ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING, FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE DEPARTMENT

FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

POLICY NOTE
2026 - 2027

DEMAND No. 7

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Minister for Fisheries – Fishermen Welfare

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Government of Tamil Nadu
2026

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FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

POLICY NOTE 2026-27

1. INTRODUCTION

Tamil Nadu is endowed with rich and diverse marine and inland fisheries resources, supported by a 1,068.69 km coastline spanning 14 coastal districts and an extensive network of inland water bodies. The fisheries sector is a key driver of the State's economy, contributing significantly to food and nutritional security, employment, exports and rural livelihoods. The sector sustains 10.84 lakh marine fisherfolk and 2.40 lakh inland fisherfolk (2025-26), with the State achieving an annual fish production of 10.24 lakh MT[1] (2025-26). Recognising the sector's strategic importance, the Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to its sustainable and inclusive development through scientific

- A **1,068.69 km** coastline across 14 coastal districts - the second longest in India - supporting **10.84 lakh** marine and **2.40 lakh** inland fisherfolk.
- Total fish production in **2025-26** was **10.24 lakh MT** - **7.24 lakh MT** marine and **3.00 lakh MT** inland. Tamil Nadu ranked second in marine fish production.

1 Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, GoTN

management of fisheries resources, conservation of marine and inland ecosystems, modernisation of fisheries infrastructure, promotion of sustainable fishing and aquaculture, enhancement of value addition and market access and comprehensive welfare and social security measures. The Government also remains steadfast in safeguarding the traditional fishing rights and livelihood interests of fishermen while ensuring that the sector continues to be a catalyst for economic growth, employment generation and rural prosperity. The Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to promote Blue economy while improving the livelihood of fishers.

1.1. Global Fisheries Scenario

The fisheries sector has emerged as one of the fastest growing food production sectors globally, making a significant contribution to

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food and nutritional security, employment, livelihoods and international trade. India has established itself as a global leader in fisheries, supported by its vast marine and inland water resources, favourable climatic conditions and rapidly expanding aquaculture sector. During 2025–26, India ranked as the second-largest fish-producing country in the world and the largest producer in inland capture fisheries, accounting 8% of global fish production[2]. This achievement reflects the country's growing prominence and expanding role in the global fisheries economy.

India ranked second in world fish production in **2025-26** and first in inland capture fisheries, at 8% of global output.

1.2. Overview of the Fisheries Sector in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu occupies a prominent position in the fisheries sector owing to its rich and

2 *Government of India – Press Information Bureau,2026*

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diverse marine and inland fishery resources. With the second longest coastline in the country, the State possesses immense potential for marine fisheries, inland fisheries, coastal aquaculture and mariculture. During 2025-26, Tamil Nadu recorded a total fish production of 10.24 lakh MT, comprising 7.24 lakh MT from marine fisheries and 3.00 lakh MT from inland fisheries. The State ranked second in marine fish production in the country.

Fish and fishery products continue to be one of the major export commodities of the State. During 2025-26, Tamil Nadu exported 1.52 lakh MT of fish and fishery products, generating valuable foreign exchange earnings of Rs.7,660.48 crore[3].

- Exports in **2025-26** were **1.52 lakh MT** worth **Rs.7,660.48 crore**, per **MPEDA**.

3 *Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)*

The State is also endowed with nearly 3.85 lakh hectares of inland water resources, comprising rivers, reservoirs, tanks, lakes and ponds, besides about 56,000 hectares of brackish water resources consisting of estuaries, backwaters, lagoons and creeks. These diverse aquatic ecosystems provide substantial opportunities for sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and livelihood generation.

- Inland waters cover **3.85 lakh** hectares of river**s,** reservoi**rs,** tanks, lakes and ponds, plus about 56,000 hectares of brackish water - nearly 4% of India's brackish area.

1.3. Marine Fisheries

Tamil Nadu's coastline is broadly divided into four distinct marine regions, the Coromandel Coast, Palk Bay, Gulf of Mannar and West Coast, each possessing unique ecological characteristics, fishery resources and fishing practices.

- The coast divides into four regions: Coromandel (Aarampakkam-Kodiyakarai), Palk Bay (Kodiyakarai-Pamban), Gulf of Mannar (Pamban-Kanniyakumari) and West Coast (Kanniyakumari-Neerodi).

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Table No. 1

Coastline of Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	Name of the Coast	Region
1.	Coromandel Coast	Aarampakkam – Kodiyakarai
2.	Palk Bay	Kodiyakarai – Pamban
3.	Gulf of Mannar	Pamban – Kanniyakumari
4.	West Coast	Kanniyakumari – Neerodi

Fishing operations are carried out using a wide spectrum of traditional and mechanised fishing crafts, including catamarans, Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) country crafts, gillnetters, trawlers and deep-sea fishing vessels, suited to the varying coastal and oceanic conditions.

