

Wilson T. Mathew and Srinivasan, J.

*FRA Division, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi*

Andhra Pradesh, with 974 km of coastline and continental shelf area forming 31,000 sq. km, is rich with many species of prawns, carangids, Perches, croakers and elasmobranchs. During 2012, the estimated marine fish landing of Andhra Pradesh was 3.04 lakh t.

The main gears operated during 2012 were trawl nets, driftnets/gillnets and seine nets. Their share towards the total landings in the state were trawl-net 55.9%, driftnet/ gillnet 14.6%, seine nets

13.1% and hooks and lines 3.6%. Nearly 88.5% of the trawl landings were through multi-day operations. About 96.7% of seines landings were by motorized ring seines and 96.9% of gillnet/ driftnet landings were by motorized gillnets. The overall catch per unit of multi-day trawl nets were 2,815 kg and that of single day trawlers were 434 kg. Percentage contribution of the major resources is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Gearwise percentage contribution of major resources

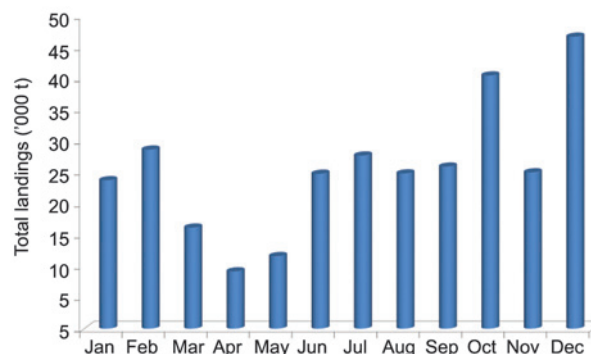
Resources/ gear	Mechanized		Motorized		Traditional
	TN	GN	RS	TN	
Carangids	62	11	10	1	10
Crabs	69	15	0	10	5
Croakers	61	13	5	6	14
Elasmobranchs	53	10	0	30	1
Goatfishes	87	3	2	0	7
Indian mackerel	38	22	31	0	10
Oil sardine	9	13	54	0	20
Other clupeids	42	20	14	2	22
Other sardines	9	16	27	0	48
Penaeid prawns	82	4	0	13	2
Perches	79	7	0	0	4
Pomfrets	64	25	3	6	2
Ribbon fishes	63	10	2	6	19
Seerfishes	14	33	20	1	16
Silverbellies	66	6	7	1	20
Stolephorus spp.	36	1	56	0	6

TN-trawl net, GN-gill net, RS-ring seine

Ring seine fishery in Andhra Pradesh was started from 2009. Based on the target group and mesh size, the ring seines along the Andhra Pradesh coast are classified into three groups, viz., the large mesh targeting tuna and seer fish, medium mesh exploiting sardines, mackerel and carangid and small mesh targeting anchovies.

Ring seines in the motorized sector landed 602 kg/boat with a catch rate of 207 kg/h. Shore seines in the motorized sector landed 3,586 kg/boat with a catch rate of 897 kg/h. Nearly 52% of the total landings were by the mechanised sector followed by motorized sector 35% and the remaining 13% by the artisanal sector. Around 54% of the landings in Andhra Pradesh during 2012 were from the following six Fisheries harbours namely Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Bairava Palem, Gilahalhandi, Nizampatnam and Vodarevu. Pelagic resources (54.6%) dominated the landings followed by demersal (28.6%), crustacean (13.4%), molluscan (1.4%) and others (2%). Monthly landings were the maximum during December 2012 with 46680 tonnes.

June to December was the most productive season in Andhra Pradesh with more than 70% of the landings during this period. Fishing ban was implemented by the state fisheries department on mechanised fishing vessels and those fishing crafts fitted with outboard as well as inboard engines (motorized fishing boats) in the territorial waters along the entire coast of Andhra Pradesh for a period for 47 days from 15<sup>th</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012.



Month-wise marine fish landings in Andhra Pradesh during 2012

Table 2. Percentage landings of major resources in Andhra Pradesh during 2012

Name of the resource	1QR	2QR	3QR	4QR	2012
Elasmobranchs	2.6	4.7	2.6	5.0	3.8
Oil sardine	1.2	3.4	5.8	1.9	3.0
Other sardines	13.1	18.0	4.3	4.0	8.2
<i>Stolephorus</i>	2.8	10.4	2.4	1.4	3.3
Other clupeids	5.6	2.7	2.1	2.7	3.2
Perches	5.4	3.7	4.8	4.7	5.7
Goatfishes	2.7	1.9	2.7	2.3	4.7
Croakers	4.8	3.7	4.8	5.0	2.4
Ribbon fishes	3.5	3.4	6.9	11.1	7.2
Carangids	8.2	4.9	5.4	7.5	6.8
Silverbellies	2.4	2.7	3.1	2.0	2.5
Pomfrets	2.3	3.0	7.0	5.3	4.7
Mackerel	12.3	5.4	9.4	9.1	9.3
Seerfish	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.8	2.3
Penaeid prawns	7.6	9.0	11.5	10.2	9.8
Crabs	2.0	1.7	2.2	2.8	2.3
Others	21.3	19.3	23.1	22.2	21.8
Total landings	100	100	100	100	100

With 34% of the total production of the state, East Godavari ranked first in fish production followed by Visakhapatnam (29.7%), Srikakulam (8.5%), Prakasam (7.3%), Vijayanagaram (6.4%). The maximum contribution by mechanized trawl landings was from Visakhapatnam (42.9%) followed by East Godavari (42.3%).

The contribution by ring seine was the maximum from Vizianagaram (34.9%) followed by East Godavari (23.2%). Contribution by the motorized sector was the maximum from East Godavari followed by Prakasam. Contribution by the traditional sector was the maximum in Srikakulam (46.2%) followed by Visakhapatnam (22%).

In general, marine fish landings in Andhra Pradesh experienced an increase of about 30,000 tonnes during 2012 compared to 2011 landings. There was an increase in the landings by mechanised sector from 49% in 2011 to 52% in 2012. Trawl landings alone increased from 48% in 2011 to 56% in 2012. The state contributed 7.7% towards the total landings of main land in the country during 2012.