



**ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING,
FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE
DEPARTMENT**

**FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN
WELFARE**

**POLICY NOTE
2025 - 2026**

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2025**

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**FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN
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1. INTRODUCTION

The fisheries resources of the State, both Marine resources on the 1,076 km long coast line along the 14 coastal districts and Inland resources available across the State are harnessed on technical and environment friendly guiding principles. Substantial focus and emphasize on the economic and social dimensions of these resources is being provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu which accords utmost priority for the safety and wellbeing of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu. This Government's proactive policies embedded with the ecologically sustainable initiatives provides the strong base for a viable and vibrant fisheries sector in the State.

The fisheries sector is a growth engine that drives sustainable development and

socio-economic advancement of rural fishermen and fish farmers. Fisheries and aquaculture remain an important source of food, nutrition, employment and income for a substantial rural populations in Tamil Nadu. This Government is committed to an all-inclusive growth of fisheries sector in the State to provide our fishermen and fish farmers fraternity with the safe, secured and enhanced livelihood opportunities, State of the Art infrastructure facilities to augment the quality of fish produced to yield high value realisation, diversification of fishing efforts into deep sea, social security and quality of life for fishermen by implementing multifarious developmental and welfare schemes in the fisheries sector of the State.

The fishery resources of the State supports the livelihood of 10.48 lakh marine fisherfolk and 2.36 lakh inland fisherfolk. Fisheries sector in Tamil Nadu has shown impressive growth with an average annual growth rate of 7.02% during the

last three years. During the year 2023-24, the sector contributed 7.49% to the State's agricultural GDP. During the year 2023-24, marine fish production of the State was 6.37 lakh MT with a total fish production of 8.84 lakh MT. The fisheries sector contributed Rs.6,854.22 crore to foreign exchange earnings by exporting 1.34 lakh tonnes of fish and related products during the year 2023-24.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to protect the traditional fishing rights of our fishermen. In spite of the continued infringement of the traditional rights of our fishermen in the Palk Bay area by the Sri Lankan Navy, the Government is taking earnest steps to ensure that our fishermen eke out their livelihood peacefully. This Government after assuming charge, enhanced the Special Allowance from Rs.5,000/- to Rs. 6,000/- during the year 2021-22 and Fishing Ban period relief assistance from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.8,000/-

during the year 2024-25 to the marine fishermen families.

2. FISHERIES POLICY

The policy of the Government of Tamil Nadu is to augment the quality and quantity of fish production through sustainable optimisation of the yield for high value realisation that drives sustainable development, socio-economic advancement, social security and improved quality of life for fishermen and fish farmers.

2.1 VISION

"To explore, develop, expand, manage, conserve and utilize fisheries resources sustainably for food and nutritional security, economic prosperity, improving livelihoods, generating employment, ensuring safety and security of fisherfolk".

2.2 MISSION

Create avenues for safe and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, augment the quality and quantity of fish production, sustainable optimisation of the yield for high value realisation that drives all-inclusive growth, safety, security, socio-economic prosperity and improved quality of life for fishermen and fish farmers in the State.

2.3 MAJOR POLICIES

The major policies of the Government are as follows:

1. Protection of traditional fishing rights of fishermen of Tamil Nadu.
2. Enhancing the productivity and production of fish from inland, brackishwater and marine resources.
3. Improving the living standards of fisherfolk through various welfare schemes.

4. Creating alternative livelihood opportunities to the fisherfolk.
5. Generating additional rural employment opportunities through fish culture.
6. Empowerment of fisherwomen in livelihood activities.
7. Creation and upgradation of infrastructure facilities such as Government Fish Farms, Fishing Harbours (FHs), Fish Landing Centres (FLCs), Cold Chain, Value Addition, Forward and Backward Linkages.
8. Conserving marine fishery resources, stock enhancement and stock management through enforcement of relevant Acts, Rules and Regulations.
9. Conservation, management and sustainable utilization of potential inland fishery resources to provide livelihood, generation of employment opportunities, food and nutritional security and economic prosperity.

10. Re-assessment of the fishery resources and their potential in Tamil Nadu.
11. Bridging the gap between demand and supply of fish seed.
12. Harnessing the opportunity of expanding export market for high value fish and fishery products.
13. Capacity building and skill upgradation for fisherfolk and departmental officials in Human Resource Development, Research & Development and Technological Interventions in fisheries sector.
14. Ensuring transparency in implementation and monitoring of developmental and welfare measures through e-Governance.

2.4 ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT

The following are the important activities of the Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department:

1. Protection of traditional fishing rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen.

2. Search, Rescue and Rehabilitation measures during natural calamities and disasters.
3. Ensuring fishermen safety at sea.
4. Enforcement of fisheries Acts and Rules.
5. Implementing various social security welfare schemes for fisherfolk.
6. Development of infrastructure facilities such as Fishing Harbours, Fish Landing Centres and Fish Farms.
7. Hygienic marketing of fish and fishery products and establishing Cold Chain facilities.
8. Conservation and management of fishery resources in inland and marine waters through ranching programme.
9. Development of inland fisheries and aquaculture through Union and State Government schemes.

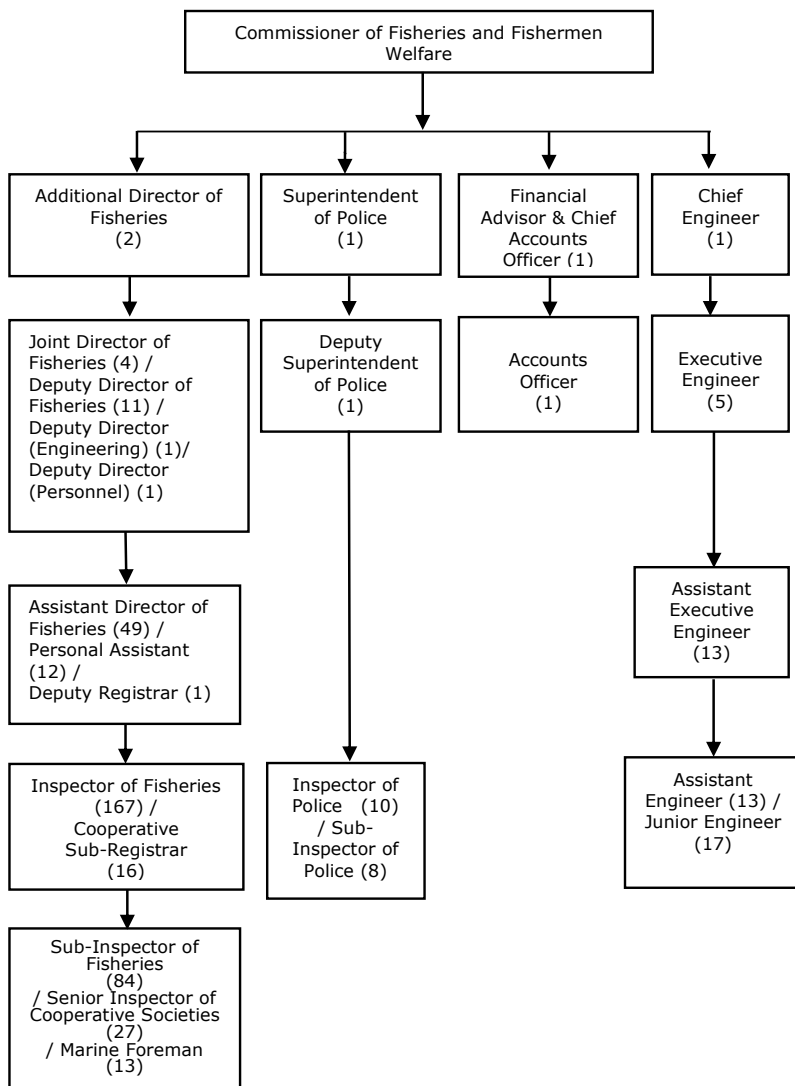
10. Adoption of advanced technologies to increase fish production.
11. Special focus on alternative livelihood of fisherwomen.
12. Capacity building and skill development for fish farmers and fisherfolk.
13. Outreach and extension activities for fishers.
14. Promotion and management of fisheries Co-operatives Societies.
15. Improving the socio-economic status of the fisherfolk through alternative livelihood activities.
16. Implementation of welfare schemes to the fisherfolk by providing tax exempted diesel and subsidized kerosene.
17. Providing relief and assistance through Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board.

18. Implementation of commercial fisheries activities through the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation (TNFDC) Ltd.
19. Improving the livelihood of the fishermen through the Tamil Nadu Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation (TACOFED) Ltd.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP

The Department is headed by the Commissioner of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare. Commissioner of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare is also the Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited (TNFDC), the functional Registrar of all Fishermen and Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies including Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation Limited (TAFCOFED) and the Member Secretary of Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board (TNFWB).

Organogram



The total sanctioned staff strength of the Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department is 1,796. The category-wise staff strength is given in Table 1.

4. AN OVERVIEW OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu has 1,076 km long coastline, which is the 2nd longest in the country. Marine fish production of the State during the year 2023-24 is 6.37 lakh MT. A total of 1.34 lakh MT fish and fishery products have been exported during the same period, which is valued at Rs.6,854.22 crore.

Rivers, lakes, ponds and reservoirs are significant inland water resources in Tamil Nadu, collectively encompassing an area of about 3.85 lakh ha. Total inland fish production is 2.47 lakh MT during the year 2023-24.

The State is gifted with 56,000 ha of brackishwater area in the form of estuaries,

backwaters, lagoons and creeks which are potential sources of capture fisheries.

4.1 MARINE FISHERIES

Based on the nature and topography of the land, the coastline of Tamil Nadu is generally divided into four Regions, i.e. Coromandel Coast, Palk Bay, Gulf of Mannar and the West Coast. To suit the local sea conditions, fishing activities are carried out using various types of motorized and non-motorized fishing boats such as traditional catamaran, Fibre Reinforced Plastic country crafts, Trawlers, Gill Netters, Deep-sea fishing boats, etc. An overview of the marine fisheries sector is provided in Table 2.

4.2 INLAND FISHERIES

Tamil Nadu has a vast network of inland water resources, which vitally supports fisheries activities and contributes significantly to the State's economy. Rural Development and

Panchayat Raj Department owns 22,056 minor irrigation tanks, ponds and ooranies, while Water Resources Department (WRD) owns 90 reservoirs and 14,306 irrigation tanks. The WRD has provided permission to the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare to manage fisheries activities in 62 reservoirs and 636 irrigation tanks. Tamil Nadu's inland fish production potential is 4.50 lakh tonnes. During the year 2023-24, the total inland fish production is 2.47 lakh MT.

To enhance the overall inland fish production of the State, the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare is implementing various schemes like stocking of fish seeds in major Rivers under River Ranching Programme, stocking of fingerlings in Reservoirs, in rural Panchayat Tanks, implementation of various inland aquaculture schemes like establishment of freshwater fish hatcheries, fish seed rearing centres, grow out ponds and intensive fish culture units such as,

Bio-floc and Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) culture system.

An overview of the inland fisheries sector is given in Table 3.

4.3 BRACKISH WATER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Brackish water ecosystem is highly productive and harbouring rich breeding grounds for variety of flora and fauna. The total brackish water area of Tamil Nadu is estimated to be 56,000 ha in the form of estuaries, backwaters and lagoons, which accounts for 3.98% of the total estimated area of brackish water in India. The commercially important brackish water fish catch includes Mullet, Milk fish, Sea bass, Pearl spot, Catfish, Shrimps, Crabs, etc.

The major estuaries and Brackish water area in Tamil Nadu are Pulicat lake, Araniar, Ennore, Adyar, Muttukadu back waters, Gedilum, Pitchavaram, Pazhayar, Coleroon, Muthupet

lagoons, Punnakayal, Manakudi and Thengapattanam estuaries.

4.4 COASTAL AQUACULTURE AND MARICULTURE

Coastal Aquaculture and Mariculture have recently gained momentum due to declining marine capture fisheries and increasing costs of fishing operations. Shrimp is one of the most cultured species in Tamil Nadu. Moreover, shrimp farming sector generates considerable employment opportunities and also provides foreign exchange to the Country.

At present, Tamil Nadu has 2,382 shrimp farms in an extent of 4,569.63 ha. There are 110 shrimp hatcheries with the production capacity of 15.6 billion post larvae/annum. The key commercial activities in the mariculture sector of Tamil Nadu includes open sea cage culture of marine fish species and seaweed culture. Shrimp farms registered under Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) in Tamil Nadu is given in Table 4.

5. MARINE FISHERIES ACTIVITIES AND SCHEMES

The development of marine fisheries is crucial for the well-being of fishermen who rely on it for their livelihood. The conservation of fishery resources, improvement of fish stock and promotion of fishery exports are interconnected elements, which are essential for sustainable fisheries development. The Government schemes focus on a comprehensive approach to utilizing fishery resources, while ensuring their sustainability for future generations.

5.1 OVERVIEW OF THE MARINE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

The Government of Tamil Nadu is being a pioneer State in implementation of various fishermen welfare and fisheries development schemes, has implemented various novel schemes, which are first of its kind in the country. Subsequently, the Government have also enhanced the quantum of benefits under various

fishermen welfare schemes. The Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs.376.00 crore to marine fisherfolk under various welfare schemes during the year 2024-25, as detailed in Table 5.

Conservation of fishery resources and effective enforcement of Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, disaster preparedness, fishermen rescue at the time of distress, development of coastal aquaculture, mariculture, etc., are focused by the Government to ensure sustainable development of the sector.

5.2 FROM SEA TO SHORE: SCHEMES ENSURING THE LIVELIHOOD OF MARINE FISHERFOLK

5.2.1 ENHANCED SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR FISHING LEAN PERIOD TO MARINE FISHERMEN FAMILIES

In view of ensuring the safety of the fishermen during the north-east monsoon season, number of fishing days are reduced due to weather warnings. To support marine fishermen families

during this difficult period, the Government of Tamil Nadu provides special allowance to them.

During the year 2021-22, the Government have increased this Special Allowance from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.6,000/- per family. Accordingly, the Government have allocated a sum of Rs.107.49 crore for this scheme for the year 2024-25, of which Rs.87.69 crore has already been disbursed to 1,46,156 marine fishermen families across 12 coastal districts from Tiruvallur to Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari. The relief assistance to 30,651 families in the remaining 2 districts viz., Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli Districts will be distributed in May, 2025.

5.2.2 INCREASED BAN PERIOD RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO MARINE FISHERMEN FAMILIES

To conserve marine fishery resources, 61 days seasonal fishing ban is being implemented by Government of India every year since, 2001. This ban period is observed from April, 15th to

June, 14th in the East Coast region (from Tiruvallur District to Kanniyakumari town) and from June, 1st to July, 31st in the West Coast region (From Kovalam to Neerodi in Kanniyakumari District).

The Government of Tamil Nadu have introduced the scheme for providing relief assistance to the fishermen families during this ban period and as per the announcement made by Hon'ble Chief Minister during the Fishermen Welfare Conference on 18.08.2023 at Ramanathapuram, the Government have increased the fishing ban relief assistance from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.8,000/-. Out of this relief amount, Rs.1,500/- is being provided by the Government of India. However, the entire relief amount for the beneficiaries over the age of 60 is being provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu. For the year 2024-25, the Government have disbursed a sum of Rs.142.68 crore to 1,78,362 fishermen families in 14 coastal districts.

5.2.3 FISHERMEN SAVINGS-CUM-RELIEF SCHEME

The Marine Fishermen Savings-cum-Relief Scheme is being implemented as a State Scheme since the year 2022-23 as the Government of India stopped funding for this scheme. Under this scheme, a relief amount of Rs.4,500/- including the contribution of Rs.1,500/- by marine fishermen is provided to fishermen during the fishing lean months.

During the year 2024-25, the Government have sanctioned Rs.63.25 crore for this scheme, of which Rs.51.90 crore has already been disbursed to 1,73,301 marine fishermen across 12 coastal districts, from Tiruvallur to Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari. The disbursement of relief amount to 29,467 beneficiaries in the remaining 2 districts viz., Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli Districts will be disbursed in May, 2025.

5.2.4 SAVINGS-CUM-RELIEF SCHEME FOR MARINE FISHERWOMEN

The Marine Fisherwomen Savings-cum-Relief Scheme was introduced as State Scheme during the year 2006-2007. Under this scheme, each fisherwoman receives a total relief amount of Rs.4,500/- during the fishing lean months, which includes their contribution of Rs.1,500/-.

During the year 2024-25, the Government sanctioned Rs.60.99 crore for this scheme, of which Rs.50.29 crore has already been disbursed to 1,67,838 marine fisherwomen across 12 coastal districts, from Tiruvallur to Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari. The disbursement of relief amount to 30,249 beneficiaries in the remaining 2 districts viz., Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli Districts will be disbursed in May 2025.

