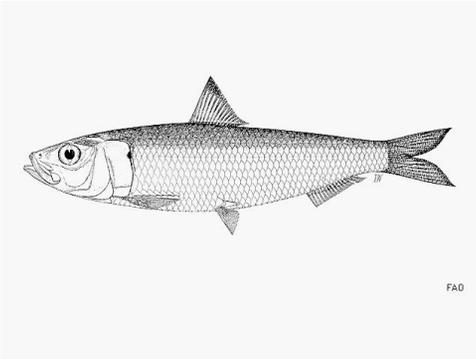


Indian oil sardine Goa

Fishery:  Goa  Goa  India  Purse seines

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Sardinella longiceps

SPECIES NAME(S)

Indian oil sardine

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Indian oil sardine is distributed on the entire west coast of India from Gujarat to Kerala, and also on Tamil Nadu, Pondichery, Andhra Pradesh and Orisha in the Indian east coast, but the highest abundance is observed off Kerala and Karnataka coasts. The stock structure of the oil sardine in India has been the subject of different studies in the last years (*Sukumaran et al. 2016*) (*Mohandas 1997*) (*Venkita Krishnan 1993*). Recent research suggests the presence of two stocks in India but the geographical limits of these stocks are not clear. In addition the possible presence of other distinct populations in some regions (especially in the southwestern coast) was evident in the analyses which needs to be confirmed further using more widespread sampling design and powerful markers (*Sebastian et al. 2017*). In India, the State (Provincial) governments have jurisdiction over fisheries in the territorial waters and populations of oil sardine and normally assessed separately for each State.

Due to the lack of certainty in the precise number and geographical limits of the biological stocks of oil sardine in India, one profile at the assessment unit level is defined for each of the six coastal states that account for major catches in India: [Maharashtra](#), [Goa](#), [Karnataka](#), [Kerala](#), [Tamil Nadu](#) and [Andhra Pradesh](#).



RELATED LINKS:

- [Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Goa](#)
- [Indian Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute \(CMFRI\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- Rapid stock assessments are conducted frequently for all coastal states by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute of India (CMFRI).
- The monsoon fishing ban in territorial waters has been recently extended in duration (from 45 to 61 days) and includes all vessels except traditional non-motorized units.
- Management measures include prohibitions on certain fishing gear, regulations on mesh size, establishment of closed seasons and areas, demarcations of zones for no-trawling.

Weaknesses

- Assessment is not conducted at the stock level since the number and geographical limits of oil sardine stocks in India is not clearly understood.
- The quality of the rapid stock assessments conducted by CMFRI cannot be evaluated based on the information provided by the CMFRI.
- Information provided in the CMFRI Annual Reports is not consistent among states and years, and typically not enough to fully understand the fishery in Goa, e.g. there is no information on the percentage of catches captured by each fishing gear, or the percentage of juveniles in the catches.
- Presently no clearly stated long-term objectives are established for this fishery. Oil sardine in India is not managed through quotas or total allowable catches.
- There are no formal or routine arrangements in place to create a link between scientific findings and the management regime for this fishery and reference points have not been set.
- There are concerns in all the country that if the level of fishing effort remains unchecked, the fleet may grow to exceed sustainable levels.
- There is very little information on the environmental impact of the oil sardine fishery in India in terms of bycatch and ecosystem effects.
- Although there is no recent information on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing related to the oil sardine fishery in India, IUU fishing was flagged as a major issue in the past including a range of illicit activities: fishing without permission or out of season; using outlawed types of fishing gear; non-reporting or underreporting of catch, etc.
- Long time series of state-wise catch data are not publicly available, and the CMFRI website provides catch data only for the last 5 years.
- A minimum landing size for oil sardine has not been set in Goa in spite of recent scientific recommendations suggesting that this would be advisable in all Indian maritime States.

SCORES

Management Quality:

| Management Strategy | Managers Compliance | Fishers Compliance |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| < 6 | ≥ 6 | DATA DEFICIENT |

Stock Health:

| Current Health | Future Health |
|----------------|----------------|
| < 6 | DATA DEFICIENT |

FIPS

- Indian Oil Sardine:

Stage 2 , Type: Fip , Evaluation Start Date: 1 Feb 2018

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Support current improvement efforts and encourage development of a formal, national, Indian oil sardine fishery improvement project (FIP) including the following activities.
- Ask regulators to commission research to better define the biological stock structure and then conduct stock assessments at the appropriate spatial scale.
- Ask managers to publish historic annual catch data by gear type for each state.
- Work with managers to develop and agree on long-term objectives for the

fishery, and develop a management plan, including biological reference points, a harvest strategy, and a harvest control rule for each stock.

- Encourage managers to immediately implement management measures to prevent the capture of juvenile fish, as advised by relevant scientific bodies, on a state-by-state basis.
- Work with scientists to research the environmental impacts of the fishery, especially with regard to effective monitoring of the incidental capture of endangered, threatened, and protected species.
- Support and encourage enhanced surveillance and enforcement to reduce illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.