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Table No.2

Marine fisheries sector of the State

Coastal length	1,068.69 km
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	1.90 lakh sq. km
Continental shelf	41,412 sq. km
Number of Coastal Districts	14
Number of Fishing Villages	608
Marine Fisherfolk Population (Projected)	10.84 lakh
Marine Fisherfolk enrolled in Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board (as on 31.07.2026)	4,21,218
Fishing Crafts registered (online) (as on 30.08.2026)	
Mechanized fishing boats	5,045
Traditional fishing Crafts (Motorized -36,489 and non-motorized - 2,848)	39,337
Total fishing Crafts	**44,382**

- The State's Exclusive Economic Zone is **1.90 lakh** sq km and its continental shelf 41,412 sq km, with 608 fishing villages.
- 44,382 fishing craft are registered - 5,045 mechanised boats and 39,337 traditional craft, of which 36,489 are motorised.

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1.4. Inland Fisheries

Tamil Nadu possesses an extensive network of inland water bodies comprising rivers, reservoirs, irrigation tanks, lakes and ponds totalling an effective water spread area of 3.85 lakh hectares. To support fish seed production, the State has established 53 fish seed production centres (17 Government and 36 private) and 283 fish seed rearing centres (52 Government and 231 private). The Department produces quality fish seed of Indian Major Carps and other commercially important species, besides promoting high-yielding varieties such as Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) and high value Murrel (Viraal Meen). During the year 2025-26, the Department produced 107 crore early fry and 12.64 crore fingerlings and in 2026-27 (up to July-2026) 49.78 crore early fry and 3.76 crore fingerlings through Government fish farms. In

- 53 fish seed production centres (17 Government, 36 private) and 283 rearing centres support inland fisheries; 107 crore early fry and **12.64 crore** fingerlings were produced in **2025-26**.
- Besides Indian Major Carps, the department promotes Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia and high-value Murrel (Viraal Meen).

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addition, 8,058 private fish farmers undertake aquaculture activities over 4,657 hectares.

Table No.3

Inland fisheries sector of the State

Reservoirs managed by the Department	63
Irrigation tanks under Rural Development Department	21,608
Water Resources Department (WRD) irrigation tanks	14,306
Brackish water area	56,000 ha
Population of Inland Fisherfolk (Projected)	2.40 lakh
Inland Fisherfolk enrolled in Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board (as on 31.07.2026)	60,654

To enhance inland fish production, the Department implements a range of programmes, including fish seed stocking in rivers, reservoirs and irrigation tanks, reservoir fisheries development and inland aquaculture promotion. Recognising the immense potential of the sector,

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the Government has formulated the Tamil Nadu Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (TANIFAP)-2026, to promote sustainable utilisation of inland fishery resources, increase fish production, strengthen nutritional security and improve the livelihoods of fishers and fish farmers.

The Tamil Nadu Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (**TANIFAP**) **2026** is the new frame for inland fishery resources.

1.5. Brackish Water Fisheries

Tamil Nadu possesses approximately 56,000 hectares of brackish water resources, accounting for nearly 4 percentage of the country's total brackish water area. These ecologically rich ecosystems serve as important breeding, nursery and feeding grounds for a wide range of finfish and shellfish species, while also offering immense potential for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

Major brackish water ecosystems such as Pazhaverkadu, Ennore, Adyar, Muttukadu,

Major brackish water ecosystems: Pazhaverkadu, Ennore, Adyar, Muttukadu, Pichavaram, Kollidam, Muthupet and the Punnakayal, Manakudi and Thengapattanam estuaries.

Pichavaram, Kollidam, Muthupet and the estuaries of Punnakayal, Manakudi and Thengapattanam provide significant opportunities for the development of environmentally sustainable coastal aquaculture and mariculture.

1.6. Coastal Aquaculture and Mariculture

Coastal aquaculture and mariculture have assumed increasing importance in recent years owing to the plateauing of marine capture fisheries and rising operational costs in the fishing sector. These activities complement marine fisheries by enhancing fish production, creating employment opportunities, supporting livelihood diversification and contributing substantially to export earnings.

Shrimp farming remains the dominant coastal aquaculture activity in Tamil Nadu, while open-sea cage farming of marine finfishes and

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seaweed cultivation have emerged as important mariculture enterprises. With its favourable coastline and coastal ecosystems, the State offers considerable potential for the expansion of sustainable coastal aquaculture and mariculture.

2. VISION

"To sustainably conserve, develop and manage the fisheries resources of Tamil Nadu through scientific, responsible and climate-resilient approaches, ensuring food and nutritional security, enhancing fish production and value addition, promoting economic prosperity and employment generation, safeguarding the traditional rights and livelihoods of fishermen and improving the quality of life of fishermen and fish farmers."

3. MISSION

To achieve maintainable growth of the fisheries sector by promoting responsible fisheries and aquaculture, enhancing fish production and productivity, strengthening infrastructure and value chains, ensuring safety and social security of fishing communities, fostering technological innovation and research, and creating diversified livelihood opportunities for inclusive socio-economic development.