5.2.5 SUPPLY OF TAX-EXEMPTED DIESEL AT ENHANCED QUANTITY TO FISHING BOATS

To reduce the operational cost of fishing boats to some extent, the Government is providing sales tax exempted diesel to the fishermen. Based on the announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Fishermen Welfare Conference on 18.08.2023 at Ramanathapuram, the Government have increased the quantity of sales tax exempted diesel from 18,000 litres to 19,000 litres for mechanized fishing boats and from 4,000 litres to 4,400 litres for motorized country crafts.

For the year 2024-25, a total of 88,938 KL of diesel has been supplied upto Feb-2025, with a total sales tax exemption amounting to Rs.177.13 crore.

5.2.6 SUPPLY OF SUBSIDIZED INDUSTRIAL KEROSENE AT ENHANCED QUANTITY TO TRADITIONAL FISHING CRAFTS

The Government was supplying 3,400 litres of industrial kerosene per year at a subsidized rate of Rs.25/- per litre to each registered motorized fishing crafts in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari Districts. Based on the announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Fishermen Welfare Conference held on 18.08.2023, the Government have increased the quantity of subsidized industrial kerosene from 3,400 litres to 3,700 litres.

During the year 2024-25, a total of 19,415 KL of industrial kerosene has been distributed upto Feb-2025, with a subsidy expenditure of Rs.80.08 crore.

5.2.7 SUPPLY OF OUTBOARD MOTORS (OBM) OR INBOARD ENGINES (IBE) UNDER MOTORIZATION OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced at the Fishermen Welfare Conference held on 18.08.2023 in Ramanathapuram District for providing 1,000 Outboard Motors (OBM)/Inboard Engines (IBE) for traditional fishing crafts at 40% subsidy.

Accordingly, during the year 2023-24, a total of 1,000 OBMs/IBEs (upto 28 HP) have been distributed to traditional fishermen under the State Scheme, with a total subsidy assistance of Rs.4.80 crore at the subsidy rate of Rs.48,000/- in the total unit cost of Rs.1,20,000/-

5.2.8 PROVIDING 75% SUBSIDY ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPLY OF LIFE JACKET TO MOTORIZED COUNTRY CRAFTS

To ensure the safety of the traditional fishermen and to prevent them from drowning into the sea during accidents while engaged in fishing, action has been taken for supply of 40,000 Life Jackets with 75% subsidy assistance to 10,000 Motorized Country Crafts at the rate of 4 Life Jackets per Motorized country craft.

5.2.9 ENHANCED DAILY RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO THE FAMILIES OF MISSING FISHERMEN WHILE FISHING

The State Government have enhanced the daily relief assistance from Rs.250/- to Rs.350/- (from Rs.7,500/- to Rs.10,500/-per month) to the families of fishermen who goes missing while fishing at sea for two years or until they receive monetary benefits through Group Accident

Insurance Scheme / Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board.

A sum of Rs.7.73 lakh has been released as daily relief assistance to 13 fishermen families for the year 2024-25 upto Feb-2025.

5.2.10 ENHANCED DAILY RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO MARINE FISHERMEN APPREHENDED BY NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

The Government provides relief assistance to families of fishermen detained by Sri Lanka and other countries while fishing. Under this scheme also, the Government have enhanced the daily allowance from Rs.250/- to Rs.350/- (from Rs.7,500/- to Rs.10,500/- per month) to the families of the affected fishermen.

During the year 2024-25 upto Feb-2025, a sum of Rs.79.44 lakh was provided as daily relief assistance to 393 fishermen families.

Further, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has made an announcement on 03.03.2025 to enhance the daily relief amount to Rs.500/- per day (Rs.15,000/- per month)

5.2.11 RELIEF TO THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED FISHERMEN/ INJURED FISHERMEN DUE TO SHOOTING INCIDENTS BY SRI LANKAN NAVY

The fishermen of coastal districts, who fish in traditional waters of the Palk Bay are apprehended / harassed and sometimes even shot by the Sri Lankan Navy. Therefore, the scheme for providing an ex-gratia payment of Rs.3.00 lakh from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to help the family of fishermen who die in shooting at sea was introduced during the year 1997.

Under this scheme, provisions have been made for an ex-gratia amount of Rs.5.00 lakh, if the deceased fisherman is the sole bread-winner of the family. Similarly, if the fishermen sustain major and minor injuries, an ex-gratia amount of

Rs.50,000/- and Rs.20,000/- can be provided, respectively. However, due to the continuous diplomatic efforts of the Government of Tamil Nadu, no fishermen death occurred in the last 4 years due to shooting incidents.

5.2.12 PROVIDING 50% SUBSIDY TO PROCURE NEW TUNA LONG LINER-CUM-GILL NETTER BOATS

To support the fisherfolk to harvest the relatively under exploited oceanic fishery resources like Tuna and Tuna-like fishes, the Government is implementing the scheme of 'Providing 50% subsidy for fishermen to procure new Tuna Long liner-cum-Gill Netter boats'. Under this scheme, 50% of the estimated unit cost of Rs.60.00 lakh or upto a maximum of Rs.30.00 lakh is provided as subsidy for construction of new Tuna Long liner-cum-Gill netter boat by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Under this scheme, a sum of Rs.51.30 crore was released by the Government for construction

of 171 boats. An amount of Rs.47.83 crore has been released as subsidy to 166 completed boats and 5 boats are under construction.

5.2.13 GROUP ACCIDENT INSURANCE SCHEME (GAIS) FOR FISHERFOLK

The GAIS is implemented with the funding assistance of the State and Union Governments. An amount of Rs.5.00 lakh is provided as relief to deceased fisherman or Permanent Total Disability (PTD), an amount of Rs.2.50 lakh is provided as relief to Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) and Rs.25,000/- for hospitalization of injured fishermen.

During the year 2024-25, a sum of Rs.1.92 crore has been paid as premium for 5,73,183 fishers by the Government of Tamil Nadu as its share. During this year, so far, a total of 169 claim intimations have been sent for claim by the State and an amount of Rs.5.17 crore has been settled for 94 families of deceased fishermen.

5.2.14 DIVERSIFICATION OF TRAWL FISHING IN PALK BAY DISTRICTS TO DEEP SEA FISHING

The Government is implementing a scheme to diversify trawl fishing in the Palk Bay Districts by promoting deep-sea fishing. This initiative is supported by both the Union and State Governments, with 70% subsidy assistance in the unit cost of Rs.80.00 lakh. Out of the total cost of Rs.80.00 lakh, the Government of India provides 50% (Rs.40.00 lakh) and Government of Tamil Nadu provides 20% (Rs.16.00 lakh) as subsidy. An additional 20% (Rs.16.00 lakh) is financed through institutional funding and the remaining 10% (Rs.8.00 lakh) is borne by the beneficiary.

Under this scheme, 72 deep-sea fishing vessels have been constructed and handed over to beneficiaries and 16 more boats are at various stages of construction.

5.2.15 CONSTRUCTION OF FRP BOATS WITH ACCESSORIES

The Government is providing Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) boats having 12m overall length (OAL) with engine, nets and ice boxes at a total unit cost of Rs.5.00 lakh, in which 40% subsidy assistance of Rs.2.00 lakh for general category and 60% subsidy assistance of Rs.3.00 lakh for women and Adi Dravidar category is being provided as subsidy to the fishers for replacement for traditional / wooden fishing boats with the funding assistance of State and Union Governments.

Under the scheme, so far, 238 FRP boats with fishing implements have been provided to fishermen with subsidy assistance of Rs.4.32 crore and construction of remaining 62 FRP boats are under progress.

5.3 FISHING REGULATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

5.3.1 REGISTRATION OF FISHING VESSELS

To monitor the operation of fishing boats and also to ensure coastal security, fishing vessels are registered through 'ReALCraft' website. As on 20.03.2025, 5,098 mechanized fishing boats, 35,232 motorized and 2,783 non-motorized traditional crafts have been registered online.

5.3.2 MARINE ENFORCEMENT WING (MEW)

In order to enforce the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation (TNMFR) Act, 1983 and Rules and to handle inter sector conflicts and law and order issues arising due to fishing and related activities, an exclusive Marine Enforcement Wing was established in Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department with 112 Staff including 92 Police personnel.

The main function of the Marine Enforcement Wing is to conduct patrolling in the sea to enforce

the regulations of fishing and to prevent illegal fishing, destructive fishing and the use of banned fishing nets and to convey the information about the anti-social activities and intelligence gathered during patrolling to the Coast Guard and local Police authorities for further action.

5.4 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESCUE AND REHABILITATION MEASURES

The Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare is practising the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure the safety and security of fishermen at times of natural disaster and adverse weather conditions:

1. Dissemination of weather information and cyclone warnings to fisherfolk.
2. Operating a Central Control Room at Office of the Commissioner of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare with essential communication equipment which are

functioning round the clock with a dedicated telephone line **(044-2953 0392)**.

3. Coordinating with all security agencies such as Coastal Security Group / Indian Coast Guard / Indian Navy for Search and Rescue (SAR) of fishermen missing while fishing at sea.

5.4.1 MEASURES FOR COMMUNICATION AND SAFETY OF FISHERMEN AT SEA

5.4.1.1 PROVIDING WIRELESS COMMUNICATION NETWORK FACILITIES

In order to ensure the safety of fishermen at sea, communication network facilities have been established throughout the 14 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu with 18 communication towers and control rooms, which are operational for an effective communication between shore station and fishing boats inside the sea.

5.4.1.2 INSTALLATION OF TRANSPONDERS IN MECHANISED FISHING BOATS

Transponders have been developed by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) as a means of communication and tracking system for deep sea fishing vessels, which will help in monitoring the fishing vessels and rendering assistance at the time of distress in deep sea upto 200 nautical miles.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the installation of transponders in 4,997 mechanized fishing boats at a cost of Rs.18.01 crore on 30.12.2022. Subsequently, 3,870 transponders have been installed in mechanized fishing boats so far and installation of transponders in remaining boats are in progress.

5.4.1.3 PROVIDING SATELLITE PHONES TO DEEP SEA FISHING BOATS

To enhance the safety and security of fishermen while fishing in the deep sea, 160 satellite phones have been provided to 80 clusters of fishing boats at a total cost of Rs.1.60 crore. Also, 500 satellite phones have been distributed with 75% subsidy to deep sea fishing boats at a cost of Rs.5.00 crore.

Further, the Government have taken action to provide 200 satellite phones to deep sea fishing boats at a cost of Rs.1.00 crore with 40% subsidy assistance of the unit cost and in the first phase 100 satellite phones are being provided to the deep sea fishing boats.

5.4.1.4 WebGIS BASED MOBILE app 'THOONDIL'

The Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare in association with the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Ministry of Earth

Sciences (MoES), created a mobile application "THOONDIL", a WebGIS based Decision Support System for monitoring the movements of fishing vessels and registering the crews venturing for fishing. This application assists the fishermen by dispensing vital information on real time positioning, navigation to safe locations, facility to mark fishing grounds, Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ), weather forecast and fishing trip records etc.

5.4.2 RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO FISHING BOATS DAMAGED DURING UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

In view of providing immediate relief assistance to the fishermen whose boats / fishing implements / houses for damages occur during unforeseen circumstances, a revolving fund has been created by the Government of Tamil Nadu and a sum of Rs.1.30 crore has been provided to 14 coastal districts.

During the year 2024-25, a sum of Rs.33.43 lakh has been released as relief to 33 fishing boats and 140 fishing nets that were damaged due to inclement weather conditions.

5.4.3 ROLE OF FISHERMEN IN RESCUE DURING CALAMITIES

During inclement weather and unprecedented heavy rains, the low lying area often gets inundated and severe hardships for the public. In such emergencies, swift rescue operations are essential to safeguard lives. Along with other Government rescue agencies, fishermen play a crucial role in rescuing public.

The Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare coordinates these rescue efforts, mobilizing fishermen, fishing crafts and essential equipment to facilitate the rescue operations. Their dedication and bravery during disasters have been instrumental in saving countless lives and protecting valuable assets.

During the heavy rain alerts that were issued during the North East Monsoon 2024 and during Fengal Cyclone, a total of 612 fishermen and 291 fishing boats were deployed to the needy places as pre-cautionary measure.

5.4.4 CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

In order to conserve the Sea Turtles, the Government of Tamil Nadu have notified to fix 'Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)' before the cod end of trawl nets. Also, upto five nautical mile radius around the turtle nesting and breeding grounds is prohibited for fishing during turtle nesting and breeding season, i.e., from 1st January to 30th April of every year (both days inclusive). Effective enforcement of the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 is ensured towards facilitating the sea turtle nesting and breeding. Further, Nodal Task Force on sea turtle conservation is meeting periodically to steer the course of action on sea turtle conservation.

5.4.5 MARINE FISHERY RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT

5.4.5.1 DEPLOYMENT OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Artificial reefs are proven measure towards fishery resource conservation and resource enhancement, which act as habitat to marine aquatic organisms and thereby help in enhancing the fish production through increased breeding activity and survival of young ones. It is also restricted to operate bottom trawlers in the locations where artificial reefs have been deployed, which discourages the destructive trawling operations in near shore areas.

Therefore, in order to enhance the marine fishery resources, 200 units of Artificial reefs have been deployed in 49 fishermen villages of coastal districts of Chennai, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Mayiladuthurai, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli Districts at a total cost of Rs.62.00 crore.

During the year 2024-25, the Government have accorded administrative sanction for deployment of 217 units of Artificial Reefs in 43 Fishermen Villages of 3 coastal districts namely Pudukkottai, Nagapattinam and Ramanathapuram at a total cost of Rs.67.27 crore.

5.5 PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL FISHING RIGHTS OF TAMIL NADU FISHERMEN

5.5.1 EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF TAMIL NADU FISHERMEN'S IN PALK BAY THROUGH RETRIEVAL OF KATCHATHEEVU

In the Palk Bay Districts of Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Pudukkottai and Nagapattinam, totally 2,490 mechanized fishing boats, 12,443 motorized fishing crafts and 1,020 non-motorized fishing crafts are engaged in fishing. The fisherfolk population of the Palk Bay region is 2,08,827 in

286 fishing villages, wherein about 80,000 fishermen directly dependent on fishing for their livelihood.

Tamil Nadu fishermen are frequently arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy while fishing in their traditional waters, for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). The prolonged detention of fishermen and confiscation of their boats by the Sri Lankan authorities have created anxiety and insecurity among the Tamil Nadu fisherfolk.

Therefore, the Government of Tamil Nadu is consistently taking efforts for retrieval of Katchatheevu, which was unilaterally ceded to Sri Lanka by the Union Government in 1974 and thereby restoration of traditional fishing rights in Palk Bay. In this regard, an unanimous resolution was passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and the Government have actively participated in legal proceedings before the Hon'ble Supreme

Court of India to support the retrieval of Katchatheevu.

An individual had filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP.No.8013/2017) before the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi with a prayer to direct the Union Government to give effect to / enforce Article 6 of the 1974 agreement entered between India and Sri Lanka and delete objectionable provision of the letter dated 23.03.1976. The Government of Tamil Nadu has filed Counter Affidavit in this case before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 18.07.2022. At present, the case is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Further, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India through a Memorandum on June 17, 2021. Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Fishermen Welfare, and Animal Husbandry also presented a Memorandum to the Hon'ble Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying on April 1, 2022 for

emphasizing the need for a permanent solution to the challenges faced by Tamil Nadu fishermen and the restoration of their right to fish in traditional waters.

The Government of Tamil Nadu firmly reiterates that the only viable solution to this long-standing issue is the restoration of India's sovereignty over Katchatheevu, ensuring that Tamil Nadu fishermen can rightfully fish in their traditional waters without fear or restriction.

5.5.2 EFFORTS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE TAMIL NADU FISHERMEN AND THEIR FISHING BOATS APPREHENDED BY THE SRI LANKAN NAVY

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is writing letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for immediate remedial action through diplomatic channels when Tamil Nadu fishermen are apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy while fishing in their traditional waters.

From the year 2021 to 2025 (upto 27.03.2025), 1,383 fishermen were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. Due to the decisive efforts taken by this Government, 1,287 fishermen have been released and repatriated. Continuous efforts are being taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to release and repatriate the remaining 96 fishermen and 229 fishing boats that are under the custody of Sri Lankan Government.

5.5.3 INDIA-SRI LANKA JOINT WORKING GROUP (JWG) ON FISHERIES

As a part of the initiatives taken by the State and Union Governments towards finding an amicable solution to the vexatious issues faced by the Tamil Nadu fishermen in fishing in the Palk Bay area, a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been constituted between the countries of India and Sri Lanka. JWG meetings are being held to facilitate the release of apprehended fishermen and their

fishing boats, establish procedures and protocols for patrolling and ensure a humanitarian approach in handling detained fishermen. So far, six rounds of JWG meetings have been conducted.

