

FAQ

1. Which institutions are coming under the control of the State Fisheries Department?

- i. Matsyafed
- ii. Kerala Fishermen Welfare Fund Board (KFWFB)
- iii. Agency for Development of Aquaculture, Kerala (ADAK)
- iv. Fisheries Resource Management Society (FIRMA)
- v. Brackish water Fish Farmers Development Agency(BFFDA)
- vi. Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA)
- vii. National Institute of Fisheries Management and Administration (NIFAM)
- viii. Coastal Area Development Corporation (CADC)
- ix. Society for Assistance to Fisher Women (SAF)

2. Which Department is the service Department of the State Fisheries?

Harbour Engineering Department (HED)

3. What is the demarcation for fishing area specified for traditional fishermen?

Area coming within the depth range of 50 meters has been demarcated for fishing by the traditional fishermen using country crafts and beyond the limit in the economic zones can be utilized by motorized boats and large vessels.

4. How many Fisheries Villages are there in Kerala?

- i. 222 Marine fisheries Villages and
- ii. 113 Inland Fisheries Villages

5. What is the estimated Fishermen population of the State?

Marine

- i. Male : 3, 38,497}
 - ii. Female : 3, 03,194}
 - iii. Children : 2,22,370 }
- as on 2007-08

Inland

- i. Male : 1,00,274}
 - ii. Female : 96,441}
 - iv. Children : 61,381 }
- as on 2007-08

5. *How many Fishing Harbours are in the State?*

13

6. *How many Fish landing Centres are in Kerala?*

61

7. *What is the figure of marine fish production of the State?*

5.98 lakh tonnes (2006-07)

8. *How many fishing crafts operated in Kerala?*

29,177

9. *What is the marine export of Kerala?*

In 2006-07 1, 08,617 M.tonnes (Quantity)
 1524.12 Crore Rupees (Value)

In 2007-08 100319 tonnes(Quantity)
 1430.94 Crore Rupees (Value)

10. *What are the major technological changes that have taken place in the capture fisheries of Kerala?*

- Introduction and popularization of synthetic fishing gear materials.
- Introduction of trawling in mid1950s
- Improvement in efficiency and diversification of trawls, purse seines, gillnets and lines, for mechanized sector.
- Continuous improvement in size, endurance, installed engine power, winch capacities, fish-hold, freshwater and fuel capacities of mechanized trawlers to enable multi-day fishing, since mid 1980s.
- Improvement in size, endurance, installed engine power, fish-hold, freshwater and fuel capacities of mechanized gillnetters/liners to enable multi-day, distant water fishing.
- Adoption of modern technologies such as echo sounder and GPS in a wider scale over the last decade.
- Motorization of traditional fishing crafts in 1980s and expansion in fishing grounds
- Improvement of traditional fishing units, in terms of craft modernization, gear materials, gear efficiency and dimensions.
- Introduction of purse seines in commercial fishing in 1986

- Displacement of traditional boat seines by ring seines.
- Rapid expansion of ring seine units in terms of numbers, continuous increase in size of crafts, horsepower of OBM, changes in craft materials, continuous increase in overall dimensions of the ring seines and introduction of mechanized purse line hauling.
- Introduction of mini-trawling in mid-1987 and its subsequent proliferation, targeting near-shore shrimp and fish resources.
- Introduction of ring seines with inboard engines and purse line haulers in 1999 and continuous increase in numbers.

11. *What are the Major craft-gear combinations in the State?*

About 18 different craft-gear combinations were under operation in the traditional sector, including (i) canoe-cotton shore seine; (ii) canoe-encircling gillnet; (iii) dugout canoe- boat seine; (iv) dugout canoe-boat seine; (v) dugout canoe-cast net; (vi) dugout canoe-hook and line; (vii) dugout canoe-large mesh drift gillnet; (viii) dugout canoe-lobster gillnet; (ix) dugout canoe-sardine gillnet; (x) dugout canoe-shrimp gillnet; (xi) kattumaram-hook and line; (xii) kattumaram-large mesh gillnet; (xiii) kattumaram-shrimp gillnet; (xiv) kattumaram-anchovies gillnet; (xv) kattumaram-sardine gillnet; (xvi) plank canoe-hook and line; (xvii) plank canoe-nylon shore seine and (xviii) plank canoe-small mesh drift gillnet.

12. *What is a Mesh regulation?*

Mesh regulation is a common measure for reducing the catch of juveniles and small sized non-target species in trawls. Mesh regulation is an important step towards reducing the growth over fishing, rampant in Indian fisheries. A mesh size of 35 mm has been prescribed for trawl codend and incorporated in the Marine Fishing Regulations of Kerala.

