



Casting Nets, Catching Success

India's Fisheries on the Rise

(Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

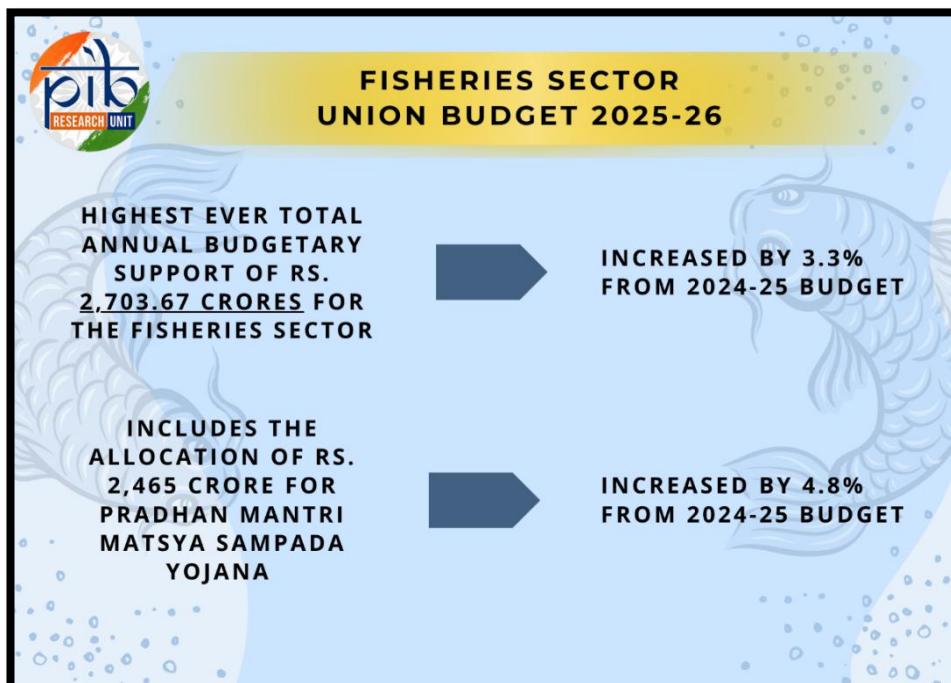
15th February, 2025

Introduction:

India is the second largest fish producing country with around 8% share in global fish production.

Over the past two decades, India's fisheries sector has witnessed significant growth and transformation. From technological advancements to policy reforms, the period from 2004 to 2024 has been marked by milestones that have bolstered India's position in global fisheries and aquaculture. The Union Budget 2025-26, proposed the highest ever total annual budgetary support of Rs. 2,703.67 crores for the fisheries sector. This is a testament to India's achievement as a leader in aquaculture and seafood exports!

"THE SUNRISE SECTOR" IN THE UNION BUDGET 2025-26



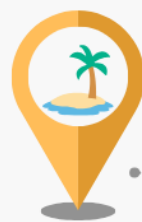
The 2025-26 budget announcement strategically focuses on enhancing financial inclusion, reducing financial burden on farmers by reducing custom duties and furthering development of the marine fisheries.

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

Harnessing of EEZ area of 6.60 lakh sq. km (1/3rd of Indian EEZ)

Marine fisheries potential of 1.48 lakh tonnes including 60,000 tons for tuna fisheries

Harnessing opportunities in sea cage culture, seaweed, ornamental and pearl cultivation have been undertaken



LAKSHWADEEP

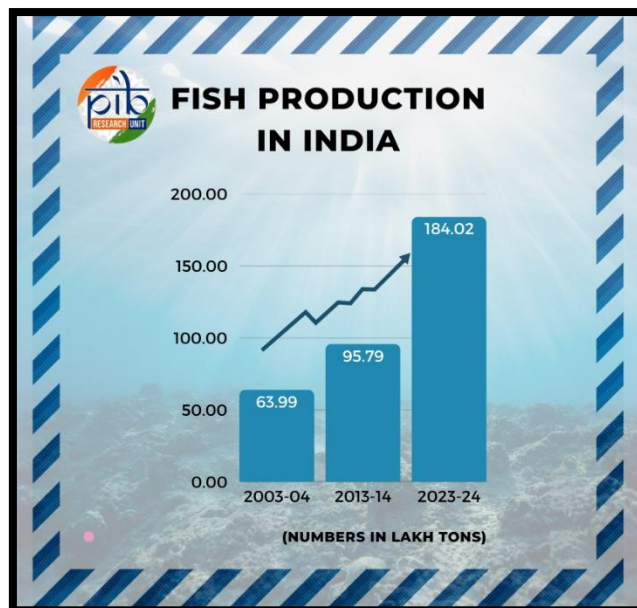
Target harnessing of EEZ area of 4 lakh sq. km (17% of Indian EEZ)