4. POLICY PRIORITIES

The Government shall pursue the following policy priorities:

i. **Protecting the rights and livelihoods of fishermen** by safeguarding their traditional fishing rights and strengthening social security and welfare measures.

ii. **Promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture** through scientific management, conservation and optimum utilisation of marine, inland and brackish water resources while ensuring ecological sustainability.

iii. **Enhancing fish production and productivity** by expanding inland aquaculture, mariculture and other sustainable fish production systems, improving fish seed availability and encouraging adoption of modern technologies.

iv. **Strengthening fisheries infrastructure and value chains** through the creation and modernisation of fishing harbours, fish landing centres, Government fish farms, hatcheries, cold chain facilities, processing units, value addition and market linkages.

v. **Improving income and employment opportunities** by promoting entrepreneurship, diversified livelihood activities, rural employment and economic empowerment of fishermen, fish farmers and fisherwomen.

vi. **Conserving fishery resources** through stock assessment, stock enhancement, scientific resource monitoring and effective enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations.

vii. **Promoting exports and value realisation** by improving fish quality, hygiene, traceability and compliance with international standards, while expanding access to domestic and global markets.

viii. **Building human capital and institutional capacity** through research, innovation, technology adoption, skill development and continuous capacity

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building of fishermen, fish farmers and department personnel.

ix. **Strengthening governance and service delivery** by leveraging e-Governance, digital technologies and transparent monitoring systems for efficient implementation of developmental and welfare programmes.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP

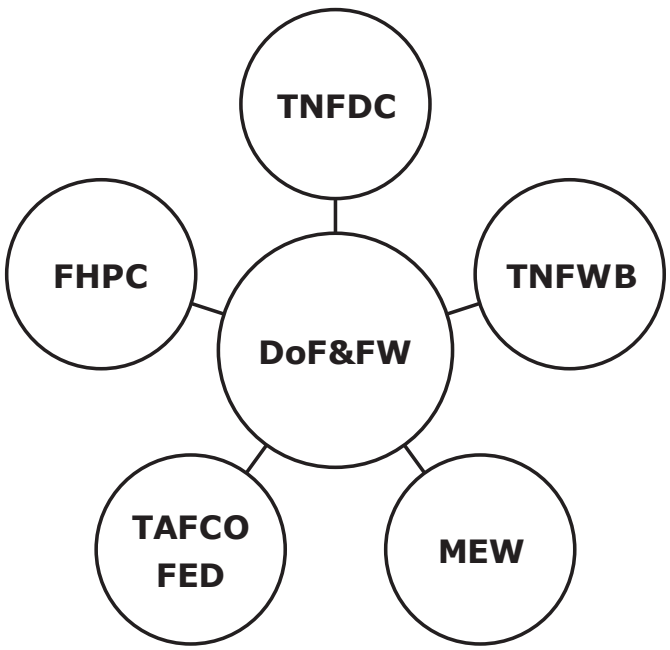
The Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department is headed by the Director, who is undertaking overall planning, implementation and monitoring of fisheries development, resource management and welfare programmes across the State.

The Director also functions as the Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation (TNFDC) Limited, the Functional Registrar of all Fishermen and Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies, including

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the Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation (TAFCOFED) Limited and the Member Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board (TNFWB). These institutions work in close coordination to implement developmental, commercial and welfare initiatives aimed at ensuring the sustainable growth of the fisheries sector and improving the livelihoods of fishermen and fish farmers across Tamil Nadu.

Key divisions of the department



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DoF&FW	-	Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare
TNFDC	-	Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation
TAFCOFED	-	Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation
TNFWB	-	Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board
MEW	-	Marine Enforcement Wing
FHPC	-	Fishing Harbour Project Circle

The major activities of the Department are aligned with policies of the Government. The Government is promoting the welfare of fishermen through developing marine, inland fisheries, coastal aquaculture, mariculture activities, conserving fishery resources and creating essential fisheries infrastructure.

6. MARINE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

Marine fisheries constitute the backbone of Tamil Nadu's fisheries sector and provide

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livelihoods to fisherfolk of the 14 coastal districts. The Government adopts an integrated approach to marine fisheries development by balancing resource conservation with livelihood security, infrastructure development and welfare measures. Sustainable utilisation of marine resources, stock enhancement, promotion of responsible fishing practices, disaster preparedness, fishermen safety and expansion of export-oriented fisheries continue to be the key focus areas of the Government.

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer in implementing several path-breaking fisheries development and fishermen welfare initiatives, many of which have served as models for other States. The Government has consistently expanded the scope and scale of welfare measures to improve the socio-economic conditions of marine fishing communities. During 2025-26, an amount of Rs.729.85 crore was

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sanctioned under various welfare schemes benefiting marine fisherfolk, as detailed in Table – 1 of the annexure.

