

GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA

RESOURCE BASE- FISHERIES



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FISHERIES

Fisheries is an economic activity that involves harvesting fish or any aquatic organism from the wild (**Capture Fisheries**) or raising them in confinement (**Culture Fisheries/ Aquaculture**). It may be Traditional/ Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) for sustenance, or Large-Scale/ Commercial Fisheries for profit.



SIGNIFICANCE OF FISHERIES

- ❖ Fisheries plays an important role in the economy of India.**
- ❖ Fisheries help in augmenting food supply, generating employment, raising nutritional level and earning foreign exchange.**
- ❖ Fish forms an important part of the diet of many people living in the coastal areas of Kerala, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Maharashtra.**
- ❖ It provides sustenance to over 11 million persons, about 25% of whom are actively engaged in fishing operations.**

ABOUT INDIAN FISHERIES

- ❖ India is the third largest fish producing country in the world.
- ❖ India contributes about 7% to the global fish production.
- ❖ The country is also home to more than 10% of the global 'fish biodiversity'.
- ❖ Around 14 million people are engaged in fisheries and its allied activities.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh is the largest fish producer in the country followed by West Bengal and Gujarat. The total fish production during 2017-18 is estimated to be 12.60 million metric tonnes, of which nearly 70% is from inland sector and about 50% of the total production is from culture fisheries.
- ❖ More than 50 different types of fish and shellfish products are being exported to 75 countries around the world.

Types of fisheries in India are as follows:

1. MARINE FISHERIES

(i) COASTAL FISHERIES

(ii) OFF SHORE AND
DEEP SEA FISHERIES

2. FRESHWATER OR INLAND FISHERIES

(i) POND AND LAKE
FISHERIES

(ii) RIVERINE FISHERIES

(iii) ESTUARINE
FISHERIES

3. PEARL FISHERIES

TYPES OF FISHERIES IN INDIA

Types of fisheries in India are as follows:

(1) Marine Fisheries: is the rearing of fish in sea water.

It is further sub divided into:

(i) Coastal Fisheries and

(ii) Off-shore and Deep Sea Fisheries

❖ **Coastal fisheries** are confined to coastal waters in the west from Kachchh, Malabar coast to Coromandal coast in the east, they are spread over narrow coastal belt upto 200m isobath and total fishable area of about 2,81,600 sq km.

❖ **Off-shore and Deep Sea fisheries** which accounts for a small production of marine fish in the country has not been developed fully so far in India. Deep sea fishing consists of, fishing in off-shore and the high seas for surface, mid-water and bottom forms of fish.

(2) Freshwater or Inland Fisheries: Freshwater fishery is carried on in rivers, canals, irrigation channels, tanks, ponds, lakes, etc. About 60 per cent of the country's total fish production comes from inland fisheries

Freshwater fishery can be divided into 3 categories

(i) Pond and Lake Fisheries

(ii) Riverine Fisheries

(iii) Estuarine Fisheries

IMPORTANT FISH SPECIES OF PONDS & LAKES



Rohita fish



Kalbasu



Catla

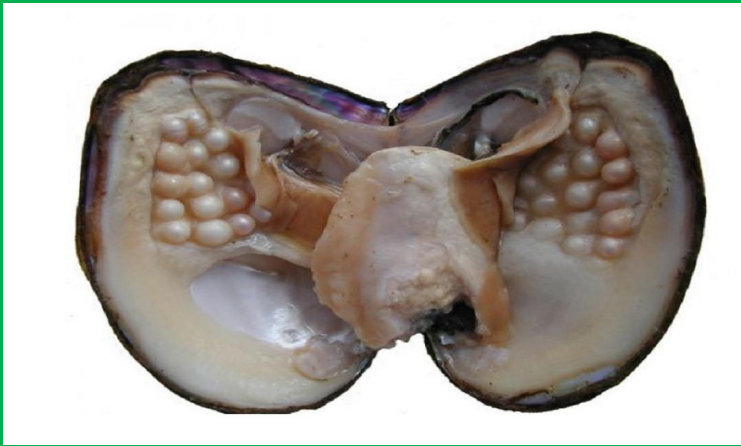


Mrigal

(3) Pearl Fisheries

Pearl fisheries provide precious pearls which are obtained from pearl-oysters. Principal centres are the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kachchh and Palk Bay.

The **Tuticorin region** along the East Coast is the most important pearl producing region of the country.