Lagoon area of 4200 sq mt with potential of 1 lakh tonnes including 4,200 tonnes for Tuna fisheries

Harnessing opportunities in Tuna fishing and Ornamental fish farming have been undertaken

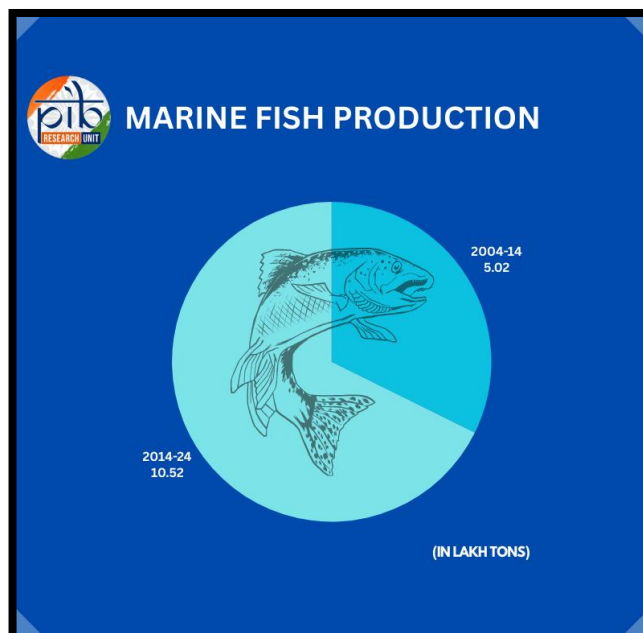
Additionally, The Budget 2025-26 highlights enabling a framework for sustainable harnessing of fisheries from Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and High Seas with special focus on **Lakshadweep and A&N Islands**. This will ensure sustainable harnessing of the untapped potential of the marine fish resources in the Indian EEZ and adjacent High Seas for growth in the marine sector.

The Government of India also increased the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) lending limit from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh** to enhance credit accessibility for fishers, farmers, processors and other fisheries' stakeholders. This move aims at streamlining the flow of financial resources ensuring that necessary funds are easily accessible for fulfilling working capital requirements of the sector.



Increase in Production: Fish production increased to an impressive **184.02 lakh tons** (2023-24) from **95.79 lakh tons** (2013-14) and **63.99 lakh tons** (2003-04) registering an increase of 88.23 lakh tons in 10 years (2014-24) as compared to an increase of 31.80 lakh tons (2004-14).

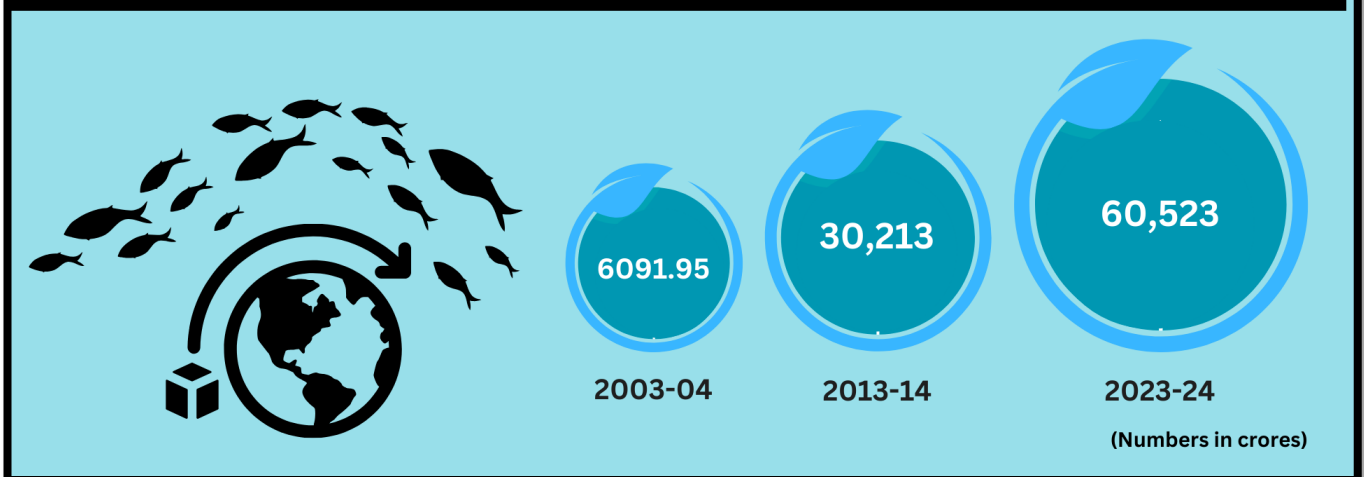
Increase in Inland and Aquaculture Fish Production: A tremendous increase of **77.71 lakh tons** was achieved in Inland and Aquaculture fish production from **2014-24** as against the **26.78 lakh tons** achieved from **2004-14**.