Alongside welfare initiatives, the Government continues to accord priority to the conservation and sustainable management of marine fishery resources through effective enforcement of the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, strengthening disaster preparedness, search and rescue mechanisms, promoting responsible fishing practices and encouraging the development of coastal aquaculture and mariculture. These initiatives are aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability, resilience of Tamil Nadu's marine fisheries sector.

The Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation **Act, 1983** is the governing State law for marine fishing.

6.1 Marine Fishers Welfare Schemes

A comprehensive package of welfare schemes is being implemented to provide

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income support during lean fishing periods, reduce operational costs, enhance safety at sea, facilitate livelihood diversification and strengthen the socio-economic resilience of fisherfolk.

6.1.1 Special Allowance for Lean Fishing Period

Fishing operations are often curtailed during the lean fishing seasons, owing to adverse weather conditions and safety advisories. To compensate for the resultant loss of income, the Government provides a special allowance of Rs.6,000/- per marine fishermen family during this challenging period.

- The lean-period allowance of **Rs.6,000** a family has been raised to **Rs.7,000** in the revised estimate, for **1.93 lakh** families at **Rs.135.00 crore**.

Table No. 4

Lean Fishing Period in Tamil Nadu

Sl.No.	Districts	Period
1.	Tiruvallur to Ramanathapuram (11 Districts)	October – December

- Lean seasons differ by coast: October-December for the eleven districts from Tiruvallur to Ramanathapuram, April-June for Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli, January-March for Kanniyakumari.

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Sl.No.	Districts	Period
2.	Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli	April – June
3.	Kanniyakumari	January - March

Last year, a sum of Rs.114.39 crore relief amount was released to 1,90,661 fishing families at the rate of Rs.6,000/- per family. As announced in the current year's Revised Budget Estimate, this relief amount has been increased from Rs.6,000/- to Rs.7,000/- and will be disbursed to 1.93 lakh marine fishing families. A sum of Rs.135.00 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

6.1.2 Fishing Ban Period Relief Assistance

To conserve marine fishery resources, a 61-day seasonal uniform fishing ban is enforced annually by the Government of India along the East and West coasts.

- A 61-day uniform fishing ban runs on the east coast from 15 April to 14 June and on the west coast from 1 June to 31 July.

Table No. 5
Fishing Ban Period

Sl.No.	Coast	Period
1.	East coast	April 15th to June 14th (both days inclusive)
2.	West coast	June 1st to July 31st (both days inclusive)

To support fishing families during this mandatory closure, the Government provides Rs.8,000/- as Ban Period Relief Assistance, of which Rs.1,500/- is contributed by the Government of India under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). For beneficiaries above 60 years of age, the entire assistance is borne by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

During 2026-27, financial assistance of Rs.149.77 crore has been disbursed for 1,87,218 fishermen families.

- Ban Period Relief is **Rs.8,000,** of which **Rs.1,500** comes from the Centre under **PMMSY**; for those above 60 the State bears the whole amount. **Rs.149.77** crore reached 1,87,218 families.

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6.1.3 Savings-cum-Relief Scheme for Marine Fishermen

The State implements the Savings-cum-Relief Scheme to provide income support during the lean fishing months. Under the scheme, each beneficiary contributes Rs.1,500/- which, along with the assistance of Rs.3,000/- from the State Government provides a relief of Rs.4,500/- during these challenging periods.

During 2025-26, Rs.59.78 crore was disbursed to 2,00,252 fishermen. The scheme has been approved for 2026-27 and collection of beneficiary contributions is in progress.

Savings-cum-Relief: the fisherman saves **Rs.1,500** and the State adds **Rs.3,000,** giving **Rs.4,500** in the lean months. A parallel scheme runs for fisherwomen.

6.1.4 Savings-cum-Relief Scheme for Marine Fisherwomen

A similar scheme is implemented for marine fisherwomen to provide financial support during lean fishing months. Each beneficiary

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contributes Rs.1,500/- and receives total assistance of Rs.4,500/-. During 2025-26, Rs.58.18 crore was disbursed to 1,95,240 fisherwomen. The scheme is being continued during 2026-27.

6.1.5 Supply of Sales tax-exempted Diesel

To reduce operational costs of fishing vessels, the Government supplies sales tax-exempted diesel at the rate of 19,000 litres per mechanised fishing boat and 4,400 litres per motorised country craft annually. TAFCOFED and TNFDC are the Government agencies supplying sales tax exempted diesel to fishing boats. During the year 2025-26, a quantity of 1,16,569 KL of diesel has been supplied with a total tax exemption of Rs. 261.95 crore. For the current year, 25,270 KL of diesel has been supplied with tax exemption benefit of Rs.96.55 crore (up to July-2026).

- Sales tax exempted diesel: **19,000 litres** a year per mechanised boat and 4,400 litres per motorised country craft. The exemption cost **Rs.261.95 crore** in **2025-26**.

