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Tamil Nadu Overtakes Gujarat as India's Top Marine Fish Producer — CMFRI 2025 Data

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WHY IN NEWS

According to data released by the **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)**, **Tamil Nadu** has surpassed **Gujarat** to become **India's largest marine fish producer** in 2025. Tamil Nadu produced **6.85 lakh tonnes** — up 1% — while Gujarat declined 15% to **6.43 lakh tonnes**. India's total marine fish production reached **35.7 lakh tonnes** (up 3% from 34.6 lakh tonnes), with a retail market value of **Rs 97,702 crore**.

STATE-WISE MARINE FISH PRODUCTION (2025)

STATE	PRODUCTION (LAKH TONNES)	CHANGE VS 2024	RANK
Tamil Nadu	6.85	+1%	1st
Gujarat	6.43	-15%	2nd
Andhra Pradesh	~5.2	Stable	3rd
Kerala	~5.0	Stable	4th
Maharashtra	~3.5	Improving	5th
Karnataka	~1.8	Stable	6th

(State-wise figures for AP, Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka are approximate based on historical CMFRI data; Tamil Nadu and Gujarat figures are confirmed 2025 data)

KEY STATISTICS — INDIA MARINE FISHERIES 2025

INDICATOR	VALUE
Total marine fish production	35.7 lakh tonnes
Growth rate	+3% (from 34.6 lakh tonnes in 2024)
Retail market value	Rs 97,702 crore
Top state	Tamil Nadu (6.85 lakh tonnes)
Top species	Indian mackerel — 0.27 million tonnes
India's rank globally	~3rd largest fish producing nation (after China, Peru/Indonesia)

WHY GUJARAT DECLINED 15%

Gujarat's marine fish catch fell significantly in 2025 due to:

- 1 Extended ban period** — Gujarat follows longer fishing ban periods in the Arabian Sea
- 2 Cyclone impacts** — Disruption to fishing activity in the Arabian Sea
- 3 Overfishing pressure** — Some species stocks under stress in Gujarat's traditional fishing grounds
- 4 Fleet migration** — Some Gujarat vessels operating in other states' Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)

ABOUT CMFRI

FEATURE	DETAIL
Full name	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
Established	1947
Headquarters	Kochi, Kerala
Under	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture
Mandate	Research on marine fisheries, aquaculture, biodiversity, marine ecosystems
Key publications	Marine Fish Landings (annual); Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Status (biennial)
Notable records	Only agency with comprehensive marine fish landing data for all Indian coastal states

INDIA'S FISHERIES SECTOR — OVERVIEW

INDICATOR	VALUE
Total fish production (marine + inland)	~175 lakh tonnes (2024–25 approx.)
Inland vs marine split	~60:40 (inland aquaculture dominates)
Fisheries' share in GDP	~1.1%
Share in agricultural GDP	~6.5%
Exports (fish & fish products)	Rs 60,523 crore (2023–24)
Top export destination	USA, China, Southeast Asia
Top export species	Frozen shrimp (vannamei)
Fishermen population	~28 million (direct livelihood)

Key Schemes

SCHEME	FOCUS
Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)	Doubling fish production; 2020–25; Rs 20,050 crore
Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)	Fisheries infrastructure; Rs 7,522 crore corpus
Kisan Credit Card for fisheries	Working capital credit for fishermen
Blue Economy Policy	Overall maritime economy development

INDIA'S COASTLINE AND MARINE RESOURCES

FEATURE	DATA
Coastline length	7,516.6 km (mainland)
Total coastline (with islands)	~11,100 km
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	2.02 million sq km
Continental shelf	~0.56 million sq km
Coastal states/UTs	9 states + 4 UTs
Major fishing harbours	Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Kochi, Mumbai, Mormugao

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): The area extending 200 nautical miles from a country's baseline over which it has sovereign rights for exploration and exploitation of marine resources. India's EEZ is one of the largest in the world.

UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	ANGLE
GS3 — Economy	Fisheries sector, Blue Economy, PMMSY, aquaculture
GS1 — Geography	Coastline, EEZ, marine resources, state-wise fishing
GS3 — Environment	Marine biodiversity, overfishing, sustainable fisheries

Mains Keywords: CMFRI, marine fish production, Tamil Nadu top fish producer, Indian mackerel, PMMSY (Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana), Blue Economy, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), ICAR, inland vs marine fisheries, fish exports India

Prelims Facts Corner

ITEM	FACT
India's top marine fish producer (2025)	Tamil Nadu — 6.85 lakh tonnes
Gujarat rank	2nd; 6.43 lakh tonnes (-15%)
India total marine production	35.7 lakh tonnes (+3%)
Retail market value	Rs 97,702 crore
Top species	Indian mackerel — 0.27 million tonnes
CMFRI	Est. 1947; HQ Kochi; under ICAR
India's EEZ	2.02 million sq km
India's coastline (mainland)	7,516.6 km
PMMSY	Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana; 2020-25; Rs 20,050 crore

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