The marine fish production doubled to **10.52 lakh tons** (2004-14) from **5.02 lakh tons** (2014-24).



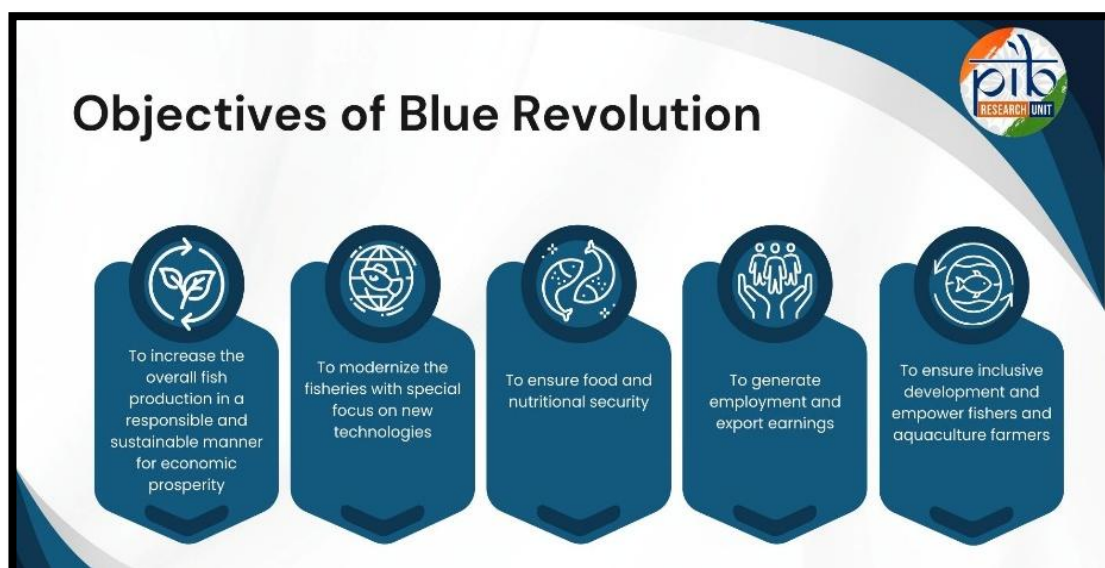
Seafood export value witnessed a quantum jump



As reported by **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**, during the financial year 2023-24, India exported 17,81,602 MT of Seafood worth ₹ 60,523.89 Cr. The export value has witnessed a significant jump from 609.95 Cr in 2003-04.

Policy Initiatives and Schemes:

Blue Revolution: The Blue Revolution scheme was the first step towards making the fisheries sector economically viable and robust. With its multi-dimensional activities, Blue Revolution focuses mainly on increasing fisheries production and productivity from aquaculture and fisheries resources, both inland and marine. **The Blue Revolution Scheme** was launched in FY2015-16 with a central outlay of **Rs. 3000 crores for 5 years**.



However, as the sector needed reforms to address critical gaps across the value chain; Thus, the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** scheme was conceived in 2020 to help the fisheries sector achieve new heights while ensuring socio-economic welfare of fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is being **implemented for a period of five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) with an investment of Rs 20,050 crore**. The initiative delves into the domain of inland fisheries and aquaculture, recognizing their pivotal role in bolstering production and ensuring robust food security.