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6.1.6 Supply of Subsidised Industrial Kerosene

Registered motorised traditional fishing crafts in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts are supplied with industrial kerosene at a subsidised rate of Rs.25 per litre, subject to an annual entitlement of 3,700 litres per craft. TAFCOFED is supplying subsidized industrial kerosene in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts, whereas TNFDC is supplying in Kanniyakumari District.

- Subsidised industrial kerosene at **Rs.25** a litre, up to **3,700 litres** a craft, in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari.

During the year 2025-26, a quantity of 22,234 KL of Kerosene has been supplied with subsidy assistance of Rs.85.78 crore. For the year 2026-27, so far, 7,837 KL of Kerosene has been supplied with subsidy assistance of Rs.55.60 crore (up to July-2026).

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6.1.7 Motorisation of Traditional Fishing Crafts (PMMSY scheme)

To improve fishing efficiency and safety, the Government provides Outboard Motors (OBM) and Inboard Engines (IBE) at subsidised rate to the traditional fishing crafts. The scheme is being implemented through TAFCOFED and TNFDC.

During 2025-26, subsidy assistance of Rs.6.34 crore has been sanctioned for supplying 1,000 engines. So far, 614 engines have been supplied and implementation is in progress.

6.1.8 Assistance for Squid Jigging accessories

To diversify fishing practices and improve fishermen's income, 40% subsidy assistance was provided as one time assistance by the State Government for procurement of squid jigging

accessories to 200 fishermen in selected coastal districts at a cost of Rs. 38.76 lakh and the scheme was completed in July-2026.

6.1.9 Relief Assistance to Families of Missing Fishermen

The Government provides Rs.350/- per day (Rs.10,500/- per month) to families of fishermen reported missing at sea up to a period of two years or until eligible insurance or welfare benefits are received. During 2026-27, Rs.5.01 lakh has been released to 13 families of missing fishermen (up to July-2026).

- Families of fishermen missing at sea get **Rs.350** a day - **Rs.10,500** a month - for up to two years or until insurance or welfare benefits arrive.

6.1.10 Relief Assistance to Families of Apprehended Fishermen

Families of fishermen apprehended by neighbouring countries while fishing are provided Rs.500/- per day (Rs.15,000/- per month) until their release. During 2026-27,

- Families of fishermen apprehended by neighbouring countries get **Rs.500** a day, **Rs.15,000** a month, until release.

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assistance of Rs.41.49 lakh has been extended to 100 apprehended fishermen families (up to July-2026).

6.1.11 Ex-gratia Assistance to Families of Fishermen

Recognising the hardships faced by fishermen operating in the Palk Bay, the Government provides ex-gratia assistance through the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to families affected by untoward incidents involving external agencies.

The scheme provides:

- Rs.5.00 lakh in the event of the death of the sole breadwinner.
- Rs.50,000/- for grievous injuries.
- Rs.20,000/- for minor injuries.

Palk Bay ex-gratia from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund: **Rs.5.00** lakh on death of the sole breadwinner, **Rs.50,000** for grievous injury and **Rs.20,000** for minor injury.

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6.1.12 Group Accident Insurance Scheme (PMMSY scheme)

The Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS) is implemented with financial support from both the Union and State Governments to provide social security to fishers.

The scheme provides:

- Rs.5.00 lakh for death or permanent total disability.
- Rs.2.50 lakh for permanent partial disability.
- Rs.25,000/- towards hospitalisation expenses.

Under the scheme, 6,14,718 fishers have been enrolled during 2026-27.

- Group Accident Insurance gives **Rs.5.00** lakh for death or permanent total disability, **Rs.2.50 lakh** for partial disability and **Rs.25,000** for hospitalisation. 6,14,718 fishers are enrolled.

6.1.13 Diversification of Trawl Fishing to Deep-Sea Fishing (Blue Revolution scheme)

To promote sustainable fishing and reduce fishing pressure in the Palk Bay, the Government

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supported the conversion of trawlers into deep-sea fishing vessels with 70% capital subsidy under a jointly funded State and Union Government scheme.

- Trawlers were converted to deep-sea vessels with 70% capital subsidy to reduce fishing pressure in the Palk Bay; 89 vessels have been handed over.

Under this scheme, 89 deep-sea fishing vessels have been commissioned and handed over to beneficiaries, while 2 remaining vessels are under construction.

6.1.14 Financial assistance for construction of deep-sea fishing boats

The Government has announced an interest subsidy scheme to encourage fishermen to take up deep-sea fishing. Under this scheme, financial assistance will be provided including interest subsidy to those, who are purchasing deep-sea fishing boats equipped with modern facilities. As announced in this current year Revised Budget Estimate, the Government has allocated Rs.12.00 crore for this scheme.