The 6th JWG meeting held on 29th October, 2024, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Key discussions of this meeting focused on addressing the challenges faced by fishermen from both countries and reaffirming the commitment to release and repatriation of Tamil Nadu fishermen and their fishing boats detained by the Sri Lankan Navy.

6. COASTAL AQUACULTURE AND MARICULTURE

6.1 COASTAL AQUACULTURE

Coastal aquaculture in Tamil Nadu has expanded steadily from a traditional activity to reach the present commercial scale.

Litopenaeus vannamei, commonly known as the White leg shrimp, is one of the most widely farmed shrimp species globally, and its culture has

become highly significant in Tamil Nadu's coastal aquaculture industry, since its introduction in 2008. Known for its fast growth and adaptability to various farming conditions, this species has contributed significantly to the shrimp farming sector in Tamil Nadu, driving both production and export growth.

The overall aquaculture shrimp production from the country during the year 2023-24 was 11.61 lakh MT and Tamil Nadu ranks 5th in the shrimp production in the country, contributing 0.41 lakh MT. At present, 2,382 shrimp farms in an area of 4,569.63 ha have been registered under Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA).

Resource mapping study of Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) identified 10,088 ha suitable for aquaculture in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, there is a good scope for coastal aquaculture in Tamil Nadu.

The Government have framed guidelines for regulating culture of *L. vannamei* farming outside the jurisdiction of Coastal Aquaculture Authority vide G.O. (Ms). No. 05, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare (FS4-1) Department, dated. 29.01.2024.

In order to promote shrimp culture, the Government have accorded administrative sanction to the tune of Rs.24.94 crore for the construction of Biofloc ponds for brackish water aquaculture including inputs and construction of new ponds for brackish water aquaculture including inputs under State and Union Government funding. The details of the schemes are given in Table 6.

In order to promote pond based Sea bass fish culture, the Government have issued financial sanction for Rs.95.42 lakh under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII), for demonstration of pond-based Sea bass culture technology to Aqua Entrepreneurs. Demonstration of Sea bass fish

culture technology is being implemented in Cuddalore, Thanjavur and Ramanathapuram Districts.

6.2 MARICULTURE

Mariculture is a sector of aquaculture that involves the rearing of aquatic organisms under controlled or semi-controlled conditions in coastal and offshore waters. Mariculture activities such as Seaweed Culture, Open Sea Cage Culture have been successfully taken up by the State as an alternate livelihood measures to the coastal fisherfolk.

The Centre for Aquaculture Research and Development (CARD), a registered Society under the Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department has set up a Marine Finfish Seed Rearing Centre at Mandapam in Ramanathapuram District in order to supply marine fish seeds to the marine cage culture. Further, subsidy assistance has been extended to fish farmers for the establishment of

two marine finfish nursery rearing units at a total cost of Rs.30.00 lakh under the funding assistance of State and Union Governments at Mayiladuthurai and Ramanathapuram Districts respectively, which are currently rearing Sea bass seeds on commercial basis.

6.2.1 SEAWEED CULTURE

Seaweed culture is a potential alternative livelihood activity for coastal fisherfolk, particularly for fisherwomen. Seaweeds are valuable for their high nutritional content and diverse uses in industries like food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture and bio-energy.

Tamil Nadu has vast potential for seaweed farming, since it has suitable coastal area with desirable climatic condition. Fisherfolk of Tamil Nadu are engaged in natural collection of seaweed for more than 50 years. *Kappaphychus alvarezii* was introduced in Tamil Nadu in the year 1995 and the commercial farming of *Kappaphychus*

started in the year 2000. Many fisherfolk, particularly fisherwomen took up *Kappaphychus* farming as an alternative and additional income source. About 2000 families are involved in seaweed farming in seven districts namely Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari.

Tamil Nadu is the top most producer of seaweeds in India. Present production level of *Kappaphychus* in Tamil Nadu is about 13,500 to 16,500 MT/annum. There are about 20 seaweed processing companies are operating in Tamil Nadu. From the year 2000 to 2010, seaweed farming sector has grown rapidly, as the growth rate of *Kappaphychus* was 5 to 6 times.

The Government of Tamil Nadu supports seaweed farmers through supply of inputs under various schemes. Financial assistance of Rs.3.15 crore has been provided to 2,609 coastal

fisherfolk for procurement of 19,575 rafts and monolines for seaweed cultivation.

6.2.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTIPURPOSE SEAWEED PARK

In order to tap the seaweed potential of the State, the Government have accorded administrative sanction for a sum of Rs.127.71 crore for the establishment of Multipurpose Seaweed Park at Ramanathapuram and Pudukkottai Districts in Tamil Nadu. This project consist of components such as (i) Hub I: Seaweed seed Production Park at Valamavur in Ramanathapuram District; (ii) Hub II: Seaweed Processing Park at Gandarvakottai in Pudukkottai District; and (iii) Spoke Level-I and Spoke Level-II infrastructures in the villages with higher seaweed potential.

The seaweed demand for the existing seaweed processing plants in Tamil Nadu is about 1,15,150 MT., however, the actual estimated

production is only 21,982 MT. The proposed Multipurpose Seaweed Park will increase the production through import of virulent seaweed material from foreign countries, which will be multiplied and supplied to the farmers. A foreign expert consultant will be engaged for the import of seaweed through MPEDA-RGCA. To carry out the seaweed production, Fish Farmers Producers Organisations (FFPOs) will be formed in the coastal districts through Cluster Based Business Organisations (CBBOs). Through this project, 49,000 MT of seaweed will be produced in 3 years and this will provide employment for about 9,000 people.

The State of Tamil Nadu is poised for the growth of a unique modern seaweed hub on par with international standards by attracting investors, producers, marketers and making Tamil Nadu as **“one stop destination”**.

6.2.3 OPEN SEA CAGE CULTURE

Open Sea Cage Culture mainly focus on farming marine species such as finfish and shellfish, in large floating cages that are placed in open sea or offshore waters. A sustainable method for growing high-value fish species, with minimal environmental impact. Suitable commercially important fish species for open sea cage farming are Cobia, Sea bass, Pompano and Lobsters.

Under various Government schemes, 422 cages have been provided to coastal fisherfolk at a project cost of Rs.18.33 crore for undertaking open sea cage culture. During the year 2024-25, action is being taken to provide seven open sea cages to marine fisherfolk at a cost of Rs.0.35 crore.

6.2.4 SEA RANCHING

Marine fishery resources are fast declining particularly in the near shore areas, where the fishing pressure is maximum. In order to ensure

sustainable fishery resources to traditional fisherfolk in near shore area, ranching of ecologically important high value finfish and shellfish will be done in the near shore areas in order to replenish the fishery stock. All along the Tamil Nadu coast, the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare have deployed 327 artificial reefs in 180 coastal villages to ensure sustainable fishery resources to traditional fishermen. Ranching of economically important marine fish seeds will be undertaken in the locations, where the artificial reefs have been deployed through the Sea ranching programme during the year 2024-25. About 10.00 lakh seeds of various species of marine finfish and shellfish will be ranched under the Sea ranching programme at a cost of Rs.3.00 crore.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES

Inland fisheries sector plays a significant role in food production, contributing to the livelihood and food security and generating employment. The State's inland fisheries resources include reservoirs, long seasonal tanks, short seasonal tanks and ponds, which support both capture and culture fisheries.

The main objectives of Inland Fisheries are:

1. Increase the fish seed production in Government and private Fish Farms.
2. Optimum utilization of inland fishery resources.
3. Expansion of fish farming area.
4. Augment the overall inland fish production of the State and thereby increase the income of the fish farmers.
5. Introduction of new technologies in fish farming to improve the overall inland fish production.

6. Promotion of scientific stocking of fish seeds in all suitable water bodies to enhance fish production.
7. Conservation of indigenous fish resources, effective management, stock enhancement, monitoring and prevention of invasive exotic species.
8. Creation of employment opportunity to the rural sector through innovative fish culture practices, hygienic marketing facilities in the State.
9. To support ornamental fisheries sector of the State by providing subsidy schemes and facilitate marketing.

7.1 GOVERNMENT FISH SEED PRODUCTION CENTERS

In Tamil Nadu, 14 Government Fish Seed Production Centres are operating successfully. The details of Government Fish Seed Production Centres are given in Table 7.

During the year 2024-25, the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare has produced 69.73 crore "Early Fry" which includes Indian Major Carps (Catla, Rohu, Mrigal), Jayanthi Rohu, Amur Carp, GIF Tilapia, Murrel, Calbasu and Common Carp. Early fry produced from Government Farms are supplied to Government owned Fish Seed Rearing Centres and to the private farmers. This wide range of fish species offers fish farmers in the State to adopt different farming systems such as monoculture, polyculture and integrated farming, based on local preferences, environmental conditions and market demands.

7.2 GOVERNMENT FISH SEED REARING CENTRES

In Tamil Nadu, 46 Fish Seed Rearing Centres are functioning under the control of Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare and five fish seed rearing centres are functioning under TNFDC. During the year 2024-25, a total of 10.06 crore fish

fingerlings of Indian Major carps, Minor carps, GIF Tilapia and Murrel were produced. Fingerlings were stocked in Reservoirs and Irrigation tanks and also supplied to private farmers, contributing to a rise in the State's inland fish production. The details of Government fish seed rearing centres are given in Table 8.

7.3 RESERVOIR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Fishery rights of 62 reservoirs are vested with Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, including eight reservoirs which are managed by the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited (TNFDC). Reservoir fisheries management is implemented to augment the overall sustainable inland fish production in the State.

1. The objective of Reservoir Fisheries Management is to enhance the fish production and revenue of the inland fisherfolk who depend on reservoirs for their

- livelihood and to increase the fish production by installing floating cages in Reservoirs.
2. In order to increase the Reservoir fish production, quality fish seeds are stocked in Reservoirs.
 3. The fishery rights of the Reservoirs are leased out to the Inland Fishermen Co-operative Society and private persons.
 4. During the year 2024-25, the fishery rights of 27 reservoirs were under lease and an amount of Rs.6.63 crore revenue has been realized.
 5. The Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare has identified additional nine potential reservoirs suitable for fish culture and action is being taken to obtain the reservoirs from Water Resources Department for fishery management.

7.4 IRRIGATION TANK FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The Water Resources Department owns about 14,306 irrigation tanks, of which the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare has been authorized to manage fisheries in 636 tanks (Table 9). During the year 2024-25, the fishery rights of 74 irrigation tanks were under lease and an amount of Rs.1.33 crore revenue has been realized.

7.5 FISHING PRACTICES FOLLOWED IN RESERVOIR AND IRRIGATION TANKS

In Tamil Nadu, the Water Resources Department manages 90 reservoirs. From the year 1972 onwards, the Water Resources Department has handed over the fisheries management in 62 Reservoirs to Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare.

Further, the Water Resources Department has given the fishery rights of 636 irrigation tanks

to Department of Fisheries, to augment the fish production in Reservoirs and irrigation tanks. Quality fish seeds in appropriate quantities are stocked and harvesting of fishery resources is regularly monitored.

This fishery management in reservoirs and irrigation tanks support the socio-economic development of inland fishermen who depend on these water bodies as major livelihood. From the year 1977 to 2012, the Department of Fisheries has implemented the following methods of harvesting fishery resources in reservoirs and irrigation tanks.

- i) Licensing system** – Inland fishermen are permitted to conduct fishing on payment of annual license fee in the four reservoirs viz.,
1. Mettur Dam - Salem District,
 2. Kolavai - Chengalpattu District,
 3. Poondi - Tiruvallur District and
 4. Veeranam - Cuddalore District.

ii) Share fishing method - $\frac{1}{3}$ rd share of the harvest will go to fishermen as wages and $\frac{2}{3}$ rd share will go to the Government for stocked fish variety and for unstocked fish variety, 50% of the share will go to the fishermen as wages, remaining 50% of the share will go to the Government.

iii) Leasing method – The fishery rights of reservoirs and irrigation tanks are leased out by the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare to Inland Fishermen Co-operative Societies or any private persons as per the provisions made in the Orders of the Government.

7.5.1 GUIDELINES FOR ISSUING THE LEASING OF FISHERY RIGHTS TO THE WATER BODIES UNDER THE FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The leasing of fishery rights for water bodies under the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen

Welfare is governed by G.O.(Ms) No.05, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare (FS.6-1) Department, dated 30.01.2025. According to the Government Order, priority is given to Inland Fishermen/Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies/Adi-Dravidars engaged in fishing activities for leasing of fishery rights of water bodies. If the Inland Fishermen/Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies / Adi-Dravidars engaged in fishing activities are not willing to take the lease, the fishery rights will be given through "Open Tender cum Auction" process.

The upset price or lease value for the water body will be determined based on factors, such as the fish production potential, which includes biological parameters, productivity of incoming water, characteristics of the catchment area and the overall productivity of the water body's basin. The leasing period for reservoirs is 5 years and for irrigation tanks is 3 years.

7.6 DISTRICT FISH FARMERS DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (DFFDA)

In Tamil Nadu, the District Fish Farmers Development Agency (DFFDA) operates across 37 districts in order to promote fish culture activities and generate employment opportunities in rural areas. The main activities are providing technical guidance and encouraging farmers to take up fish culture by extending subsidy assistance, besides imparting technical training and extension support to fish farmers. These District Fish Farmers Development Agencies are functioning under the Chairmanship of the respective District Collectors and the designated Assistant Director of Fisheries assumes the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

To enhance inland fish culture production and to provide alternative livelihood to fishers, 106 irrigation tanks have been allocated to seven DFFDAs by respective District Collectors. A

total of 7,502 fish farms, covering approximately 5,580 ha have been registered under the DFFDA.

7.7 BENEFICIARY ORIENTED SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED FOR INLAND FISH FARMERS

The Government have approved administrative and financial sanction to the tune of Rs.22.77 crore for various schemes towards development of inland fisheries in Tamil Nadu for the period from 2021-22 to 2023-24 under the funding assistance from the State and Union Governments. The details are furnished in Table 10. Under the scheme, subsidy is being provided for construction of new freshwater finfish hatcheries, construction of new fish rearing ponds, construction of new grow-out ponds including inputs, construction of Biofloc ponds for freshwater, construction of Re-Circulatory Aquaculture system (RAS) for freshwater fish culture and establishment of fish feed mills. 445 beneficiaries have benefited under the scheme and

so far, financial assistance of Rs.13.95 crore has been released.

7.8 SUBSIDY ASSISTANCE TO THE INLAND FISHERMEN UNDER STATE FUNDED SCHEME FOR PROCUREMENT OF FISHING NET AND CORACLE

To improve the fishing efficiency of inland fisherfolk, the Government is implementing a scheme on "Subsidy Assistance to Inland fishermen for the purchase of fishing implements" with a total budget of Rs.1.01 crore during the year 2023-24. Under the scheme, 700 fishing nets and 300 coracles have been provided with 50% subsidy. During the year 2024-25, the Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs.1.00 crore as subsidy for providing 800 fishing nets and 200 coracles to inland fishermen.

7.9 ENHANCEMENT OF INLAND FISH PRODUCTION BY STOCKING FISH SEEDS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT TANKS

In Tamil Nadu, there are about 22,056 Nos. of tanks and ponds under the control of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. These tanks have good fishery potential of about 16,000 tonnes/annum. To increase the fish production and to enhance the unit fish production in the Panchayat tanks, Government is implementing a scheme on "Enhancement of inland fish production by stocking fish seeds in Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department tanks" under State fund during the year 2024-25 at a total cost of Rs. 75.00 lakh. Through this project, 1.00 crore quality fish seeds have been stocked in 5,000 ha of effective water spread area @ 2,000 nos/ha. For the year 2025-26, another 1.00 crore fish seeds will be stocked in 5,000 ha of panchayat tanks to increase the fish production.

7.10 SPECIAL INITIATIVES IN INLAND FISHERIES

Inland fisheries resources largely rely on monsoon rainfall. In Tamil Nadu, the breeding season of Indian Major Carps (IMC) does not match with the availability of water in the water bodies. Also, large number of water bodies in Tamil Nadu have shorter water retention period for which suitable species are available limitedly.

In order to overcome the above challenges, the following special initiatives have been taken up by the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare.

7.10.1 MURREL HATCHERY

Murrel fish commonly called as “Viraal Meen” considered as a delicacy and high valued freshwater fish. In Tamil Nadu, Murrel fish culture farmers depend only on naturally collected seeds. However, quality seeds from natural resources are limited to collect. Hence, the Department has established Murrel Hatchery at Lalpet Government

Fish Farm in Cuddalore District under the World Bank funded TN-IAMP Scheme at a total cost of Rs.2.70 crore. First time in Tamil Nadu, Murrel Hatchery has been established with the technical guidance of Central Institute of Fresh Water Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Murrel has been successfully bred in the above hatchery and so far, 32,000 Murrel seed has been produced in seven months and supplied to the farmers.