Objectives of PMMSY	Targets of PMMSY
<p>PMMSY Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Harness the potential of the fisheries sector in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner > Enhance fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification and productive utilization of land and water > Modernize and strengthen the value chain including post-harvest management and quality improvement > Double fishers and fish farmers' incomes and generate meaningful employment > Enhance the contribution of the fisheries sector to Agricultural GVA and exports > Ensure social, physical and economic security for fishers and fish farmers > Build a robust fisheries management and regulatory framework 	<p>Fish Production and Productivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing fish production to 22 million metric tons by 2024-25 from 13.75 million metric tons in 2018-19. • Enhancing aquaculture productivity to 5 tons per hectare from the current national average of 3 tons. • Augmenting domestic fish consumption from 5 kg to 12 kg per capita. <p>Economic Value Addition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing contribution of fisheries sector to the Agriculture GVA to about 9% by 2024-25 from 7.28% in 2018-19. • Doubling export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crores by 2024-25 from Rs.46,589 crores in 2018-19. • Facilitating private investment and growth of entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector. • Reduction of post-harvest losses from the reported 20-25% to about 10%. <p>Enhancing Income and Employment Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating 55 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities along the value chain. • Doubling the incomes of fishers and fish farmers.

Source: <https://pmmsy.dof.gov.in/#schemeIntro>

Key interventions under ongoing PMMSY

58 fishing harbours	128 value add enterprises
634 ice plants/cold storages	27189 units of fish transportation facilities
21 Modern wholesale fish markets	5 E-platform for e-trading and e-marketing
202 retail fish markets	6694 fish kiosks

INITIATIVES UNDER PMMSY

1. **Fish Farmers Producer Organisations (FFPOs)**- Under the ongoing PMMSY, there is a provision to provide financial assistance for setting up of **Fish Farmers Producer Organisations (FFPOs)** to economically empower the fishers and fish farmers and enhance their bargaining power which ultimately help to improve the standard of living of fishers.

The Department of Fisheries has so far accorded approval for setting up of a total of **2195 FFPOs at a total project cost of Rs.544.85 crore comprising 2000 fisheries cooperative as FFPOs and 195 new FFPOs**. Further, to facilitate access to institutional credit by fishers and fish farmers, Kisan Credit Card facility has been extended to fisheries since 2018-19 and till date **4,50,799 KCC card** have been sanctioned to fishers and fish farmers.

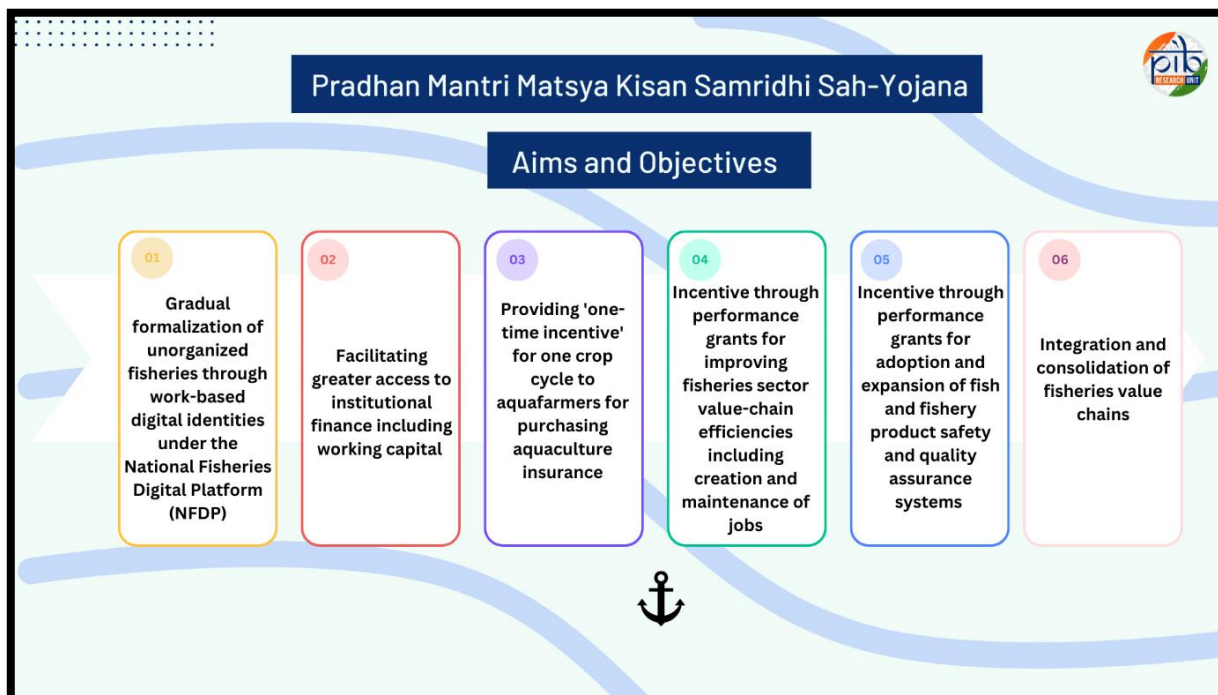
2. **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)**-