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6.1.15 Supply of FRP Boats with Fishing Accessories (PMMSY scheme)

To modernise the traditional fishing fleet, under PMMSY scheme for the year 2025-26, the Government provides 12-metre Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) boats equipped with engines, fishing gear and ice boxes at an unit cost of Rs.5.00 lakh.

- 12-metre **FRP** boats with engine, gear and ice box are supplied at a unit cost of **Rs.5.00 lakh** under **PMMSY**.

Out of 134 sanctioned, 87 FRP boats have been supplied with subsidy assistance of Rs.2.01 crore, while construction of the remaining 47 boats is in progress.

6.2. Protection of Traditional Fishing Rights of Tamil Nadu Fishermen

The Palk Bay region, comprising the districts of Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram and supports 2,478 mechanised fishing boats,

- The Palk Bay districts hold 2,478 mechanised boats, 10,559 motorised and 550 non-motorised craft, 286 fishing villages and about **2.09 lakh** fisherfolk; nearly 80,000 depend directly on fishing.

10,559 motorised fishing crafts and 550 non-motorised fishing crafts, with a fisherfolk population of about 2.09 lakh living in 286 fishing villages. Nearly 80,000 fishermen directly depend on fishing for their livelihood.

Protecting the traditional fishing rights and livelihood of Tamil Nadu fishermen, particularly those operating in the Palk Bay, continues to be one of the foremost priorities of the Government. Fishing communities in the Palk Bay region have traditionally depended on these waters for their livelihood. However, frequent apprehension of fishermen and seizure of fishing boats by the Sri Lankan Navy on allegations of crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) have caused considerable hardship and insecurity among the fishing community. The Government has, therefore, consistently pursued legal, diplomatic and administrative measures to safeguard the interests of

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Tamil Nadu fishermen and secure a permanent solution to this persistent issue.

6.2.1 Efforts to Safeguard Traditional Fishing Rights through Retrieval of Katchatheevu

The Government of Tamil Nadu has consistently maintained that the restoration of the traditional fishing rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen in the Palk Bay requires the retrieval of Katchatheevu, which was ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974.

The State's position is that restoring traditional fishing rights in the Palk Bay requires retrieval of Katchatheevu, ceded to Sri Lanka in **1974**.

6.2.2 Efforts for the Release of Apprehended Fishermen and Fishing Boats

The Government has been consistently pursuing the release of Tamil Nadu fishermen and their fishing boats with the Government of India. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has repeatedly taken up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Hon'ble Prime Minister, besides

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raising the issue during the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog held on 11.06.2026, seeking urgent intervention for securing the release of apprehended fishermen and fishing boats.

- The issue was raised at the 11th Governing Council meeting of **NITI** Aayog on **11.06.2026** - the constitutional forum where States put such questions to the Centre.

Between 01.01.2021 to 28.08.2026, 1,691 Tamil Nadu fishermen were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. Of these, 1,653 fishermen have been released and repatriated. Continuous efforts are being made to secure the release of the remaining 38 fishermen and 269 fishing boats presently under the custody of the Sri Lankan Government.

- Between **01.01.2021** and **28.08.2026**, 1,691 fishermen were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy; 1,653 were released, with 38 fishermen and 269 boats still held.

6.2.3 India–Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries

- The India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on fisheries is the bilateral mechanism; six rounds have been held, the sixth at Colombo on **29.10.2024**.

The India–Sri Lanka Joint Working Group (JWG) on fisheries serves as an important bilateral mechanism for addressing the issues

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faced by fishermen of both countries. The JWG facilitates discussions on the release and repatriation of apprehended fishermen and fishing boats, formulation of maritime protocols and adoption of a humanitarian approach in dealing with fishermen detained on either side. Six rounds of the Joint Working Group meetings have been held so far.

The 6th Joint Working Group meeting, held at Colombo on 29.10.2024, reviewed the challenges faced by fishermen from both countries and reaffirmed the commitment to ensure the early release and repatriation of Tamil Nadu fishermen and their fishing boats. The Government continues to urge the Central Government to facilitate the reconvening of the JWG.

6.3. Fishing Regulation and Law Enforcement

Sustainable development of the marine fisheries sector requires effective regulation, conservation of fishery resources and strict enforcement of fisheries laws. The Government has therefore strengthened monitoring and surveillance mechanisms to ensure responsible fishing practices, prevent illegal and destructive fishing, maintain law and order at sea and enhance coastal security.

6.3.1 Registration of Fishing Vessels

To facilitate effective monitoring of fishing operations and strengthen coastal security, all fishing vessels operating in the State are registered through the ReALCraft online portal. A total of 5,045 mechanised fishing boats, 36,489 motorised traditional crafts and

All fishing vessels are registered on the ReALCraft online portal - registration doubles as a coastal security measure.

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2,848 non-motorised traditional crafts have been registered online (up to 30.08.2026).