13. *What is the harvestable potential of marine fishery resources in the Indian EEZ?*

The harvestable potential of marine fishery resources in the Indian EEZ has been estimated at about 3.9234 million tonnes (mt). The EEZ extends to 320 kms from the coast which provides vast potential area for optimum exploitation. About 58 per cent of the resources are

available at a depth of 0-50 metres, 35 per cent at 50-200 metre depth and 7 per cent in depths beyond 200 metres.

14. Which are the Expert Committees studied the 'Trawling Ban' in Kerala?

The State of Kerala is very much concerned about the protection of the marine fishery resources and to achieve the said object, Kerala has introduced trawling ban as early as in 1988. Kerala is the first State in the country to introduce a trawling ban. The trawling ban thus introduced was pursuant to various scientific studies conducted by Expert Committees specially appointed by Government of Kerala from time to time. Eleven Expert Study Committees were constituted by the Government of Kerala since 1981. The name of the committees and the year in which it was constituted are as under:

Sl.No	Name of Committee	Year
1	Babu paul Committee	1981
2	Kalawar Committee	1985
3	Balakrishnan Nair Committee I	1989
4	Balakrishnan Nair Committee II	1991
5	P.S.B.R. James Committee	1992
6	Sailas Committee	1992
7	Balakrishnan Nair Committee III	2000
8	D.K. Singh Committee	2006

15. What are the important provisions of Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1980 (KMFRA)?

In the year 1980, the Government of Kerala had introduced the "Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1980 (KMFRA)". Kerala was the first state to adopt such a model statute on Marine Fishing Regulations in the country. The important provisions of the said Act are as under:

- 1) Regulation of Fishing
- 2) Prohibition of use of fishing vessel
- 3) Licensing of fishing vessel
- 4) Prohibition of fishing without license
- 5) Cancellation, suspension and amendment of license.
- 6) Registration of vessels etc. etc.

16. What are FFDA's?

The Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA) scheme was initiated as a pilot project by the Department of Agriculture & Corporation, Govt. of India in 1974-75 in some states of

the country in order to utilize village tanks and ponds for the purpose of aquaculture by setting up district level agencies. The scheme was introduced to more states and thus the number of agencies also increased. FFDAs are provided with necessary funds, Extension Service Units and required infrastructure so as to develop freshwater fish culture in each district. The FFDAs enjoy reasonable autonomy in their operations. There are 14 FFDAs in the state covering all districts. The first FFDA has started functioning in Palakkad district since 1976. Fresh water Fish Farmers Development Agencies are district level organizations registered under the Charitable Societies Act.

17. Please give the District wise details of fish markets in Kerala

In terms of number there are 2703 small and big markets in the state, a district-wise break up of which is given in the table below.

Sl.No.	Name of District	Wholesale markets	Retail markets	Total
1	Thiruvananthapuram	12	313	325
2	Kollam	21	303	324
3	Pathanamthitta	3	154	157
4	Alappuzha	8	228	236
5	Kottayam	28	67	95
6	Idukki	11	117	128
7	Ernakulam	7	190	197
8	Thrissur	12	124	136
9	Palakkad	5	79	84
10	Malappuram	19	178	197
11	Kozhikkode	24	352	376
12	Kannur	17	170	187
13	Wayanad	16	81	97
14	Kasargode	2	162	164
TOTAL		185	2518	2703

19. How many EU approved processing plants units are in Kerala?

Sl.No.	District	Number of EU approved processing plants
1	Ernakulam	26
2	Alappuzha	24
3	Kollam	8
4	Trivandrum	2
5	Calicut	2
	TOTAL	62

20. Please give the types and areas of inland water resources of Kerala

Water body	Number	Area (ha)
Freshwater Resources		
Private ponds	35763	21986
Panchayat ponds	6848	1487
Quarry ponds	879	341
Holy ponds	2689	480
Village ponds & other water holds	185	496
Irrigation tanks	852	2835
Public-sector freshwater fish farms	13	85
Freshwater springs	7	
Freshwater lakes	9	1620
Water falls	11	
Rivers	44	85000
Reservoirs *	53	42890
Check dams	80	259
Bund/Barrier/Anicut/Shutter water holds	70	879
Total freshwater area		158,358
Brackishwater Resources		
Brackishwater area		65,213
Prawn filtration fields		46,129
Public sector brackishwater farms		12,873
Estuaries (Azhi/Pozhi)		227
Mangroves		1,924

- Source: Master Panfish Book 2002