector is growing enormously which will improve the economy of our country.

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