7.10.2 PROTECTION OF NATIVE FISH SPECIES

Native fish species are highly sought by the local fishermen for their delicacy and health benefits. To meet out the growing demand of native fish species, the Government have set up native fish hatcheries with a total cost of Rs.4.40 crore in three districts. Under the scheme, Pearl Spot hatchery at Parangipettai in Cuddalore District at a cost of Rs.2.45 crore, Calbasu hatchery

at Agalapettai in Thanjavur District at a cost of Rs.1.64 crore and the Sel Carp hatchery at Mettur Dam in Salem District at a cost of Rs.0.25 crore are completed and production of native fish seeds are in progress.

The fish seeds produced in these hatcheries will be reared in natural water bodies, supplied to fish farmers, encouraging the cultivation of native fish species across the State, ensuring a steady supply of fresh, locally priced fish and enhancing farmers' income.

7.10.3 RIVER RANCHING PROGRAMME

River ranching of native fish species is carried out in Tamil Nadu to replenish wild stocks and restore the State's inland fishery resources. In Tamil Nadu, river ranching programme was implemented at a cost of Rs.1.24 crore for the year 2021-22 and Rs.1.20 crore for the year 2022-23. Through this programme, 1.10 crore advanced fingerlings were reared into the Cauvery, Bhavani and Thamirabarani Rivers and their tributaries.

Post impact assessment study was carried out to find out the outcome of the project. Based on the study, the Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) has been increased after River Ranching Programme and the percentage of landings of native fishes (Calbasu & Sel carp) in the catch composition has been increased.

7.10.4 GENETICALLY IMPROVED FARMED TILAPIA (GIFT)

Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) is known for its fast growth rate, disease resistance and adaptability to varying environmental conditions, making it ideal for aquaculture.

In Tamil Nadu, to increase the income of fish farmers, fast growing Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia hatchery has been established at Krishnagiri Government Fish Farm, Krishnagiri District and Manjalar Government Fish Farm, Theni District with an annual production capacity of 35 lakh fish seeds. Additionally, three GIF Tilapia

hatcheries have been established at Barur in Krishnagiri District, Agaram in Cuddalore District, Chembarambakkam in Kancheepuram District and action is being taken to establish a GIF Tilapia hatchery at Nallikottai in Tiruvarur District with an annual total production capacity of 85.00 lakh fish seeds. Through these hatcheries, fast growing GIF Tilapia seeds will be produced and supplied to fish farmers in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring States.

7.10.5 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF RESERVOIR

Reservoirs are one of the major source of income for inland fishermen in Tamil Nadu. To promote cage culture in reservoirs and to provide alternative livelihood to inland fishermen, Rs.11.08 crore has been allocated for Integrated Development of Reservoir Project under State and Union Governments share. This initiative aims to optimize fish production in reservoirs and

significantly boost the State's total inland fish production.

The project is being implemented in five major reservoirs viz., Anaimaduvu Dam in Salem District, Krishnagiri Dam in Krishnagiri District, Chittar Dam in Kanniyakumari District, Bhavanisagar Dam in Erode District and Sathanoor Dam in Tiruvannamalai District with the goal of enhancing the production efficiency and sustainability of fisheries in reservoirs, promoting local fishermen livelihoods and improving the overall fish production of the State.

7.10.6 STOCKING OF FISH SEEDS IN PANCHAYAT TANKS

The Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare have stocked one crore fish seeds in 5,000 ha of panchayat tanks located in rural areas for the year 2024-25 at a cost of Rs.75.00 lakh so as to utilise the fishery resources of rural panchayat tanks by stocking with quality

fish seeds. This will encourage the local panchayat farmers to follow scientific fish culture practices in panchayat tanks in future.

7.11 ORNAMENTAL FISH CULTURE

Tamil Nadu is one of the leading ornamental fish producer in India, accounting 30% of the country's ornamental fish production. Currently, the Ornamental Fish Trade in Tamil Nadu is primarily centred at Kolathur, Chennai District. The area serves as a major supply hub for ornamental fish, aquatic plants, fish feed, and accessories across India. Kolathur is home to more than 2,000 families including 450 ornamental fish farmers and 300 traders, who are actively involved in the ornamental fisheries sector in Kolathur for trading, sale of fishes, aquarium accessories, fish feed, etc. Kolathur generates an annual business turnover exceeding Rs.200.00 crore, with around 400 species of ornamental fish being produced and sold at wholesale and retail markets.

In order to increase the ornamental fish production and trade in the State, Government have announced to set up an "Ornamental Fish Trade Centre" at Kolathur, Chennai. The trade centre is being established at an area of 1.93 acres at an estimated cost of Rs.53.50 crore. In this centre, it is planned to develop 188 modern ornamental fish shops which in turn will reflect in the growth of ornamental fish business and exports in the surrounding region. It also creates a marketing network for local ornamental fish farmers.

There are about 80 ornamental fish farmers situated in and around Madurai District and about 120 ornamental fish traders engaged in retail fish marketing, whole sale fish marketing and sale of aquarium accessories, fish feed and aqua medicine. Subsequently, Ornamental Fish Culture and Trade in Vavidaimaruthur Village in Madurai has been emerging as a new hub with

13 integrated ornamental fish units in a single cluster. It is also proposed to establish an ornamental fish brood bank in Madurai region.

To promote ornamental fisheries and generate employment, project on "Development of Ornamental Fisheries in Tamil Nadu" has been launched with a total budget of Rs.17.59 crore, including a subsidy of Rs.9.27 crore. This project includes various initiatives, such as, establishment of backyard ornamental units, medium-scale rearing units, and integrated ornamental fish units. The details are furnished in Table 11.

7.12 TAMIL NADU IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE MODERNIZATION PROJECT (TN-IAMP)

The Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project (TN-IAMP) funded by the World Bank has been implemented since 2018-19 across 45 sub-basins in Tamil Nadu. The key fisheries initiatives has been carried out under the scheme viz. fish culture in long and short seasonal

irrigation tanks, aquaculture in farm ponds, and earthen fish seed rearing and culture farms. To ensure the effective implementation of the project, the Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned an amount of Rs.39.50 crore for implementation. From the year 2018-19 to 2023-24, a total expenditure of Rs.35.42 crore has been incurred and the following activities were implemented for increasing the fish production in order to enhance inland fish production in Tamil Nadu:

- 27,139 hectare of 717 seasonal irrigation tanks were stocked with fish fingerlings.
- Fish Culture have been carried out in 1,258 farm ponds
- 88 fish seed rearing and culture farms were established to increase farmers' revenue.
- 100 fish seed rearing cage units and 15 floating grow out cage units were established.

- 515 fishing implements were distributed to improve the efficiency of inland fishermen.

During the year 2024-25, Establishment of Government Fish Seed Rearing Centre at Gadana Government Fish Farm in Tenkasi District and 11 Model Village activities are under progress.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES INFRASTRUCTURE

Recognizing the vital role of fisheries in our economy and food supply, the Government is making huge investment for infrastructure development, encompassing the upgradation of Fish Landing Points into Fish Landing Centers, the upgrading of Fish Landing Centres into Fishing Harbours, providing fish farms, establishment of office buildings and the Modernization/ Renovation of existing facilities.

These infrastructure initiatives are designed to achieve several key strategic objectives such as enhanced fishermen safety through improved

infrastructure, improved fish quality and hygiene through modernized facilities, maintaining quality and meeting stringent export standards, market expansion and economic benefits, enabling fishermen to secure better prices for their catches and stimulating job creation within fishing communities and the broader public, contributing to local economic development.

The substantial funding required for these projects is being sourced from various channels such as NABARD, FIDF, PMMSY and State fund. During the year 2024-25, the Government have accorded administrative sanction for Rs.315.02 crore towards fisheries infrastructure works under various schemes.

8.1 DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING HARBOURS

Fishing Harbours are vital economic hubs for both individual fishermen and the broader fishery industry. Well-designed harbours enable rapid fish transport, ensuring quality, maximizing fishing time and securing better prices. Hygienic handling

facilities further enhance fish quality, directly translating to improve financial outcomes and socio-economic conditions for fishing communities.

Fishing harbours are equipped with core infrastructures such as breakwaters, jetties and wharves, facilitating safe docking and efficient fish handling. Further, landside amenities such as auction hall, packing shed, Net mending shed, ice plants and processing plants, Radio communication tower, winch room, sloping yard, administrative and accommodation spaces, fuelling stations, public utilities and internal roads have been provided.

In view of supporting safe berthing and hygienic handling of fishes, the Government of Tamil Nadu have accorded administrative sanction for the fishing harbour works and details are furnished in Table 12 and the works are in progress.

8.2 CONSTRUCTION OF FISH LANDING CENTRES

Fish Landing Centres are designed to safely berth mechanized and motorized fishing boats, providing essential facilities for fish landing, auctioning and net repairs.

These centres facilitate easy navigation and berthing for fishing vessels, hygienic fish handling and offer basic amenities for fishermen. They also include the key facilities such as Auction Hall, Net Mending Shed, Diaphragm wall, Quay walls, Jetties, Fish Drying platforms, Internal roads, Water Supply arrangements, Toilets, Lighting facilities, etc., to meet the needs of the fishing community.

There are 147 Fish Landing Centres along the coast of Tamil Nadu. The Government have accorded administrative approval for the improvement of Fish Landing Centres and details are furnished in Table 13 and the works are in progress.

8.3 SHORE PROTECTION WORKS

Shore protection works are crucial to combat sea erosion driven by climate change and high wave activity. The anti-sea erosion structures such as bait arches, groynes, RMS walls and training wall at river bar-mouths are constructed along the shore to mitigate the erosion. Bait arches and groynes, extending from the shore into the sea, forming beaches suitable for traditional craft landings. Training walls are designed to direct river flow, preventing accumulation of sand near harbour areas and maintaining adequate depth in entrance channels and basins for easy movement of fishing boat.

The Government have accorded administrative sanction for the shore protection projects and the constructions are in progress. The details are furnished in Table 14.

8.4.IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT FISH FARMS

The purpose of Government Fish Farms is to boost inland fish production by providing fish farmers with access to affordable seed. These farms are equipped with essential infrastructure, such as earthen, breeder, nursery, rearing and conditioning ponds and Eco-hatcheries.

In the past four years, the Government have accorded administrative sanction for establishing 20 fish farms at a cost of Rs.75.45 crore, of these 16 fish farms works were completed at a cost of Rs.58.00 crore and the remaining 4 fish farms works are in progress. The details of works are furnished in Table 15.

8.5 ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE BUILDINGS CUM TRAINING CENTRES

The construction of office buildings and training centres aims to enhance the fisheries

sector for welfare scheme implementation, providing a platform for public grievance resolution and to train the fishermen in modern techniques in their fishing activities. The Government have accorded administrative sanction for establishment of Training Centre with Integrated Office Building for Assistant Director of Fisheries and Inspector of Fisheries at Mettur Dam in Salem District at a cost of Rs.3.00 crore.

8.6 CONDUCTING TECHNO-ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR NEW FISHING HARBOURS AND FISH LANDING CENTRES

The fisheries sector play a vital role in the socio-economic well-being of fishing communities, whose livelihoods are intrinsically linked to fishing and related activities. To fulfil the requirement of fishing community, new infrastructure facilities were created all along the coast with necessary techno-economic feasibility studies.

These studies provides the critical data needed to establish fishing harbours and fish landing centres in optimal locations, considering feasibility, economic viability and profitability. This process includes mathematical modelling to assess shoreline changes, sedimentation patterns, dredging and disposal requirements and wave tranquillity etc. Feasibility studies currently in progress are detailed in Table 16.

8.7 ENHANCED UNIT COST FOR FISHERMEN HOUSING SCHEME

The Government have allocated a sum of Rs.85.00 crore to facilitate the construction of 5,000 houses for inland and marine fisherfolk under Fishermen Housing Scheme. The cost for construction of each house had been set at Rs.1.70 lakh. Of this allocated amount, Rs.61.97 crore has been disbursed to the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department for

implementing this scheme. So far, work orders have been issued for 3,487 houses and out of which, 3,389 houses have been completed. Remaining 98 houses are under various stages of construction.

As per the announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in the Fishermen Welfare Conference held on 18.08.2023 at Ramanathapuram District, Government of Tamil Nadu has enhanced the unit cost per house from Rs.1.70 lakh to Rs.2.40 lakh. Furthermore, Government have sanctioned an additional amount of Rs.36.31 crore for the construction of remaining 1,513 new houses under the Fishermen Housing Scheme with enhanced unit cost. Necessary steps are being taken for completion of the remaining houses.

9. MARKETING OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

The total fish production in Tamil Nadu for the year 2023-24 was recorded at 8.84 lakh MT. The per capita fish consumption during this period stood at 11.47 kg. To promote fish consumption, the Government of Tamil Nadu have undertaken various initiatives, including the establishment of modernized and hygienic fish markets, dedicated fish stalls, mobile fish vending units and online marketing platforms.

9.1 EXPORT OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

During the year 2023-24, with a total export quantity of 17.81 lakh MT, valued at Rs.60,523.89 crore, fish and fishery products have emerged as one of the largest contributors to agricultural exports from India.

During the same period, the State generated foreign exchange earnings amounting to

Rs.6,854.22 crore through the export of 1.34 lakh MT of marine products. The primary categories of exported marine products include dried fish, chilled fish, live fish and frozen fishes like shrimp, finfish, cuttlefish and squid. The key international markets for these products are the United States of America, Japan, South-East Asia, the European Union, China and the Middle East.

To ensure hygienic fish handling and maintain high-quality standards in fish preservation, the Government of Tamil Nadu have developed comprehensive landing and shore infrastructure, including 10 major fishing harbours, four medium fishing harbours, and 147 fish landing centres. These facilities are instrumental in promoting the export of fish and fishery products from the State. Additionally, Chennai and Thoothukudi serves as the primary hubs for export-oriented fish processing activities.

9.2 CONSTRUCTION OF FISH MARKETS

The Government is actively undertaking initiatives to construct 21 new Fish Markets across various locations to ensure the hygienic handling of fish and to provide high-quality fish and fishery products to consumers. This project is being implemented with financial assistance from the State Government, the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and the Civic Bodies with a total project outlay of Rs.17.54 crore.

Out of 21 fish markets, 20 fish markets have been successfully completed and operational and 1 fish market in Erode District is under construction as detailed in Table 17.

10. FISHERIES STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE

Fisheries Staff Training Institute (FSTI) was established in 1962. This Institute has a sanctioned strength of 15 staff. It offers training programmes to Assistant Director of Fisheries, Inspector of

Fisheries, and Sub-Inspector of Fisheries. They undergo regular departmental training for six months for fisheries graduates and 12 months training programme for non-fisheries staff. It also offers training to newly recruited Assistant Engineers of Fisheries Engineering Wing and Assistant Managers of TNFDC.

Apart from fisheries subjects, training covers from the field such as Co-operatives, Administration, Human Resource Management subjects also with a view to upgrade the knowledge of the staff. Training is being provided by the staff of Fisheries Staff Training Institute, resource persons from Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, CMFRI, NABARD, CIBA, retired officers from Fisheries Department and Natesan Institute of Co-operative Management. In regular departmental training, they gained field knowledge for about two months (off campus training) regarding fish breeding, rearing, grow out, fish

farming in cages, fishing harbour management, fish landings, fishing gear and craft and also latest technologies in Inland and Marine Fisheries.

Training programmes were conducted for 200 private fish farmers and 50 officials from the Fisheries Department on Biofloc Technology in freshwater aquaculture, freshwater ornamental fish culture through this Training Centre. Additionally, 59 departmental officials have undergone training on fishing boat engine operation and maintenance, project preparation and extension methods under State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI). From the date of starting of this Institute upto April, 2024, 722 department officers have completed their training in 62 batches. At present, 63rd batch comprising 18 officers are undergoing regular departmental training.

11. EXTENSION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The Extension Wing of the Department plays a crucial role in disseminating information on welfare schemes and advanced technologies in fish culture to the public, fishermen, fish farmers and other stakeholders in the fisheries sector. The department actively participates in various trade shows and exhibitions to create awareness about Government initiatives among fishers, fish farmers and the general public. Additionally, regular awareness campaigns are conducted to educate fisherfolk on topics, such as the sustainable management of fisheries resources, safety measures at sea, hygienic fish handling and sanitation practices at Fish Landing Centres and Fishing Harbours.

To address the concerns of fishermen and fish farmers, the department organizes Fishermen Grievance Day and Fish Farmers' Meetings, providing a platform to resolve issues and enhance stakeholder engagement.