Pearl oyster

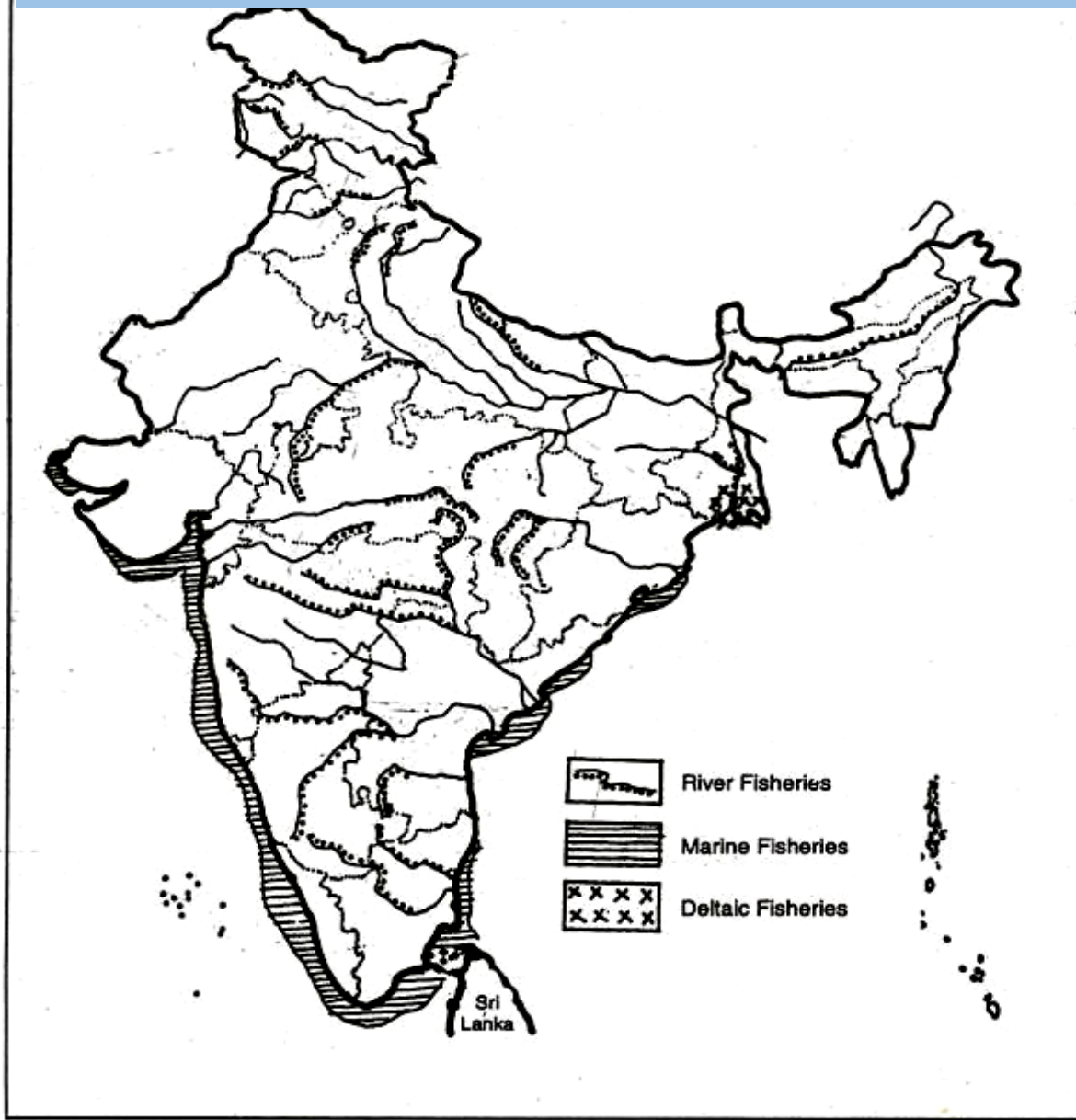


Precious Pearl obtained from oyster



Distribution: Though almost every state and union territory in India contribute towards fish production but about 63% of the output is mainly obtained from six states of Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat.

Map showing extent of different fisheries in India



Map showing extent of different fisheries in India.

CONSUMPTION AND EXPORT

- ❖ The per capita consumption of fish in India is 5 kg against the world average of 12 kg.
- ❖ The per capita consumption is the highest in the coastal areas of West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Daman and Diu.
- ❖ About 90% of the fish production of the country is utilized in internal consumption leaving very small quantity for export.
- ❖ About 50% of the total export is in the form of frozen and canned shrimps.
- ❖ Important importers of the Indian marine products are Japan, China, the United States, France, Australia, United Kingdom and Sri Lanka.

STRATEGIES FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

Following programmes have been undertaken for fisheries development in the country:

- ❖ Under the Indian- Norway Project (INP) traditional fishing crafts are being mechanized and modernized as a result of which satpati, machhawa, lodhia, malia and tuticoran boats have been developed. About 48,226 traditional crafts have been modernized so far.
- ❖ Training centres have been established at Satpati (Maharashtra), Verawal (Saurashtra), Kojan and Tutukandi (Tamil Nadu).
- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 187 Agriculture Science Centre In different parts of the country with due emphasis on fishery development.
- ❖ Refrigeration facilities have been provided at three principal routes for the transportation of fish to the markets.
- ❖ Insurance facilities have been extended to fisherman for the insurance and security of their life.
- ❖ There are presently over 900 hatcheries all over the country to provide fish feed to the farmers.

Reference

R.C. Tiwari – Geography of India