In the Union Budget 2018, the Hon'ble Finance Minister announced setting up of a Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for fisheries sector. Accordingly, during 2018-19, a dedicated fund, FIDF was created with a total funds size of Rs **7522.48 crore**.

The Department of Fisheries, has approved a total **136 project proposals/projects** at a total cost of **Rs.5801.06** crore with project cost restricted for interest subvention at Rs.3858.19 crore received from various State Governments/UTs and other eligible entities. Extension of FIDF will further intensify development of various fisheries infrastructures.

3. **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana-**

The Union Cabinet approved the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY)**, a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in February 2024 for a period of four years from **FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27**. PM-MKSSY will be implemented in all the States and Union Territories with an estimated outlay of **₹6000 crore**. PM-MKSSY intends to address the inherent weaknesses of the sector through identified financial and technological intervention for bringing in institutional reforms to support the transformation of the fisheries sector in the Long-term.



4. Integrated Aqua Parks Under PMMSY-

The Department of Fisheries in India has been actively promoting the development of integrated aquaparks to boost the fisheries sector. These aquaparks are part of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and aim to enhance the aquaculture value chain through various initiatives. The Department has accorded approval for setting up of a total **11 integrated aquaparks** in the country at a total cost of **Rs 682.6 crore**.

5. Artificial Reefs Deployed Under PMMSY-

Artificial reefs are man-made structures placed on the seafloor to enhance marine habitats and ecosystems. These structures mimic natural reefs and provide shelter, food sources, and breeding grounds for various marine organisms. In India, the Department of Fisheries has been actively promoting the installation of artificial reefs across coastal states to support sustainable marine fisheries conservation efforts. These initiatives aim to rejuvenate coastal fisheries, rebuild fish stocks, and enhance marine biodiversity. The Department of Fisheries, with technical support from the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) and ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), is committed to promoting sustainable practices and improving the livelihoods of coastal communities through these projects. **As on Sep 2024, installation of 937 artificial reefs have been approved at a project cost of Rs. 291.37 crore in the states/UTs of AP, Gujarat, Lakshadweep, Karnataka, Odisha, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.**