The Department also commemorates key annual events, including World Ocean Day (8th June), National Fish Farmers' Day (10th July) and World Fisheries Day (21st November).

These occasions are marked by competitions for school and college students, awareness rallies and medical camps for fisherfolk/fish farmers. In recognition of their contributions to the fisheries sector, outstanding fisherfolk/fish farmers are honoured with awards in various categories during these celebrations.

11.1 COLLABORATION WITH FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND INDUSTRY

The Department is committed for enhancing the skills, knowledge and practices of fishers and fish farmers through a range of extension activities aimed at improving livelihoods, promoting sustainable practices and contributing to the overall development of the fisheries sector.

The Department collaborates with leading fisheries research institutes and organizations, including Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU), Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). These collaborations facilitate the adoption of modern technologies to enhance fish production and increase fish catch.

These extension activities are designed to empower fisherfolk/fish farmers, enabling them to improve their livelihoods, adopt sustainable practices and contribute to the growth and sustainability of the fisheries sector in Tamil Nadu.

11.2 MARITIME EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FOR FISHER YOUTH

The Government is actively improving the skill sets of the fisher youth, so as to facilitate them in obtaining their employment opportunities. As part of this initiative, an educational scholarship amount of Rs.50.00 lakh is being provided for 100 fisher youth annually at the rate of Rs.50,000/- per student. This scholarship is intended to equip the fisher youth with necessary skills and qualifications for career growth in maritime sector and thereby improving their living standards. This educational scholarship to the students of fishermen families is enabling them to pursue six specific courses in Maritime Education as follows.

- i. Diploma in Nautical Science
- ii. Diploma in Marine Engineering
- iii. Deck Cadets – One year Course leading to B.Sc., (Nautical Science)

- iv. Two years course of Trainee Marine Engineering course for Diploma Engineers
- v. One year course of trainee Marine Engineering course for Graduate Engineers
- vi. Three years course of B.Sc., (Nautical Science)

This scholarship is being provided in 2 equal instalments i.e. Rs.25,000/- at the time of joining the course and Rs.25,000/- after successful completion of the course. During the years 2023-24 and 2024-25, a total amount of Rs.50.00 lakh has been provided to 164 fisher youth in Tamil Nadu.

11.3 SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS FOR FISHER YOUTH/FISHERMEN

The Government is taking all the steps towards enhancing the livelihood of fisher youth/fishermen, especially fisherwomen through creating sufficient employment opportunities, for which upgradation of their skill sets is essentially

required. In this regard, seven kinds of skill development training programmes are being provided to 1,500 fisher youth from all over the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu with financial support from the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC).

The seven training programmes are Full Stack Developer, Business Analytics with Digital, Defect Rectification and Maintenance of Boat Engine, Scuba Diving, Beach Lifeguard, Tourist Guide and Underwater Welding.

In the first phase, Full Stack Developer training to 11 fisher youth, Business Analytics with Digital Marketing training to 42 fisher youth and Defect Rectification & Maintenance of Boat Engine training to 100 fisher youth from Chennai, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur Districts have been provided. Further, steps are being taken to provide the remaining training programmes.

Fishing boat driving training programme is being provided to 500 fisher youth from the coastal

districts of Tamil Nadu with the financial assistance of the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation to provide them with the knowledge on technology and skills in sea navigation, fishing, safe movement and communication to the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and to make them competent in operating fishing boats safely.

In the first phase, 50 fishermen have successfully completed the training to whom Boat Driving License and Course Completion Certificates have been issued through the Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University and training to the remaining fishers is in progress.

12. FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Fisheries Co-operative Societies serve for the betterment of fishermen and fisherwomen all over the State. The Department is implementing enormous welfare schemes to fishermen/fisherwomen through Fisheries Co-operative Societies.

Approximately, 7.71 lakh fishermen/ fisherwomen have joined in 1,480 Primary Fishermen/Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies. There are 12 District Co-operative Federations and one State Apex Co-operative Federation in the State. Some of the Fishermen Co-operative Societies are operating 62 full time and 12 part time fair price shops.

The details of Fisheries Co-operative Societies are detailed in Table 18.

12.1 EFFECTIVE FUNCTION OF MARINE FISHERMEN / FISHERWOMEN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Marine Fishermen / Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies have registered many of Marine fisherfolk as a member at the age 18 and above, who are actively engaged in full time fishing/fishing related activities. The Government is extending relief assistance to the Marine Fishers and Fisherwomen. Those members of Fishermen

/Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies are eligible to receive relief assistance under the schemes, such as, Savings-cum-relief scheme for Marine Fishermen/Fisherwomen, Fishing ban relief assistance and Special Allowance during fishing lean months, Group Accident Insurance Scheme, etc.

There are 74 Public Distribution System shops operated by the Fisheries Co-operative Societies in Tiruvallur, Chennai, Chengalpattu, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam and Kanniyakumari Districts. Micro credit is being extended to the members of the Co-operative Societies by Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation (TAFCOFED), Co-operative Banks and other Nationalized Banks. Co-operative marketing shops are also operated by the Marine Fisheries Co-operative Societies in fishing harbours for the benefit of the fisherfolk to procure accessories related to fishing. Jewel loan to the fisherfolk is also provided by Colachel

Fishermen Co-operative Society, Vallavilai
Fishermen Co-operative Society of Kanniyakumari
District and Thoothukudi Fishermen Cooperative
Society of Thoothukudi District.

Thoothukudi Fishermen Co-operative Society
launched Jewel loan scheme on 08.11.2023 and as
on 28.02.2025, Rs.3.88 crore have been provided
as loan assistance to 569 members. Further,
Vallavilai Fishermen Co-operative Society also
launched Jewel loan scheme on 13.01.2024 and as
on 28.02.2025, Rs.2.35 crore have been provided
as loan assistance to 303 members.

12.2 EFFECTIVE FUNCTION OF INLAND FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Inland Fisheries Co-operative Societies
focus on fishing activities in water bodies such as
Rivers, Irrigation tanks, Panchayat tanks and
Reservoirs, etc. Certain Inland Fisheries
Co-operative Societies are engaged in the sale of
fresh fish, dried fish and Value added fish within

their operational areas. The members of these Co-operative Societies play a crucial role in enhancing inland fish production in the State. To increase inland fish production, the Government provides fishing nets and coracles at subsidized prices to the members of these Fisheries Cooperative Societies.

12.3 KISAN CREDIT CARDS (KCC) TO FISHERFOLK AND FISH FARMERS

The Government have extended the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme to the fisheries sector to support the working capital needs of fisherfolk/fish farmers. This scheme is being effectively implemented in the State.

The KCC facility provides short-term financing for a range of activities, including fish culture, bivalve farming, shrimp farming, seaweed farming, fish marketing and capture fisheries.

Under this scheme, a credit ceiling of Rs.2.00 lakh is available to meet the working capital requirements of fisherfolk/fish farmers.

To enhance accessibility, an interest subvention of 2% per annum is provided during loan disbursement, along with an additional 3% interest subvention as an incentive for timely repayment of the loan.

As of now, a total of 77,402 Kisan Credit Cards have been issued to fisherfolk/ fish farmers and a sum of Rs.1,198.79 crore has been disbursed under the scheme.

13. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)

To achieve a sustainable future by 2030, United Nations has framed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to combat poverty, inequality and environmental degradation. Fisheries and Aquaculture offer ample opportunities to alleviate poverty, hunger and

malnutrition, generate economic growth and ensure better use of natural resources.

The Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare contributes towards 'Responsible Consumption and Production' (Goal-12) with one indicator and 'Life below Water' (Goal-14) with three indicators. The Department has taken steps to achieve the Goal-12 by increasing the fish production of the State through various schemes. The fish production of the State has increased from 8.29 lakh MT during the year 2022-23 to 8.84 lakh MT during the year 2023-24.

To achieve the indicators in the Goal-12 and 14, the Department is taking various measures to enhance fish production through implementation of fishing ban period, deployment of artificial reefs, ranching of fish seeds, mariculture activities, capacity building to fisherfolk and enforcing Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 for attaining sustainable fishing practices. Growth rate

of fish production has been included as an indicator for ranking in District Good Governance Index (DGGI).

14. TAMIL NADU FISHERMEN WELFARE BOARD (TNFWB)

Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board was established in 2007 with a view to ensure social security and well-being of fishermen and labourers engaged in fishing and other allied activities.

The Board is headed by the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries – Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry as Chairman and the Commissioner, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare as Member Secretary. The Board consist of official members from Government representatives and non-official members representing the fishermen and labourers engaged in fishing and other allied activities nominated by the Government. The tenure of a non-official member is for a period of two years.

As on 15.03.2025, 4,99,239 members have been enrolled in the Board.

The Board is collecting contribution fund from the following sources;

- i) Member contribution at the rate of twenty rupees per member for every year.
- ii) Ten paise per litre of diesel sold by the diesel bunks of Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited and Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation Limited.
- iii) Twenty paise per litre of sales tax-exempted diesel purchased by the owners of mechanized fishing vessel from the diesel bunks of Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited or Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation Limited.

- iv) Seven percent of the fishing lease amount from the water bodies.
- v) Two rupees per kilogram of fish sold by the Mettur Dam Fishermen Co-operative Marketing Society.

During the year 2024-25, a sum of Rs.4.39 crore has been received as contribution fund from the above sources. Further, the Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs.1.00 crore as Grants in Aid for the implementation of various welfare schemes to the members. The relief and assistance schemes of the Board are detailed in Table-19 and the details of relief and assistance disbursed during the year 2024-25 are given in Table-20.

A website (www.tnfwb.tn.gov.in) has been developed for member registration and for quick processing of relief / assistance claim applications submitted by the members / legal heir of members. All the District Assistant Director of Fisheries offices

have been provided with user credentials to access the application to upload the relief / assistance claim applications with all essential documents and recommend the same to Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board for disbursement of scheme amount to beneficiaries bank account through National Electronic Fund Transfer. Member registration and claim application for all welfare schemes can also be submitted through e-Sevai Centre.

Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board is providing educational sponsorship for the 5% of students admitted under the Fishermen Ward Quota to pursue Bachelor of Fisheries Science (B.F.Sc.,) and Bachelor of Fisheries Engineering (B.Tech.,) in the constituent colleges of Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University.

During the year 2024-25, a sum of Rs.14.35 lakh has been provided as educational sponsorship to the wards of fishermen studying in Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University.

15. TAMIL NADU STATE APEX FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LIMITED (TAFCOFED)

Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation Limited (TAFCOFED) was registered on 06.11.1991 as Apex Society under Tamil Nadu Co-operatives Societies' Act, 1983. TAFCOFED is functioning since 19.10.1992 with its headquarters at Chennai.

At present, 665 marine, 164 inland fishermen / fisherwomen Co-operative Societies and 10 District Fishermen Co-operative Federations have been enrolled as members in TAFCOFED with a total share capital of Rs.91.49 lakh.

The Commissioner of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare is the functional Registrar of the Apex Federation and it is administered by Administrator/Managing Director in the cadre not below the rank of Joint Director of Fisheries. The five Project Offices located at Chennai,

Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Nagercoil are under the control of TAFCOFED.

15.1 SUPPLY OF SUBSIDIZED INDUSTRIAL KEROSENE TO MOTORISED FISHING BOATS

During the year 2024-25, upto Feb-2025, TAFCOFED has supplied 7,487 KL of subsidized Industrial Kerosene to the traditional motorised fishing boats in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli Districts through its 14 outlets and earned a revenue of Rs.1.49 crore (unaudited).

15.2 SUPPLY OF SALES TAX EXEMPTED DIESEL TO FISHING CRAFTS

During the year 2024-25, upto Feb-2025, TAFCOFED has supplied 21,887 KL of tax exempted diesel to Mechanised and Motorised fishing boats through its 18 diesel bunks established in coastal districts and earned a revenue of Rs.5.03 crore (unaudited).

15.3 CONVERSION OF KEROSENE OPERATED OUTBOARD MOTORS (OBMs) TO LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) AS A PILOT SCHEME TO PHASE OUT THE USE OF KEROSENE WITH LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG)

As an initiative to find alternatives for Kerosene driven Outboard Motors (OBM) for fishing in the coastal districts, they will be converted into Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) driven engines under "Greening Marine Fisheries".

During the year 2024-25, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry has announced to provide 150 Nos. of Liquefied Petroleum Gas Engine Kits at a free of cost and 25 Nos. of LPG Engines at a 50% subsidy to the total cost of the engine for replacement of kerosene driven engines in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari Districts in first phase and action has been initiated. The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.1.90 crore for this project.

15.4 FISH STALLS

In order to supply good quality fish to the general public at a reasonable price, TAFCOFED has established fish stalls at Pazhaverkadu in Tiruvallur District, Vaiyavur in Kanchipuram District, Neyveli NLC Township in Cuddalore District, Ariyalur Town in Ariyalur District, Ramanathapuram Town and Paramakudi in Ramanathapuram District, Tirunelveli Town and Pettai in Tirunelveli District and Kanniyakumari Town in Kanniyakumari District. During the year 2024-25, upto Feb-2025, TAFCOFED earned a revenue of Rs.12.34 lakh (unaudited) through this activity.

15.5 MICRO CREDIT TO FISHERWOMEN

For the year 2024-25, upto Feb-2025, TAFCOFED has provided Rs.15,000/- to Rs.20,000/- per fisherwoman as Micro Credit to 625 fisherwomen of 125 Joint Liability Groups from

Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi Districts to the tune of Rs.1.06 crore.

15.6 CO-OPERATIVE STORES IN FISHING HARBOURS/FISH LANDING CENTRES

TAFCOFED has established Co-operative Stores at Chinnamuttom, Colachel, Thengapattinam, Thoothukudi and Nagapattinam Fishing Harbours and Tharuvaikulam Fish Landing Centre through which fishing implements and accessories required by the fishermen are being sold at a reasonable cost.

15.7 SUPPLY OF OUTBOARD MOTOR (OBM)

TAFCOFED is supplying Outboard Motor for the traditional fishing crafts at a subsidized cost under State Scheme. 40% of the unit cost or Rs.48,000/- whichever is less is being provided as subsidy assistance under this scheme. 350 Nos. of OBMs have been given to fishermen of Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari

Districts. During the year 2024-25, subsidy to the tune of Rs.1.56 crore has been disbursed through TAFCOFED.

15.8 SUPPLY OF TWO WHEELER WITH ICE BOX

TAFCOFED has been allotted a sum of Rs.1.79 crore for supplying of 539 Nos. of Two Wheeler fitted with Ice Box, with subsidy assistance of 40% to General category and 60% to SC, ST and Women categories, for promoting retail fish marketing under the funding assistance of the State and Union Governments.

15.9 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

During the year 2024-25, TAFCOFED has made a turnover of Rs.253.18 crore and earned a net profit of Rs.4.19 crore (unaudited). An amount of Rs.42.82 lakh has been paid as contribution to Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board (Upto Feb- 2025).

16. TAMIL NADU FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (TNFDC)

The Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited (TNFDC) is a public sector undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu registered under the Companies Act in 1974.

The main objective of the Corporation is to promote commercial fisheries ventures in Tamil Nadu. At present the Corporation is focusing to develop and promote a profitable and long term commercial business in Fisheries Sector. This commercial fisheries business model would be disseminated to interested start-up groups and fisheries entrepreneur so as to leverage the scope of entrepreneurship and employment generation in Fisheries Sector.

TNFDC is being administered by the Board of Directors with its Chairman being appointed by the Government. The Commissioner of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare is the Managing Director of the TNFDC.

16.1 RESERVOIR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The Fisheries Department has handed over the fishery rights of eight reservoirs to TNFDC on long term lease basis and reservoir fisheries management is being carried out in the reservoirs which were taken on long term lease from the Government for 30 years. For the year 2024-25 upto Feb-2025, 384.12 tonnes of fishes have been caught and the revenue realised was Rs.3.88 crore. Details of the eight reservoirs are given in Table 21.

16.2 FISH SEED PRODUCTION AND REARING

The TNFDC is engaged in fish seed production and rearing by utilizing the fish farms with an extent of 3.86 ha. Indian Major Carp and Common Carp seed productions are being carried out in Sathanur fish farm in Tiruvannamalai District. During the year 2024-25, upto Feb 2025 1.02 crore early fry seeds have been produced. For the year 2024-25 upto Feb 2025 rearing of fish

seed is being carried out at Sathanur, Aliyar, Amaravathy, Tirumoorthy and Palar - Porandalar fish farms and 39.61 lakh fingerlings have been reared.

16.3 ORNAMENTAL FISH CULTURE & AQUARIUM KEEPING

In order to showcase the ornamental fish varieties to general public, aquarium with shop for sale of aquarium accessories and ornamental fishes are functioning at Ecopark Chetpet, Aliyar, Tirumoorthy and Sathanur Dam. A total revenue of Rs.13.86 lakh has been earned during the year 2024-25 upto Feb, 2025.