6.3.2 Marine Enforcement Wing

An exclusive Marine Enforcement Wing (MEW) has been established in the Department to enforce the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 and its Rules, besides addressing inter-sectoral conflicts and law and order issues arising from fishing activities. The wing comprises 112 personnel, including 92 police personnel.

The Marine Enforcement Wing undertakes regular sea patrols to enforce fishing regulations, prevent illegal and destructive fishing practices, curb the use of banned fishing gear and gather intelligence relating to anti-social activities. Information collected during patrols is shared with the Indian Coast Guard

The Marine Enforcement Wing enforces the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation **Act 1983**, with 112 personnel including 92 police, patrolling and sharing intelligence with the Coast Guard.

and local police authorities for appropriate follow-up action. The Government proposes to strengthen this wing to safeguard the interests of the fishermen and coastal communities.

6.4. Disaster Preparedness, Rescue and Rehabilitation

Ensuring the safety and security of fishermen at sea is one of the foremost priorities of the Government. The Department has established a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for disaster preparedness and emergency response, comprising dissemination of weather advisories, round-the-clock communication systems, coordinated search and rescue operations and timely rehabilitation measures during natural calamities and adverse weather conditions.

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6.4.1 Measures for Communication and Safety of Fishermen at Sea

To ensure continuous communication between shore stations and fishing vessels, communication infrastructure has been established across all 14 coastal districts. A Central Control Room functioning round-the-clock at the Office of the Director of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare coordinates dissemination of weather warnings and emergency communication with fishermen and security agencies.

6.4.1.1 Installation of Transponders in Fishing Boats

To enhance safety and enable real-time tracking of fishing vessels, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) developed transponders are being installed in mechanised fishing boats. These transponders facilitate communication and monitoring of fishing vessels

up to 200 nautical miles and enable timely assistance during emergencies.

Government of India has sanctioned Rs.18.01 crore for installation of transponders in 4,997 mechanised fishing boats, of which 3,884 boats have already been fitted. Installation in the remaining boats is under progress. In addition, installation of 7,373 transponders in motorised fishing crafts is in progress under PMMSY.

- The Centre sanctioned **Rs.18.01 crore** for transponders in 4,997 mechanised boats, giving real-time tracking up to 200 nautical miles; 3,884 are fitted.

6.4.1.2. Supply of Satellite Phones (PMMSY scheme)

Satellite phones are being provided to deep-sea fishing vessels to strengthen communication and improve fishermen safety, while operating in offshore waters. During 2025-26, sanction has been accorded for the supply of 500 satellite phones under PMMSY, of

- 500 satellite phones were sanctioned under **PMMSY** for deep-sea vessels; 169 have been supplied.

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which 169 satellite phones have been supplied and scheme is in progress.

6.4.1.3. Easing of Search and Rescue of stranded boats and fishermen

In order to facilitate the ease of immediate rescue of fishermen/boats stranded at sea due to adverse weather condition, engine failure, boat collisions or other marine emergencies, the Government have issued orders in July-2026, by authorizing coastal District Collectors to meet expenditure towards boat hire charge, remuneration to fishermen engaged in rescue operations and other admissible incidental expenses for search and rescue operations under Revolving Fund for Disaster Response (RFDR).

- From July **2026** coastal Collectors may meet boat hire and rescue costs from the Revolving Fund for Disaster Response - the delay in search and rescue was a funding delay.

6.4.2 Relief Assistance for damaged fishing boats/fishing implements/huts

To provide immediate relief to fishermen whose boats, fishing implements or houses are damaged due to unforeseen incidents, the Government has established a revolving fund for all 14 coastal districts. During 2026-27 (up to July-2026), a sum of Rs.51,250/- has been released as relief assistance for three fishermen families.

6.4.3 Role of Fishermen during Natural Calamities

Fishermen play a vital role in disaster response during floods and other natural calamities. The Department coordinates the deployment of fishermen, fishing boats and essential equipment to assist Government agencies in rescue operations. During the North-

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East Monsoon of 2025 and "Ditwah" Cyclone, 158 fishermen along with 79 fishing boats were deployed as a precautionary measure to assist rescue operations in vulnerable areas.

- During the **2025** North-East Monsoon and Cyclone Ditwah, 158 fishermen and 79 boats were deployed for rescue work - fishermen as first responders.

6.5 Marine Fishery Resource Enhancement

6.5.1 Deployment of Artificial Reefs (PMMSY scheme)

Artificial reefs are deployed to conserve and enhance marine fishery resources, by providing breeding and nursery habitats for marine organisms, improving juvenile fish survival and increasing fish production. They also discourage bottom trawling in nearshore waters.

Under PMMSY for the year 2024-25, deployment of 217 units of artificial reefs at a cost of Rs. 62.27 crore in 43 fishing villages of Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram and

- 217 artificial reef units costing **Rs.62.27** crore were deployed in 43 villages of Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram and Nagapattinam - reefs also discourage bottom trawling inshore.

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Nagapattinam districts have been completed by July-2026.

