

An overview of the marine fish landings in Andhra Pradesh during 2014

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The estimated marine fish landings in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2014 was 3.41 lakh tonnes (t) as compared to 2.66 lakh t in 2013 showing an increase of 28%. The state's contribution to the all India landings during 2014 was 9.5%. Resources such as Indian mackerel and lesser sardines constituted the maximum, being 16.3% and 12.2% of the landings respectively. Tunnies and penaeid prawns landings contributed 8% each while the other important species/ groups were ribbon fishes 5.9%, carangids 5.5%, perches 4.2%, croakers 3.8%, oil sardine 3.5%, goatfishes 2.3%, seer fishes 2.3%, *Stolephorus* spp. 2%, crabs 2%, Silverbellies 1.9% and elasmobranchs 1.6%. Landings of crabs, Indian mackerel, oil sardine, lesser sardines, seer fishes and tunnies had increased by 0.4, 0.65, 1.04, 2.32, 0.56, 1.07 times respectively when compared to 2013 landing trends. Other clupeids and silverbellies had decreased when compared to the previous year landings.

During 2014, 46% of the elasmobranchs were landed by mechanised trawl net and 23% by motorised gill nets; 87% of croakers by motorised ring seines, 81% of goatfishes and 71% of perches by mechanised trawl net. Also, 53% of silverbellies and 90% of lizard fishes caught were landed by mechanised trawl net. 74% of carangids were landed by motorised gill net while Indian mackerel was landed by motorised ring

seines (46%), motorised gill net (19%) and by mechanised trawl nets (17%). 87% of oil sardines and 65% of lesser sardines were caught by motorised ring seines while 81% of ribbon fishes and 86% of *Stolephorus* were caught by mechanised trawl nets. Seer fishes were landed by mechanised trawl net (46%), motorised gill net (30%), motorised hook and lines (10%) and motorised ring seines (8%). Tunnies were landed by mechanised gill net (19%), motorised gill net (25%), motorised ring seines (29%), motorised hook and lines (24%), mechanised trawl net (2%) and traditional non-motorised gears (1%). Around 82% of penaeid prawns and 71% of crabs were landed by mechanised trawl nets.

The share of the pelagic, demersal, crustacean and molluscan resources to the total fish landings were 67%, 21%, 11% and 1% respectively. As compared to the trend in 2013, landings of pelagic resources increased by 54% in 2014 whereas no significant changes were observed for demersal and crustacean resources. Molluscan landings decreased by 22% when compared to year 2013.

Sector wise profile

The sector wise contributions of landings by mechanised, motorised and traditional sectors were 41%, 50% and 9% respectively. The sector wise

Table 1. Sectorwise contribution to the marine fish landings of Andhra Pradesh

Sector	2013	2014	percentage change
Mechanised sector landings (x thousand t)	140	140	0
Mechanised Units (x thousand)	60	45	-24
Motorised sector landings (x thousand t)	90	169	89
Motorised Units (x thousand)	636	857	35
Traditional sector landings (x thousand t)	37	32	-12
Traditional Units (x thousand)	560	469	-16

landings and its effort during 2013 and 2014 have been depicted in Table 1. Compared to 2013, There was an increase of 89% in landings by motorised sector.

Seasonal variations

The highest volume of marine fish landings in Andhra Pradesh was during June - September 2014, contributing 32% of the total catch. It showed an increase of 45,626 t compared to the corresponding period in 2013 (Fig. 1).

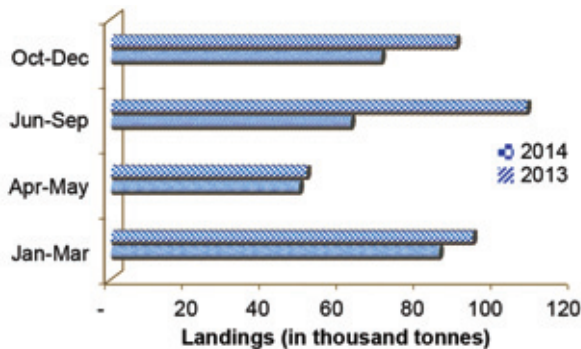


Fig. 1. Seasonal variations in marine fish landings

Gear wise profile indicated that 94% of marine fish landings were by three gears viz. Trawl nets (41%), gill nets (26%) and seines (27%). Of this, Mechanised trawl net constituted 39% and mechanised gill net 2%. Motorised ring seine contributes 26%, motorised gill net 17%, motorised

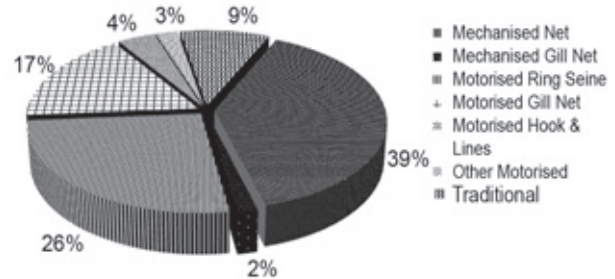


Fig. 2. Gear wise landings in Andhra Pradesh during 2014

hook & lines 4% and other motorised units 3% (Fig. 2). During 2014, multi day trawl net constituted 39% of the annual landings and 95% of the trawl fishery landings. Though the number of boats increased from 46782 during 2013 to 73030 during 2014, the catch rate (kg/h) decreased from 26 to 17 for the respective years. Motorised ring seines constituted 26% of annual landings and 96% of total seine landings. Here too, though the number of boats increased from 69957 during 2013 to 268036 during 2014, the catch rate (kg/hour) decreased from 137 in year 2013 to 119 in 2014. The share of landings by motorised gill net during 2014 was 17% which formed 67% of the total gill net landings. The number of boats during 2014 increased 2.61 times of 2013 but the catch rate (kg/h) decreased from 19 (2013) to 10 in 2014.