16.4 SUPPLY OF SALES TAX-EXEMPTED HIGH SPEED DIESEL

The sales tax exempted diesel provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the benefit of marine fishers is being supplied by TNFDC through 33 diesel outlets. During the year 2024-25, upto Feb 2025, 78,901.68 KL of tax exempted diesel

have been supplied to the fishing boats, with a turnover of Rs.605.85 crore.

16.5 SUPPLY OF SUBSIDIZED INDUSTRIAL KEROSENE

The subsidized industrial kerosene is being provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the benefit of marine fishers, who are having traditional fishing crafts with kerosene operated outboard motors in Kanniyakumari District, where Kerosene is being supplied through 11 outlets of TNFDC. During the year 2024-25 (upto Feb-25), 11,924.74 KL of subsidized kerosene have been supplied with a turnover of Rs.79.19 crore.

16.6 SUPPLY OF OUTBOARD MOTORS (OBM) TO FISHING CRAFTS

During the year 2024-25, the TNFDC supplied 650 Nos. of OBM to eligible fishermen beneficiaries covering the regions of Chennai, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Trichy and Ramanathapuram.

16.7 SALE OF PETROL THROUGH THE RETAIL OUTLETS

Petrol is being sold to the public through the retail outlets of TNFDC for public cause. 222.62 KL Petrol has been sold out to public (upto Feb, 2025) and generated a total gross income of Rs.2.36 crore.

16.8 FRESH FISH MARKETING

To increase the fish consumption habit among public, the TNFDC is promoting domestic fish marketing in a phased manner throughout the State. TNFDC is currently operating 54 retail fish stalls and seven mobile units for sale of fresh fish and value added fish food. During 2024-25, (upto Feb-2025) TNFDC marketed Rs.1.04 crore of value added fish products and earned profit to the tune of Rs.8.79 lakh. During the year 2024-25, a total quantity of 470.60 tonnes of fresh fish has been marketed with turnover of Rs.14.06 crore.

16.9 ONLINE FISH MARKETING

TNFDC is undertaking online fish marketing through the web portal *www.meengal.com* and mobile app 'Meengal'. The online fish marketing facilities are well utilized for supply of fishes to the customers at their doorsteps through e-commerce platform. During the year 2024-25, a total of 6,652 deliveries have been completed and 9.78 MT of fishes have been sold for a value of Rs.61.30 lakh till Feb, 2025.

16.10 WHOLESALE FISH MARKET AT UKKADAM, COIMBATORE DISTRICT

A wholesale fish market was established at Ukkadam in Coimbatore by the TNFDC in co-operation with Coimbatore Corporation. In order to facilitate more freshness and preserve the quality of fish, an ice plant and a cold storage of 10 MT capacity were established under National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) at a cost of Rs.1.10 crore. For the year 2024-25, the

Infrastructure Development works for an amount of Rs.92.50 lakh are under progress for improvement of hygienic conditions in the market.

16.11 MANAGEMENT OF CHETPET ECO PARK

The Sport fishing cum Eco Park established by the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare is being operated and maintained by TNFDC. During the year 2024-25, upto Feb-2025, a total of 2,11,195 visitors have visited this park and total entry fees of Rs.48.34 lakh has been collected.

The recreational facilities in the Eco-Park are being leased out to private parties and an income of Rs.2.04 crore has been earned.

16.12 OPERATION OF FISH FEED MILL

The fish feed mill was established under National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) at Achampatti in Thanjavur District, which is being operated by TNFDC. The feed produced is

supplied to the TNFDC and Government fish farms. During the year 2024-25 upto Feb-2025, 171.32 MT of fish feed have been produced, supplied and an income of Rs.78.77 lakh has been realised.

16.13 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

TNFDC has made a turnover of Rs.713.03 crore and earned a profit of Rs.7.20 crore (unaudited) during the year 2024-25 (upto Feb-2025).

16.14 CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY TNFDC

TNFDC has paid a sum of Rs.2.50 crore to the State Government as dividend for the profit earned during 2023-24. The Board of TNFDC has approved to pay an Interim Dividend of Rs.1.00 crore to the Government for the year 2024-25. Also, TNFDC has paid a sum of Rs.1.00 crore as its contribution to the Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board for the year 2024-25.

An amount of Rs.23.50 lakh has been earmarked for utilization towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund from TNFDC for the year 2024-25.

17. TAMIL NADU DR.J.JAYALALITHAA FISHERIES UNIVERSITY (TNJFU)

Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU) is a State Government-funded institution established on June 19, 2012 in Nagapattinam under the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University Act, 2012.

The University is ranked 32nd in the agriculture and allied sectors of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)-2024. The University has received 12 B status of UGC. The three constituent Fisheries Colleges offering B.F.Sc., M.F.Sc., and Ph.D., programmes are accredited by ICAR with an "A grade" till March 2026. The B.Tech, B.B.A., and M.B.A., programmes offered by this

university also got approval of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

17.1 VISION OF THE UNIVERSITY

“Harnessing the Science of Fisheries for Food, Nutrition and Livelihood”

17.2 MISSION

Excelling in teaching, research and extension initiatives in fisheries sciences to produce professionally acclaimed and socially responsible graduates, achieving nutritional security and sustainable development of the fisheries sector.

17.3 OBJECTIVES

1. To impart quality professional education in different branches of Fisheries Science.
2. To conduct organized research in the frontier area to develop cutting-edge technologies in Fisheries Science.

3. To provide extension services in Fisheries Science.
4. To facilitate the comprehensive development of Fisheries Science for the increased contribution of the State's economy and set benchmark standards through appropriate interventions in fisheries teaching, research and extension.

17.4. ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP

The University has its headquarters located at Nagapattinam, which holds the offices of the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Director of Research, Director of Extension Education, Controller of Examination, Director of Sustainable Aquaculture, Finance Officer and Estate Officer. There are eight Constituent Colleges, three Para-professional Institutes, five Directorates, eight Sustainable Aquaculture Centres, a Krishi Vigyan Kendra

(KVK) and an Affiliated Private College functioning under the University, spread in 12 districts of Tamil Nadu.

17.5 ACADEMICS

The University offers academic programmes under the following four faculties:

1. **Faculty of Fisheries Science:** B.F.Sc., M.F.Sc., and Ph.D., courses offered in three Fisheries Colleges and B.Voc. programmes offered in three Para-professional Institutes.
2. **Faculty of Basic Sciences:** B.Tech. (Biotechnology), B.B.A., M.B.A. in Fisheries Enterprise Management, and Ph.D., in Life Sciences.
3. **Faculty of Fisheries Engineering:** B.Tech. (Fisheries Engineering), B.Tech. (Energy and Environmental Engineering) and M.Tech.
4. **Faculty of Food Science:** B.Tech. (Food Technology).

In the current academic year, the University has admitted 358 students for U.G. courses, 69 students for P.G. courses and 26 students for Doctoral studies, with a current total enrolment of 1,635 students.

17.6 STUDENTS BENEFITTED THROUGH TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

In the current academic year, seven candidates under 5% of the seats allotted to fishermen community have been supported for the entire academic and hostel fee by the Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board, Chennai. In addition, 17 students have been admitted under 15% Fishermen Quota, 10 students were also admitted under 7.5% of seats allotted to the students studied in Government Schools for undergraduate courses.

125 girl students benefitted from Tamil Nadu Government Moovalur Ramamirtham

Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance (Pudhumai Penn) scheme and 101 male students benefitted with the “Tamizh Pudhalvan” scheme.

Awareness on fisheries education under the ‘Naan Mudhalvan Scheme’ has reached school students.

17.7 CONVOCATION

The Ninth Convocation of Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University was held on 18.09.2024 in the University headquarters at Nagapattinam. A total of 391 graduates (in person and in absentia) were conferred with the degrees and 28 candidates were awarded with 58 medals in different categories’ by the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu.

17.8 STUDENTS’ INNOVATION

A B.Tech Fisheries Engineering student presented a novel idea for a Pedal Tech Descaling

Machine in the Fish Tank Challenge competition organized by Tamil Nadu Startup and bagged a cash prize of Rs.1.00 lakh. Three B.Voc students showcased their innovations in the Hackathon competition organized by EDII, which featured a Cable Glide Way and a Solar Battery Operated Boat and were awarded a cash prize of Rs.1.00 lakh.

17.9 NEW INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES ESTABLISHED

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated several new facilities across various locations in the year 2024. The infrastructure facilities inaugurated were Hostel Block at the Fisheries College and Research Institute in Thoothukudi District, an Administrative Block and the second floor (Laboratory Block) of the Dr. M.G.R Fisheries College and Research Institute in Thalainayeru, Nagapattinam District, a Hostel Block at the Dr. M.G.R Fisheries College and Research Institute in Ponneri, Tiruvallur District,

the Loach (Ayirai Meen) Research Centre in Gullapuram, Theni District and a Farmers Training Center along with additional infrastructure at the Main Campus of Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University in Nagapattinam. The infrastructure valued at Rs.31.42 crore were inaugurated on different occasions.

The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries-Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry inaugurated new buildings at Dr. M.G.R Fisheries College and Research Institute in Thalainayeru, Nagapattinam District including a Farmers Training Centre, an Incubation Unit and a Marine Engineering Workshop at a total cost of Rs.3.50 crore for the year 2024.

17.10 RESEARCH

17.10.1 ONGOING PROJECTS

31 Research Projects are in operation with a total budget of Rs.24.27 crore. Of these, nine projects have been funded by the Tamil Nadu Government through TANII, TNIAMP, TNSCST,

EDII and State funds with a combined total budget of Rs.16.69 crore.

19 Projects are funded by the Union Government and other Government funding Agencies with a total budget of Rs.7.22 crore supported by PMMSY, INCOIS, DST, NCCR, ICMR, ICAR and DSIR are in operation. Three international projects, sponsored by USFDA, USAID and BOBP-IGA are being implemented at the University, with a total funding support of Rs.87.39 lakh.

12 Projects funded by various National and Multinational Industries to the tune of Rs.38.03 lakh are currently in operation.

17.10.2 RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

During the year 2024-25, a total of 129 Research Papers have been published in peer-reviewed International and National Journals.

17.10.3 TECHNOLOGIES

The University hosted the Technology Release function-2025 on 12.02.2025, where 18 technologies have been released by the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry. The Technologies released are listed below:

1. Seed production technology for Striped Murrel (*Channa striatus*) under captive condition.
2. Standardisation of protocol for mass culture of novel marine biflagellate *Proteomonas sulcata* isolated from Gulf of Mannar coastal waters for mariculture operations.
3. TNJFU –Murrel feed.
4. TNJFU- Asian Seabass feed.
5. Seaweed incorporated edible ice-cream cones.
6. Seaweed incorporated edible coffee cups.
7. Seeweed extract (*Sargassum wightii*)

incorporated chocolate.

8. Seaweed (*Hypnea pannosa*) incorporated soap.
9. Seaweed (*Hypnea pannosa*) incorporated face cream.
10. Seaweed (*Hypnea pannosa*) incorporated body wash.
11. Seaweed (*Hypnea pannosa*) incorporated shampoo.
12. Seaweed (*Hypnea pannosa*) incorporated handwash.
13. Green Spicy Shrimp snack.
14. Mixed Spice Shrimp snack.
15. Classic Salt and chilly shrimp snack.
16. Cheese and Spice Flavoured shrimp snack.
17. Tandoori Barbecued Shrimp snack.
18. Fish curry in Retort Pouch (South Indian and Sri Lankan).

17.10.4 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University has signed 14 MoUs/MoA in the year 2024, with National Universities, organisations and industries for the purpose of collaborative research, student and faculty exchange.

17.10.5 TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALISED

The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries-Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry launched CMR shrimp feed, formulated using TNJFU standardized technology produced at the feed mill in Muttukadu, on 12th February, 2025.

17.10.6 SALIENT RESEARCH FINDINGS

1. The installation of Artificial Coral Reefs (ACR) and Fish Aggregating Artificial Reefs (FAAR) in the sea near Pulicat has led to a notable increase in fish catches in the region, boosting the income of local fisherfolk. This

has been supported by TANII with an investment of Rs.4.31 crore.

2. Pureline GIF Tilapia brooders have been successfully bred for five generations, with a project cost of Rs.2.50 crore under the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project (TNIAMP).
3. Loach seeds were distributed to fish farmers in Virudhunagar, Sivagangai, Theni, Dindigul and Ramanathapuram to support large-scale production. The fish culturists have been supported with technical guidance on stocking, feeding and pond management practices. The project is funded by the Government of Tamil Nadu with a budget outlay of Rs.2.68 crore.
4. Package of practices for induced breeding of Striped Murrel under captive conditions was developed and demonstration programmes on seed production technology were

conducted for the beneficiaries. The funding was supported by the Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB) with Rs.15.18 lakh.

5. Three bacterial isolates., *Burkholderia* sp., *Rhizobacterium* sp., and *Agrobacterium* sp. were identified from aquaculture wastewater. The bacterial isolates which possess high wastewater degradation efficiency is aimed at developing a bacterial consortium for wastewater treatment. The funding was supported by TNSCST with Rs.1.75 lakh.
6. A modern crab hatchery was established in Pazhaverkadu to supply crablets to local farmers. Training was imparted benefiting 224 farmers. They were provided with necessary inputs for crab fattening with project supported by the PMMSY scheme with a budget of Rs.1.16 crore.

7. Micropropagation of the red seaweed *Kappaphycus alvarezii* was standardised in the laboratory using microalgal culture medium and plant growth regulators, and 1 cm propagules developed. This project was funded by the National Cooperative Development Corporation with a budget of Rs.50.00 lakh.
8. Disease surveillance by the State Referral Lab for Aquatic Animal Health, TNJFU – Madhavaram has identified new and emerging pathogens, such as, Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) and Tilapia Parvo Virus (TiPV), affecting farmed Tilapia. Preventive measures were also recommended to the beneficiaries. NADP has supported with a budget of Rs.1.31 crore.

17.10.7 PATENTS

In the year 2024-25, TNJFU was granted with three design patents on Piezoelectric shoe, Piezoelectric tiles and Pocket Size Calorimeter.

17.11 IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANIZED

17.11.1 INDUSTRY INSTITUTION SUMMIT 2024

Industry Institution Summit, 2024 was organised at Institute of Fisheries Post Graduate Studies (IFPGS), Vaniyanchavadi on 27.09.2024 and 28.09.2024. The event featured participation of 36 industry professionals, CEOs, Directors, Managers, R&D Heads, and Nutritionists in the aquaculture sector across the country. It was recommended to have consortium approach for University Industry collaboration and to establish Center of Excellence in Feed Technology and Aquatic Animal Health in the University with NABL accredited laboratories.

17.11.2 CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION IN TAMIL NADU: STATUS AND WAY FORWARD

This workshop was held on 30.11.2024, aiming to bring together policymakers, researchers, industry experts and stakeholders to assess the current status of fisheries and aquaculture in Tamil Nadu and to chart out a sustainable way forward. The event was attended by the participants including representatives from fisheries industries, university officials, professors, scholars and officials of the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare.

17.11.3 OTHER WORKSHOPS / WEBINARS / EVENTS ORGANIZED

In 2024, several key events were organized, including a Sensitization Programme on "Entrepreneurship Development in the Fisheries Sector" in collaboration with NAARM, Hyderabad, a workshop on "Blended Learning Platform" with

ICAR-IASRI, and "Ponshrimp'24," which focused on bridging the gap between the export market and domestic shrimp consumption and the need for NABL accredited Universities Laboratories. These events benefited around 500 students, farmers, industry professionals, and scientists.

In addition, 22 national-level workshops, webinars, and awareness programmes were conducted, focusing on Ocean Protection, Sustainable Fisheries Management Methods, Shrimp Production, Shrimp Health Management and Export Demand, Entrepreneurship Opportunities in the Ornamental Fish Business, and Profitable Fisheries Business Ventures along with advanced aquaculture systems like Biofloc.

17.12 EXTENSION

17.12.1 EXTENSION PROJECTS OPERATED

Fifteen extension training projects to the tune of Rs.1.32 crore were operated through constituent units of the University.

17.12.2 START-UPS / INCUBATEE

1. EDII-MPBIF has been registered as a non-profit section 8 company with FSSAI registration and continues to develop start-ups and entrepreneurs in seaweed-based products and bakery products with 17 start-ups were developed so far.
2. Five women have become successful entrepreneurs in value addition of fish products through incubation services of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sikkal, Nagapattinam District.
3. Three Start-ups/ incubatees viz., M/s, Maami Foods, Pvt Ltd, Thanjavur, M/s. Chenkai Foods, Thalainayeru and M/s. Shanky Foods, Nagapattinam have evolved.

