

Infrastructure and Institutional Strengthening in the Fisheries Sector

Posted On: 30 JUL 2025 2:53PM by PIB Delhi

The Coastal States Fisheries Meet 2025 was held on 28th April, 2025 at Mumbai under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. On this occasion, Hon'ble Union Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for key projects for 7 Coastal States and Union Territories with a total outlay of Rs.255 crores under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

The Department of Fisheries, Government of India (DoF, GoI) under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), is implementing a National Rollout Plan for Vessel Communication and Support System for installation of indigenously developed transponders on one lakh marine fishing vessels covering mechanized and motorized vessels of all 13 Coastal States and Union Territories with an outlay of Rs. 364 Crores. As on date 33,674 transponders have been installed on the fishing vessels of the Coastal States/UTs.

The DoF, GoI vide its Order dated 29th March, 2023 has constituted three Regional Fisheries Management Councils (RFMCs), namely Western, Eastern and Southern RFMC to address the inter-state fishing related disputes. These RFMCs are Co-Chaired by the Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries), DoF, GoI and the Secretary, in-charge of Department of Fisheries of the concerned Coastal States/UTs on annual rotation basis.

Government of Gujarat has informed that it has recently amended the Gujarat Fisheries Act, 2003, to create a separate dedicated authority, namely the Gujarat State Fisheries Harbour and Aquaculture Development Authority. A Committee comprising members from various Departments has been constituted to oversee harbour and aquaculture development activities in the State.

The DoF, GoI has launched the Marine Fisheries Census 2025 with ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, as the nodal agency. This nationwide initiative is designed to comprehensively enumerate marine fisher households, fishing villages, and infrastructure across 13 coastal states and Union Territories, including Gujarat. The census emphasizes the collection of detailed data on fisher families, fishing crafts, gear, and related facilities using app-based, real-time digital methods. In Gujarat, the census envisages to cover approximately 70,000 households spread across 280 marine fishing villages in 15 coastal districts. The data collection process is going to be fully digital and geo-referenced, supported by mobile applications and web platforms such as VyAS-NAV. This information was given by Union Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri George Kurian, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on 30th July, 2025.

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