

World Fisheries Day

21ST NOVEMBER 2023

Theme: "Celebrating Fisheries and Aquaculture Wealth"

About World Fisheries Day

The World Fisheries Association convention was settled around 1997. It was famed for the World Fisheries Forum (WFF). In the process of this forum, many participants worldwide participated in it actively. As a result, approximately 18 countries signed a global consensus document, signifying the standardization of practices. It also led to the undertaking of sustainable measures for higher developmental methods and policy guidelines to make the fishing manner possible for commerce and trade.

The fisheries community celebrated the first World Fisheries Day in India on 21st November 2015. This day highlights the fact that fisheries are an important sector in the country as they contribute food security of India.

This day is celebrated annually to highlight the importance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and economic development. The day also aims to promote responsible fishing practices and the conservation of marine resources. Fisheries and aquaculture play a crucial role in global food security, providing about 17% of global animal protein. However, overfishing, habitat destruction, and climate change pose significant threats to the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture.

Significance of Fisheries Day

- Indian fisheries and aquaculture is an important sector of food production providing nutritional security besides livelihood support and gainful employment to more than 14 million people and contributing to agricultural exports.

- **Seafood and fish are traditional foods for many people around the world. People living, especially in coastal areas and areas near the sea, consume it as one of their staple foods.**
- **Unfortunately, the fisheries industry faces many issues like the breeding of blue-green algae in the oceans and sea, oil spills and pollution in marine bodies, invasion of plastics, toxic chemicals in seawater, etc.**
- **World Fisheries Day is crucial for trade these days as the industry lacks adequate guidelines on investment issues. Furthermore, as a result of global warming, the temperature of the earth's water has risen, which disrupts marine life. Proactive and proper management of relevant factors can balance the conditions under which sustainable fisheries can thrive and survive.**

Facts on Fisheries

- ◆ **Small-scale fisheries (marine and inland) employ about 90 percent of those involved in fisheries.**
- ◆ **65 percent of the reported catch from inland fisheries is from low-income food-deficit countries.**
- ◆ **More than 25% of the world's dietary protein is provided by fish.**
- ◆ **The human population consumes over 100 million tons of fish annually.**
- ◆ **Around 30 million to 60 million people worldwide are a part of inland fisheries. Fifty percent of this population constitute women.**

Economic importance of fish

1. Fish as food: Fish is an excellent source of protein, has very little fat, carries a number of minerals, vitamins A and D, and is rich in iodine.

2. Fish for controlling diseases: Diseases like malaria, yellow fever, and other dreadful diseases that are spread through mosquitoes can be controlled. Larvivorous fish eat mosquitoes.


3. Fishery By-products:

a. Fish oil: It is extracted from the liver of sharks, sawfishes, etc., Dry oil is obtained from Salmon and Herring. Semi-dry oil from carps. Liver oil contains vitamins A, D, and E.

b. Isinglass: It is high-grade collagen produced from the air bladder or swim bladder of certain fishes like catfishes and carp.

c. Fish meal: It is prepared from wastes of fish oil. The waste of the cod industry is called “Whitefish meal”.

d. Fish skin: The skin of some fishes like sharks and rays is used for covering card cases, jewel boxes, etc. The skin of cod salmon and other fishes is also tanned and converted into leather.



**Did you
Know?**

**Anchovy fishing is
the largest fishery
in the world.**

Major forms of fisheries in India

1. Marine Fisheries: More than 75 percent of the total marine fish are from the west coast. Major fishes are sardines, mackerel, and prawns. On the eastern coast, the important fishes are horse mackerel, clupeids, and silver bellies. Off-shore and Deep-Sea fishing which accounts for a small production of marine fish in the country has not been developed fully so far in India.

2. Freshwater or Inland Fishery: Freshwater fishery is carried on in rivers, canals, irrigation channels, tanks, ponds, lakes etc. About 60 percent of the country's total fish production comes from inland fisheries. Inland fishery is divided into two categories: (a) Pond fisheries and (b) Riverine fisheries.

Important facts about fishing in India

- ◆ India is the world's second-largest producer of fish through aquaculture.
- ◆ India is the fourth largest fish exporter globally, as it contributes 7.7% to the world's fish production.
- ◆ This sector supports the lives of more than 2.8 million people in the country.
- ◆ India's Economic survey 2019-20 estimated that, so far, only 58% of the country's fishing potential has been developed.



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Environment Education Programme
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