17.12.3 SERVICE THROUGH LABORATORY ANALYSIS

State Referral Laboratory for Aquatic Animals Health, at Madhavaram, Tiruvallur District and in Thoothukudi render service in disease diagnosis and treatment. The State Referral Laboratory for Fish Quality Monitoring and Certification at Thoothukudi offer services in testing fish quality. The State Referral Laboratory for Feed Quality Testing, Institute of Fisheries Postgraduate Studies, Vaniyanchavadi, Chennai offer services in testing aquafeed quality and its nutritional composition.

17.12.4 SERVICES THROUGH FISH FEED MILL

The feed mill in Muttukadu has developed various feed formulations for Tilapia, Seabass, and Murrel, focusing formulation based on the availability of local ingredients. It also produces and supplies both floating and sinking feeds to farmers on a small scale.

17.12.5 EMPOWERMENT OF FISHERFOLK THROUGH SKILL TRAINING

In the year 2024, 85 fishermen were trained on deep sea fishing techniques and engine care and maintenance in co-ordination with the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Authority and Fisheries Department. 36 Fishermen have obtained their boat driving license.

140 fisherwomen have been trained on gill net making and 16 fisherwomen have started their own business availing bank loan with the subsidy from District Industry Center, Ramanathapuram.

Mud crabs were supplied to 27 tribal fisherfolk of Pulicat region and crab fattening has been encouraged as an alternative livelihood.

17.12.6 SERVICE TO FISH FARMERS AND ENTREPRENEURS

The quarterly Tamil magazine *Meenvala Sudar*, published by the University, is circulated to 1,667 subscribers, providing updates on the latest

developments in aquaculture and fisheries in the tamil language. The magazine also features success stories of fish farmers to inspire others to pursue fish farming. The University has conducted 124 outreach programs, including training sessions and demonstrations in aquaculture and fisheries, benefiting 6,229 individuals.

In addition, 58 skill training programs were held, covering topics such as Aquatic Microbiology, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture Marketing Systems, PCR techniques, Water Quality Management, Fish Entrepreneurship, Fish Product Marketing, Biofloc, Aquaponics, Seaweed Farming, Seabass and Murrel Farming, Freshwater Prawn Culture, Disease Management in Fish and Shrimp Culture, Marine Fishery Conservation, Responsible Fishing, and Antimicrobial Resistance.

In addition, 1,663 farmers have received technical advisory services through phone consultations, in-person visits and field visits.

A total of 7.8 lakh fish fingerlings, including loach, mullet, tilapia, and ornamental species, were distributed to 151 farmers. Additionally, live feeds such as copepods, rotifers and microalgae were provided to 11 farmers for use in their hatcheries.

17.12.7 SERVICES PROVIDED BY KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA (KVK) UNDER TNJFU

Eighty four training programs were conducted in aquaculture, mushroom production, vegetable farming, Kharif rice cultivation and value addition in fish and agriculture products which benefitted 3,335 beneficiaries. Awareness programmes, on farm advisory services, Method demonstration and Frontline Demonstration were conducted in agriculture, horticulture and fisheries benefitting 2,524 farmers.

17.12.8 EXHIBITION

TNJFU took part in six agriculture exhibitions including Agri-Intex exhibition at CODISSIA complex, Coimbatore, Nagai Sangaman-value addition products exhibition and National Farmers Day exhibition. Around 19,385 farmers got benefitted through these exhibitions.

17.13 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. To promote the goals of no poverty (SDG 1) and zero hunger (SDG 2), 1,703 farmers and fishermen are given training through both on-campus and off-campus programmes.
2. The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) committee developed strategies and implemented measures to enhance student learning outcomes, thereby contributing to the improvement of education quality (SDG 4).

3. To promote SDG Goal 5 (Gender Equality), International Women's Day (March 8) and the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (February 11) are observed. An Internal Complaints Cell has been established in all the constituent campuses, to prevent sexual abuse and assault against women.
4. Three research projects examining the impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture (SDG 13) have been completed to recommend future strategies.
5. To promote Life below Water (SDG 14), awareness campaigns and rallies have been organized to address aquatic pollution, conserve vulnerable ecosystems, and protect fishery resources. Events like World Fisheries

Day (November 21st), World Wetland Day (February 2nd), and World Seagrass Day (March 1st) are celebrated to raise awareness and ensure the protection of marine life.

17.14 NEW INITIATIVES

1. The faculty will be encouraged to develop technologies, file patents, and commercialize innovations through a new initiative called the Technology Innovation Fellowship (TIF).
2. An International Relations Cell has been established to facilitate the admission of foreign students, promote student and faculty exchanges at the international level, and strengthen alumni connections.
3. A University Placement Cell has been set up to inform students about placement opportunities and coordinate campus recruitment drives to ensure 100% graduate placement.

4. The National-level Students Innovation and Start-up Conference will be organized to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among students.
5. Special lectures and innovative teaching methods will be introduced to produce highly skilled graduates will be introduced to enhance critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, and communication skills.
6. Research will focus on advancing aquaculture technologies, including feed ingredient evaluation, feed development, breeding, ornamental fish farming, climate-resilient aquaculture, seaweed micropropagation, sustainable fisheries management, disease surveillance, fish farm machinery, and food safety in aquaculture and seafood supply chains.
7. Key areas of focus for precision aqua farming will include Artificial Intelligence (AI),

drones, robotics, mechanical fish harvesters, fish processing machinery, automatic feeders, and sensors.

8. Industry-Institute meetings will be held to create industry-ready graduates and an International Conference will be organized to facilitate the exchange of innovations and advancements in fisheries and aquaculture for the benefit of fish farmers, fishermen, scientists, academicians, and other stakeholders.
9. A Krishi Vigyan Kendra and a Fisheries Polytechnic College will be established in Tirunelveli District with funding support from the Union and State Governments respectively.
10. Major laboratories will undergo NABL accreditation to enhance research quality and deliver high-quality services to farmers and the industry.

11. Skill training programs in areas like sea safety, net mending, aquaculture, seaweed, and fish-based products will be provided to 1,000 individuals with funding support from the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation.

18. WAY FORWARD

The Government plans for the following initiatives towards the development of the sector in future:

- Implementing fisheries management measures based on scientific research and data to ensure accurate assessments of fish stocks and sustainable catch levels.
- Acknowledging and addressing the impacts of Climate Change by integrating climate resilience strategies into fisheries, aquaculture production and management activities.

- Renewing sustainable fisheries management principles, practices and regulations.
- Exploring environmentally sustainable alternate fuel and energy sources, fisheries and aquaculture for augmenting the value realisation.
- Creating awareness and educating fishing communities and fish farmers about climate resilience and the long-term benefits of conservation and sustainable management.
- Ensuring safety, security and protection of traditional fishing rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen in their traditional waters of Palk Bay.
- Continuing the social security and welfare measures of the State Government for the fishermen and fish farmers.
- Exploring and implementing environmentally friendly and economically sustainable and

scalable alternate livelihood options like seaweed farming and mariculture activities.

- Skilling and incubation programmes to augment employability and income generation capacities of fisherwomen and fisher youth.
- Collaborative efforts with Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University to implement lab to land programmes in fish farming, mariculture, fish processing, value addition and marketing etc.,
- Creation of necessary infrastructure facilities for inland fish seed production, promotion of latest technologies and effective utilization of water resources for fish culture to increase inland fish production.
- Enhancing the fish production from public water bodies in a scientific manner with quality fish fingerlings.

- Effectively harnessing the short seasonal water resources for increasing the fish production by stocking them with short seasonal & fast-growing fish varieties.
- Increasing the unit productivity of Inland fishery resources.
- Waste to Wealth policy and programme for an effective utilization of coastal fallow lands to increase coastal aquaculture production.
- Smart and Technologically advanced Fishing Harbours, Fish Landing Centres and other shore infrastructure facilities will be established all along the coast of Tamil Nadu to improve hygienic handling of fish to enhance the value realisation.
- Conservation and sustainable management of fishery resources through effective implementation of Acts, Rules and Regulations.

19. CONCLUSION

Fisheries sector plays a pivotal role in food supply and provides food security. It also act as the primary source of employment to the coastal communities. Aquaculture is emerging as a prominent income generating activity in rural areas, which on integration with Agriculture will augment the unit productivity. Various development initiatives coupled with the conservation and management measures on strong scientific basis fuels the unstinted growth of the fisheries sector in the State. This Government will continue to implement schemes with its policy of ecologically and environmentally sustainable fisheries development to bring prosperity in the life of the fishers which will in turn assist the State to achieve its goal of inclusive growth.

Table: 1
Category wise staff strength of Fisheries and Fishermen welfare Department

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts (Sanctioned+ deputation)
1	Commissioner of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare	1
2	Additional Director of Fisheries	2
3	Joint Director of Fisheries	4
4	Deputy Director of Fisheries	11
5	Deputy Director (Personnel)	1
6	Deputy Director (Engineering)	1
7	Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer	1
8	Assistant Director of Fisheries / Assistant Director (Mechanical)	49
9	Deputy Registrar	1
10	Accounts Officer	1
11	Inspector of Fisheries	167
12	Sub-Inspector of Fisheries	84
13	Ministerial and field staff	1,263
	Total	1,586
Engineering Wing		
1	Chief Engineer	1
2	Executive Engineer	5
3	Assistant Executive Engineer	13
4	Assistant Engineer	13

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts (Sanctioned+ deputation)
5	Junior Engineer	17
6	Senior Draughting Officer	1
7	Draughting Officer	8
8	Junior Draughting Officer	4
9	Divisional Accountant	4
10	Technical Assistant	23
11	Ministerial and supporting staff	9
	Total	98
Marine Enforcement Wing		
1	Superintendent of Police	1
2	Deputy Superintendent of Police	1
3	Inspector of Police	10
4	Sub Inspector of Police	8
5	Head Constable / Constable	53
6	Police Driver	19
7	Superintendent	1
8	Assistant	2
9	Camp Clerk	17
	Total	112
	Grand Total	1,796

Table: 2
Marine Fisheries Statistics 2024-25

Coastal length	1,076 km
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	1.9 lakh sq. km
Continental shelf	41,412 sq. km
Number of Coastal Districts	14
Number of Fishing Villages	608
Marine Fisherfolk Population	10.48 lakh
Marine Fisherfolk enrolled in Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board (as on 15.03.2025)	4,42,443
Fishing Crafts registered (online) (as on 20.03.2025)	
Mechanized fishing boats	5,098
Traditional fishing Crafts (Motorized and non-motorized)	38,015 (35,232 + 2,783)
Total fishing Crafts	43,113
Infrastructure Facilities	
Major Fishing Harbours - 10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chennai, Chennai District 2. Poompuhar, Mayiladuthurai District 3. Tharangambadi, Mayiladuthurai District 4. Nagapattinam, Nagapattinam District

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Mookaiyur, Ramanathapuram District 6. Thoothukudi, Thoothukudi District 7. Chinnamuttom, Kanniyakumari District 8. Muttom (PPP), Kanniyakumari District 9. Colachel, Kanniyakumari District 10. Thengapattinam, Kanniyakumari District
Medium Fishing Harbours - 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cuddalore, Cuddalore District 2. Pazhayar, Mayiladuthurai District, 3. Nambiyar Nagar, Nagapattinam District 4. Mallipattinam, Thanjavur District
Fishing Harbours under construction - 5 (Major)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thiruvottiyurkuppam, Chennai District 2. Alambaraikuppam, Chengalpattu District 3. Azhagankuppam, Villupuram District

	4. Vellapallam, Nagapattinam District 5. Arcottuthurai, Nagapattinam District
Fishing Harbours under Modernization - 5	1. Pazhayar, Mayiladuthurai District 2. Tharangambadi, Mayiladuthurai District 3. Nagapattinam, Nagapattinam District 4. Thoothukudi, Thoothukudi District 5. Thengapattinam, Kanniyakumari District
Fish Landing Centres/ Jetties	147
Fish Landing Points	247
Marine Fish Production (2023-24)	6.37 lakh MT
Marine Products Export (2023-24) *	Quantity:1,34,317 MT Value : Rs.6,854.22 crore

Source: * Marine Products Export Development Authority

Table: 3
Inland Fisheries Statistics 2024-25

Inland Fishery Resources	3,85,761 ha
Fisheries management in reservoirs by Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare Dept	62 Nos. (54 Fisheries Department + 8 TNFDC) (56,075 ha)
Major, Minor Irrigation Tanks and Ponds	2,67,746 ha
Fisheries management in irrigation tanks by Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare Dept	636 Nos. (40,149 ha)
Brackish water area	56,000 ha
Population of inland fisherfolk	2.36 lakh
Inland Fisherfolk enrolled in Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board	56,796
Inland Fisheries Infrastructure	
A) Fish Seed Production Centres	
Government Fish Seed Production Centre	13+1(TNFDC)
Private Fish Seed Production Centre	36
B) Fish Seed Rearing Centres	
Government Fish Seed Rearing Centre	46+5(TNFDC)
Private fish Seed Rearing Centre	229

C) Coastal Aquaculture Farms	
Shrimp Hatcheries	110
Shrimp farms	2,382
Shrimp farms area in ha	4,569.63
Inland Fish Production (2023-24)	2.47 lakh tonnes

Table: 4
Shrimp Farms registered under CAA in
Tamil Nadu

Sl. No	District	Total no of farms	WSA (ha)
1	Tiruvallur	125	249.80
2	Chengalpattu	81	102.29
3	Villupuram	101	134.50
4	Cuddalore	188	311.48
5	Nagapattinam	710	1,245.31
6	Mayiladuthurai	359	689.14
7	Thanjavur	361	735.07
8	Tiruvarur	212	483.74
9	Pudukkottai	57	121.15
10	Ramanathapuram	161	389.27
11	Thoothukudi	26	107.38
12	Kanniyakumari	01	0.50
TOTAL		2,382	4,569.63

WSA – Water Spread Area

Table: 5
Financial Assistance to marine fishermen
under various Government welfare
schemes in 2024-25

(Rs. in crore)		
Sl. No	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned
1	Fishing ban relief assistance to fishermen families	144
2	Special allowance to fishermen families during lean fishing period	108
3	Savings cum Relief scheme for marine fishermen	63
4	Savings cum Relief scheme for marine fisherwomen	61
TOTAL		376

Table: 6
Fund Allocation for various Coastal
Aquaculture Activities for the past five years

(Rs. in lakh)			
Sl. No	Activities	Units (ha)	Project cost
1	Construction of Bio-floc ponds including inputs	53 Nos	954
2	Construction of new brackish water shrimp farms	100	800
3	Inputs for cultivation of shrimp in newly constructed farms	100	600
4	Construction of new brackish water farms (Sea bass culture)	10	80
5	Inputs for cultivation of Sea bass in newly constructed farms	10	60
TOTAL			2,494

Table: 7
Fish Seed Production in Government Fish
Farms 2024-25
(in lakh)

Sl. No	District	Fish Seed Production Centres	Early Fry production
1	Tirunelveli	Manimuthar	861
2	Thanjavur	Karanthai	718
3		Thatankulam	
4	Tiruvarur	Nallikkottai	121
5	Karur	Thirukampuliyur	402
6	Erode	Bhavanisagar	2,026
7	Salem	Mettur Dam	2,115
8	Krishnagiri	Krishnagiri (Amur)	80
9	Tiruvallur	Poondi	197
10	Theni	Manjalar (GIFT)*	3
11	Tiruvannamalai	Sathanur**	84
12	Cuddalore	Lalpet	206
13	Dharmapuri	Hogenakkal	125
14	Tenkasi	Ramanadhi	120
Total (Excluding Fingerlings)			7,058

* Fingerlings ** TNFDC

Table: 8
Seed Rearing in Government Fish Farm
2024-25

(in lakh)

Sl. No	Fish seed rearing centres	District	Seed Rearing
1	Bhavanisagar	Erode	33
2	Pungar Fish Farm		50
3	National Fish Seed Farm		86
4	Mettur Dam	Salem	100
5	Anaimaduvu		6
6	AIIRLIVAS		12
7	Krishnagiri	Krishnagiri	157
8	Pambar		13
9	Kelavarapalli		7
10	Barur (GIFT)		5
11	Hogenakkal	Dharmapuri	10
12	Chinnar		30
13	Neithalur	Thanjavur	33
14	Agarapettai		26
15	Karanthai		14
16	Thirumangala kottai		12