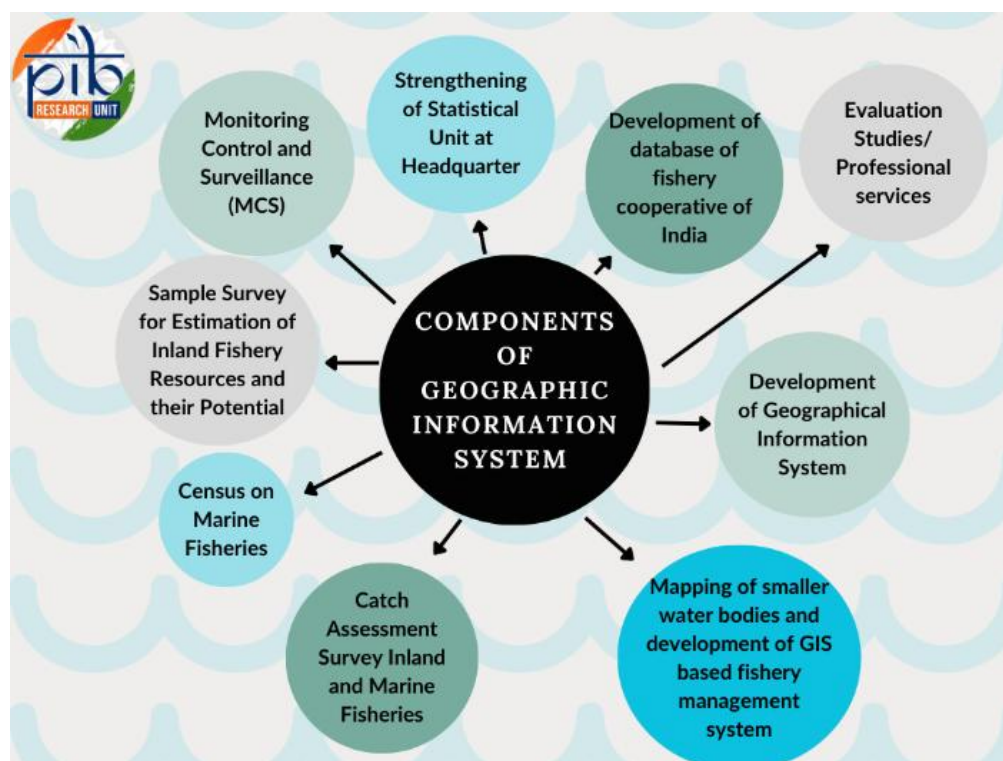
6. Designated NBCs Under PMMSY-

The Department of Fisheries in India has designated specific Nucleus Breeding Centres (NBCs) to enhance the genetic quality of aquaculture species. These NBCs play a crucial role in improving the productivity and quality of species like shrimp, which are vital for both domestic consumption and export.

Technological Advancements:

- **Satellite Technology Integration:** National Rollout Plan for Vessel Communication and Support System, application of Oceansat, Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) etc., undertaken by Department of Fisheries on application of space technologies in the fisheries sector.
- **GIS-Based Resource Mapping:** Implementation of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology for mapping marine fish landing centers and fishing grounds, aiding in effective resource management.

The components of the scheme for strengthening of database and geographical information system GIS for fisheries sector are as under:



ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE): A Centre of Excellence

The Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), established in 1961, is India's leading institution for higher education and research in fisheries. CIFE has trained more than 4,000 fisheries extension workers

and professionals who play a crucial role in promoting sustainable fisheries practices across the country. CIFE's role in capacity building has been critical to the growth of India's fisheries sector.

Key highlights of India's sustainable fishing efforts include:

National Policy on Marine Fisheries (NPMF, 2017): The Government of India has introduced the NPMF, which places a strong emphasis on sustainability as the core principle for all marine fisheries actions. This policy guides the conservation and management of India's marine fishery resources.

Regulation and Conservation Measures: To ensure the long-term sustainability of marine fish stocks, the Government has implemented several conservation measures, including:

- **Uniform Fishing Ban:** A 61-day uniform fishing ban during the monsoon season in the EEZ to allow fish stocks to replenish.
- **Prohibition of Destructive Fishing Methods:** Bans on pair trawling, bull trawling, and the use of artificial LED lights in fishing, which help reduce overfishing and minimize damage to marine ecosystems.
- **Promotion of Sustainable Practices:** Encouraging sea ranching, the installation of artificial reefs, and mariculture activities such as seaweed cultivation.
- **Fisheries Regulations by States/UTs:** Coastal States/UTs have also implemented gear-mesh size and engine power regulations, minimum legal size (MLS) of fish, and zonation of fishing areas for different types of vessels, contributing to sustainable fishing.

Conclusion:

The period from 2004 to 2024 has been transformative for India's fisheries sector. Through concerted efforts in policy implementation, technological integration, and sustainable practices, India has not only enhanced its fish production but also ensured the socio-economic development of its fishing communities. As the nation moves forward, continued focus on innovation and sustainability will be key to maintaining this upward trajectory.

References:

- Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2055709>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2098615>
- <https://dof.gov.in/blue-revolution>
- https://dof.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-10/Reform_Booklet_English.pdf

- https://dof.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-10/Reform_Booklet_English.pdf
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NoteId=152138&ModuleId=3®=3&lang=1>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2099606>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2004229>
- <https://dof.gov.in/schemes/pmmkssy>
- <http://164.100.192.144/Reports/AquaParkReport>
- <http://164.100.192.144/Reports/ArtificialReefsReport>
- <http://164.100.192.144/Reports/NBCReport>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2044893>
- <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=116328>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NoteId=153438&ModuleId=3®=3&lang=1>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2075160>
- <https://dof.gov.in/marine-fisheries>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2101794>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2101779>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2078380>

Santosh Kumar/ Sarla Meena/ Kritika Rane