17	Chembaram pakkam	Kanchee puram	11
18	Athur	Chengal pattu	32
19	Poondi	Tiruvallur	14
20	Vidur	Villupuram	17
21	Lalpet	Cuddalore	33
22	Agaram		9
23	Mordhana	Vellore	12
24	Nallikkottai	Tiruvarur	10
25	Thattamanai patti	Pudukkottai	11
26	Kurungalur		3
27	Karuvidai cherry		3
28	Asoor	Trichy	10
29	Kulithalai	Karur	3
30	Thirukam puliur		14
31	Vaigai	Theni	24
32	Manjalar		19
33	Sathaiyar	Madurai	11
34	Pilavakkal	Virudhu nagar	26
35	Vembakkottai		7
36	Anaipatti	Dindigul	30
37	Palar Porandalar		13

38	Piravalur	Sivagangai	9
39	Manimuthar	Tirunelveli	38
40	Kuniyur		10
41	Gadana	Tenkasi	22
42	Ramanadhi		9
43	Pechiparai	Kanniya kumari	4
44	Chittar-I		7
45	Chittar -II		3
46	Kadamba	Thoothukudi	3
	Total (A)		1,011
Fish seed rearing farms under TNFDC			
47	Palar Porandalar	Dindigul	2
48	Amaravathy	Tiruppur	3
49	Tirumurthy	Tirupur	8
50	Aliyar	Coimbatore	15
51	Sathanur	Tiruvanna malai	11
Total (B)			39
Grand Total (A+B)			1,050

Table: 9
Details of Fisheries Management in
Irrigation Tanks

Sl. No	Tanks	Nos.
1	Intensive Fish Culture Tanks	486
2	District Fish Farmers Development Agency tanks	106
3	Palani tanks – Dindigul District	22
4	Rural Fishery Demonstration Tanks	21
5	Kadamba tank - Thoothukudi District	1
TOTAL		636

Table: 10
Financial Assistance for various Inland
Fisheries Developments from the year
2021-22 to 2023-24
(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No	Activities	No of units (Nos.)	Amount
1	Construction of New Grow-out ponds	215 ha	714
2	Inputs subsidy for fresh water Aqua culture	215 ha	408
3	Construction of New Fish Rearing ponds (Nursery /Seed rearing)	50 ha	167
4	Establishment of Small Biofloc culture system	135 Units	489
5	Establishment of Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) for fresh water fish culture	23 Units	81
6	Construction of Biofloc ponds for Freshwater area including inputs of Rs.4 lakh / ha	15 Units	98

Sl. No	Activities	No of units (Nos.)	Amount
7	Establishment of New Freshwater Finfish Hatcheries	10 Units	120
8	Establishment of Mini Fish Feed Mill (2 Tonnes capacity)	4 Units	60
9	Establishment of Medium Fish Feed Mill (8 Tonnes capacity)	1 Unit	60
10	Establishment of Large Fish Feed Mill (20 Tonnes capacity)	1 Unit	80
TOTAL			2,277

Table:11
Financial Assistance for Ornamental
Fisheries Development
(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No	Name of the Component	Physical Units (Nos.)	Amount Sanctioned
1	Backyard Ornamental Fish Rearing Unit (Both Fresh water and Marine)	168	254
2	Medium Scale Ornamental Fish Rearing Unit (Both Fresh water and Marine)	55	211
3	Integrated Orna mental Fish Unit (Marine water)	3	42
4	Integrated orna mental fish rearing unit (Fresh water)	29	420
TOTAL		255	927

Table: 12
Fishing Harbour Infrastructure works
(Ongoing)

(Rs. in crore)		
Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
Scheme: Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)		
1	Construction of Tuna Fishing Harbour at Thiruvottriyur kuppam in Chennai District	273
2	Construction of Fishing Harbour at Arcottuthurai in Nagapattinam District	150
3	Construction of Fishing Harbour at Vellapallam in Nagapattinam District	100
4	Expansion and Modernization of Thengapattinam Fishing Harbour in Kanniyakumari District	253
5	Providing Additional Infrastructure Facilities (Auction Hall, Net Mending Shed, Road, Overhead Tank and UG Sump) to the Thoothukudi	10

Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
	Fishing Harbour in Thoothukudi District	
6	Development of Forward Backward Linkages, Cold Chain Facilities and export infrastructures in Mookaiyur Fishing Harbour in Ramanathapuram District	20
7	Providing additional Infrastructure facilities at Tharangambadi Fishing Harbour in Mayiladuthurai District	10
SUB-TOTAL		816
Scheme: Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)		
1	Upgradation of Pazhayar Fishing Harbour in Mayiladuthurai District	26
SUB-TOTAL		26
GRAND TOTAL		842

Table: 13
Fish Landing Centre Infrastructure works
(Ongoing)

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
Scheme: Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)		
1	Construction of Fish Landing Centre at Sunnambukulam in Tiruvallur District	8
2	Construction of Fish Landing Centre at Sattankuppam in Tiruvallur District	8
3	Establishment of Fish Landing Centre at Sothikuppam and Rasapettai Village in Cuddalore District	9
4	Establishment of Fish Landing Centre at Pudhukuppam and Anichankuppam Villages in Villupuram District	7
5	Establishment of Fish Landing Centre at Mudhaliyarkuppam and Chettynagar Villages in Villupuram District	7
SUB-TOTAL		39

Scheme: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development-Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (NABARD-RIDF)		
1	Development of Fish Landing centre at Pulicat in Tiruvallur District	7
2	Construction of Fish Landing Centre and Dredging of Approach Channel in Pudhukuppam in Cuddalore District	8
3	Providing Landside facilities at Kodyampalayam in Mayiladuthurai District	3
4	Construction of Fish Landing Centre at Mutthupettai in Tiruvarur District	10
5	Upgradation of Fish Landing Centre at Jegathapattinam in Pudukkottai District	10
6	Upgradation of Fish Landing Centre at Kottaipattinam in Pudukkottai District	10
Sub-Total		48

Scheme: Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)		
1	Construction of Integrated Fish Landing Centre at Arangankuppam and Goonankuppam in Tiruvallur District	7
2	Construction of Integrated Fish Landing Centre at Nettukuppam and Thazhankuppam in Chennai District	19
SUB-TOTAL		26
GRAND TOTAL		113

Table: 14
Shore Protection Works (Ongoing)

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
Scheme: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development - Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (NABARD-RIDF)		
1	Permanent stability of Barmouth at Pulicat in Tiruvallur District	27
2	Construction of Bait Arch at Kanathur Reddikuppam in Chengalpattu District	19
3	Construction of Fish Landing Centre and Shore Protection Works including boat berthing facilities at Karikattukuppam in Chengalpattu District	16
4	Providing Shore Protection Works and Improvements to Fish Landing Centre at Kadalore Periyakuppam in Chengalpattu District	9

Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
5	Construction of Fish Landing Centre and Shore Protection Works at Pillaichavadi in Villupuram District	14
6	Construction of Fish Landing Centre at Ekkiyarkuppam and Anumanthai in Villupuram District	10
7	Construction of Fish Landing Centre and Permanent Stability of Bar mouth at Killai in Cuddalore District	40
8	Providing Permanent Stability of Vellar Barmouth in Cuddalore District	30
9	Construction of Fish Landing Centre and Shore Protection Works at Periyakuppam in Cuddalore District	12
10	Construction of Fish Landing Centre and shore protection works at Kuttiyandiyur in Mayiladuthurai District	7

Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
11	Providing training walls and development of Fish Landing Centre at Chandrapadi in Mayiladuthurai District	32
12	Extension of Training Wall and providing additional facilities to the Vanagiri Fish Landing Centre (Phase-II) in Mayiladuthurai District	30
13	Construction of RMS wall at Nagore Keezhapattinacherry in Nagapattinam District	7
14	Extension of RMS wall at Keechankuppam in Nagapattinam District	7
15	Construction of Bait Arch and Improvement to Fish Landing Centre at Amalinagar Village in Thoothukudi District	58
16	Extension of main Breakwater at Manapad (Phase-2) in Thoothukudi District	41

Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
17	Extension of Bait Arch at Periyathalai Fish Landing Centre in Thoothukudi District	35
18	Extension of Bait arch at Punnakayal Fish Landing Centre in Thoothukudi District	32
19	Construction of Bait Arch at Kootapuli Village in Tirunelveli District	48
20	Construction of Bait Arch at Kooduthalai Village in Tirunelveli District	15
21	Improvements to the Fish Landing Centre at Kodimunai in Kanniyakumari District	35
22	Extension of Bait Arch and Improvement to Fish Landing Centre at Keela Kadiyapattinam Village in Kanniyakumari Village	35
23	Construction of Bait Arch at Erayumanthurai Village in Kanniyakumari District	34

Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
24	Extension of Bait Arch at Periyannayagi Street Fish Landing Centre in Kanniyakumari District	26
25	Construction of Bait Arch and Development of Fish Landing Centre at Pallamthurai in Kanniyakumari District	26
TOTAL		646

Table: 15
Infrastructure works in Government
Fish Farms

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
Scheme: Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)		
1	Establishment of Government GIFT Hatchery at Chembarabakkam in Kancheepuram District	2
2	Establishment of New Government Fish Seed Rearing Centre at Vadakkanendhal, Gomuki Dam in Kallakurichi District	5
3	Establishment of Gift Seed Hatchery in Government Fish Farm at Thiurmangalakottai in Thanjavur District	5
4	Establishment of Public Aquarium and Ornamental Fish Retail Unit at Tirunelveli in Tirunelveli District	5
TOTAL		17

Table:16

**Techno economic feasibility study works for
new Fishing Harbour / Fish Landing Centres
(Rs. in lakh)**

Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
Scheme: State Fund		
1	Consultancy Services for Conducting Detailed Surveys, Mapping of Existing Structures, Investigation and Model Studies for Preparing Techno-Economic Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report for Modernization of Mallipattinam Fishing Harbour in Thanjavur District	50
2	Consultancy Services for Conducting Detailed Surveys, Mapping of Existing Structures, Investigation and Model Studies for Preparing Techno-Economic Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report for Extension of Training Wall at Mookaiyur Fishing Harbour in Ramanathapuram District	50

Sl. No	Name of Work	Project Cost
3	Consultancy studies for conducting model studies, various techno Feasibility studies for improvement to Fish Landing Centre and Construction of Bait Arch at Kundukal in Ramanathapuram District	50
4	Consultancy studies for conducting model studies, various techno economic Feasibility studies and preparation of detailed project report for construction of New Fish Landing Centre at Jegathapattinam in Pudukkottai District	100
5	Conducting studies for preparing techno-economic feasibility report and detailed project report for upgradation of Tharuvaikkulam Fish Landing Centre to Fishing Harbour in Thoothukudi District	75
TOTAL		325

Table: 17
Details of Construction/ Renovation of Fish
Markets through State Fund

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No	District	Fish Markets Constructed /renovated	Total Project cost
1	Cuddalore	1	23
2	Ranipet	1	61
3	Pudukkottai	1	54
4	Trichy	1	250
5	Salem	2	139
6	Tiruppur	1	93
7	Erode	1	100
8	Sivagangai	1	100
9	Nagapattinam	4	159
10	Tenkasi	1	39
11	Thoothukudi	1	14
12	Ramanathapuram	3	293
13	Kanniyakumari	2	179
14	Villupuram	1	250
TOTAL		21	1,754

TABLE: 18
Details of Fisheries Co-operative Societies

Society	No of Societies	Members enrolled
Primary Cooperative Societies		
Marine Fishermen Cooperative Societies	578	3,80,784
Marine Fisherwomen Cooperative Societies	486	3,01,748
Inland Fishermen Cooperative Societies	340	77,103
Inland Fisherwomen Cooperative Societies	76	11,250
TOTAL	1,480	7,70,885

Table: 19
Details of Relief / Assistance Schemes of
TNFWB

Sl. No	Relief / Assistance Schemes	Amount Rs.
1	Accident Relief	
	a) Death due to accident	2,00,000
	b) Loss of both hands	1,00,000
	c) Loss of both legs	1,00,000
	d) Loss of one hand and one leg	1,00,000
	e) Total and irrecoverable loss of sight in both eyes	1,00,000
	f) Loss of one hand or one leg	1,00,000
	g) Loss of limbs from grievous injuries other than those specified above	50,000
2	Death while fishing or immediately thereafter not due to Accident	2,00,000
3	Missing fisherman while fishing	2,00,000
4	Natural Death (Relief amount enhanced from Rs15,000/- to Rs25,000/- from 30082023)	25,000
5	Funeral Expenses	2,500

6	Educational Assistance to son and daughter of the Members	Day scholar		Hosteller	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	10 th Std Pass	1,250	1,500	-	-
	12 th Std Pass	1,750	2,000	-	-
	ITI or Polytechnic (per year)	1,250	1,750	1,450	1,950
	Bachelor Degree (per year)	1,750	2,250	2,000	2,500
	Post Graduate Degree (per year)	2,250	2,750	3,250	3,750
	Professional courses (Per year)	2,250	2,750	4,250	4,750
	Post Graduate Professional courses (per year)	4,250	4,750	6,250	6,750
7	Marriage Assistance			Male	Female
	Marriage of member, son and daughter of member			3,000	5,000
8	Delivery Assistance				6,000
	Miscarriage/ Termination of pregnancy				3,000

Table: 20
Relief/Assistances disbursed by TNFWB
during 2024-25

(Rs.in lakh)

Sl. No	Relief/Assistance	No of Beneficiaries	Amount
1	Accidental Death	182	363
2	Accidental Disability	11	10
3	Death while fishing or immediately thereafter not due to accident	12	24
4	Missing fisherman while fishing	6	11
5	Natural Death	1,326	316
6	Funeral Expenses	1,448	36
7	Educational Assistance	3,052	59
8	Marriage Assistance	256	11
TOTAL		6,293	830

Table-21
Reservoirs under the control of
Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development
Corporation (TNFDC)

(in ha)			
Sl. No.	Name of the Reservoir	District	TWSA
1	Aliyar	Coimbatore	646
2	Amaravathy	Tiruppur	906
3	Thirumoorthy	Tiruppur	392
4	Uppar	Tiruppur	445
5	Bhavanisagar	Erode	7,728
6	Perumpallam	Erode	65
7	Palar-Poranthalar	Dindigul	629
8	Sathanur Dam	Tiruvannamalai	2,000

TWSA – Total Water Spread Area

ANITHA R. RADHAKRISHNAN
Minister for Fisheries-Fishermen
Welfare and Animal Husbandry



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the construction work of Ornamental Fish Trade Centre at a cost of Rs. 53.50 crore in Villivakkam, Chennai on 26.08.2024.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu provided financial assistance to the fishermen of Villupuram District for the purchase of FRP fishing boats on 28.01.2025.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated newly constructed fish landing centres and office buildings at a cost of Rs. 58.50 crore through Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare on 29.01.2025.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu interacted with Fishermen representatives of the coastal districts to address their long pending grievances on 18.02.2025 at Secretariat, Chennai.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inspected the Nambiar Nagar Fishing Harbour in Nagapattinam District and interacted with the fishermen to address their grievances on 03.03.2025.



Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare inaugurated the Sea Ranching Programme and released the fish seeds in the sea at Mallipattinam coastal fishing village in Thanjavur District on 03.03.2025.



Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries-Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry launched 18 new technologies at Technologies Release-2025 of Tamil Nadu Fisheries University on 12.02.2025.



Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry released the shrimp seeds at the premises of Directorate of Incubation and Vocational Training in Aquaculture in Muttukadu on 12.02.2025.



Dr. N. Subbaiyan, IAS., Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, inspected the fish seed hatchery under the control of Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation at Sathanur, Tiruvannamalai District on 22.03.2025.



Mud Crab Fry Production Centre inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor at Pazhaverkadu Farm Research Centre of Tamil Nadu Fisheries University on 29.01.2025 to improve the livelihood of fishermen under the Fisheries Development Programme.

Modern technologies in aquaculture



Carp seed rearing in Bio-floc culture system



GIF Tilapia fish culture in cages

Modern technologies in aquaculture



L.vannamei shrimp culture in Bio-floc culture system



Carp fish breeder ponds have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 5 crore at Bhavanisagar Government Fish Seed Farm in Erode District.

Conservation and Restoration of Marine Fishery Resources



Deployment of Artificial Reefs in the sea



Sea Ranching of Sea bass seeds in the Artificial Reef deployed sites

**Most popular
fish species in Tamil Nadu**



அயிரை
Loach



விரால்
Murrel



திலேப்பியா
Tilapia



கொடுவா
Sea bass

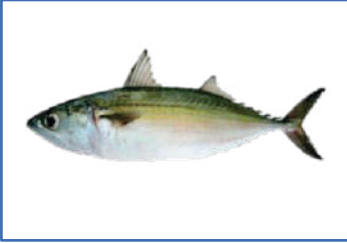
**Most popular
fish species in Tamil Nadu**



வஞ்சிரம்
Seer



வாவல்
Pomfret



அயிலை
Mackerel



குரை
Tuna