6.5.2. Sea Ranching

Declining marine fish stocks, particularly in nearshore waters, necessitate scientific interventions for resource enhancement and long-term sustainability. Sea ranching is an important resource conservation strategy involving the release of hatchery produced juveniles of commercially important marine species into their natural habitat to replenish depleted fish stocks.

Sea ranching releases hatchery-reared juveniles of commercial marine species into the wild to replenish depleted stocks, sited at artificial reef locations.

The Department has already deployed artificial reefs along the Tamil Nadu coast to enhance marine biodiversity and create suitable habitats for fish aggregation. Sea ranching of economically important finfish and shellfish species is being undertaken in these artificial

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reef locations to improve stock enhancement and maximise ecological benefits.

The programme will be expanded in a phased manner across coastal districts through stocking of commercially important candidate species, in convergence with artificial reef deployment and habitat restoration programmes. The initiative is expected to improve marine fish stock abundance, enhance catch rates, strengthen ecosystem resilience and directly benefit coastal fishers across the State.

6.6. Conservation of Sea Turtles

To protect endangered sea turtles and their nesting habitats, installation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) has been made mandatory in trawl nets. Fishing is also prohibited within 5 nautical miles of identified nesting and breeding grounds from 1st January to 30th April every year.

- Turtle Excluder Devices are mandatory in trawl nets, and fishing is banned within 5 nautical miles of nesting grounds from 1 January to 30 April. 2,663 TEDs were distributed in **2025-26**.

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A Nodal Task Force comprising of Fisheries, Forest Department and Costal Security Group periodically reviews conservation measures. Under PMMSY and State scheme for the year 2025-26, a total of 2,663 TEDs have been distributed and installed in trawl nets.

7. COASTAL AQUACULTURE AND MARICULTURE

The Government is promoting coastal aquaculture and mariculture as important growth drivers for increasing fish production, enhancing exports, generating employment and diversifying the livelihoods of coastal communities. Sustainable development of these sectors, supported by scientific planning, appropriate regulation and modern technologies, will play a crucial role in augmenting the State's fisheries economy.

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7.1. Coastal Aquaculture

Coastal aquaculture in Tamil Nadu has evolved from a traditional activity into a commercially important sector. The introduction of *Litopenaeus vannamei* (White Leg Shrimp) in 2008 has significantly enhanced shrimp production owing to its rapid growth, higher productivity and adaptability to diverse farming conditions.

- Litopenaeus vannamei, the White Leg Shrimp, was introduced in **2008** and now dominates coastal aquaculture.

During 2025-26, Tamil Nadu produced 41,000 MT of shrimp, accounting for an important share of the national production of 13.74 lakh MT and ranked 5th among shrimp-producing States[4]. The State presently has 2,418 shrimp farms covering 4,609.89 hectares and 80 registered shrimp hatcheries.

- Tamil Nadu produced **41,000 MT** of shrimp in **2025-26** and ranks fifth among shrimp producing States, with 2,418 farms over 4,609.89 hectares and 80 registered hatcheries.

[4] *Marine Products Export Development Authority*

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Regulatory guidelines governing white leg shrimp farming outside the jurisdiction of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority have been revised in response to the requirements of farmers.

To support long-term growth, scientific mapping and assessment of coastal resources will be undertaken for the creation of dedicated Aquazones. The proposed study will identify suitable coastal lands, including Government poramboke lands and salt lands proposed to be acquired, for the development of aquaculture farms, hatcheries, nurseries, feed mills, processing units and cold-chain infrastructure. The Department also proposes to adopt the successful Chilika Lake model of community-based brackish water fisheries management and develop a comprehensive Geographical Information System (GIS) based digital inventory of coastal and brackish water resources to facilitate scientific planning,

- The department proposes to adopt the Chilika Lake model of community-based brackish water fisheries management, with a **GIS** inventory of coastal resources.

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resource assessment and sustainable expansion of the sector.

7.2. Mariculture

7.2.1 Seaweed Culture

Seaweeds are a valuable marine bioresource with high nutritional value and wide ranging applications in the food, pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, cosmetic, agricultural and bio-energy sectors. In Tamil Nadu, seaweed cultivation has emerged as an important alternative livelihood activity, particularly for coastal fisherwomen, while also contributing to the growth of the blue economy.

Tamil Nadu possesses favourable coastal conditions for large-scale seaweed cultivation and has a tradition of seaweed collection spanning over five decades. The commercial cultivation of *Kappaphycus alvarezii*, introduced

Commercial seaweed cultivation of Kappaphycus alvarezii began in **1995**; about 2,000 families now farm seaweed across six coastal districts.

in 1995, has provided a sustainable supplementary source of income to coastal communities. At present, nearly 2,000 families are engaged in seaweed farming across the coastal districts of Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari. During 2025-26, the State produced 18,240.45 MT[5] of seaweed, retaining its position as the leading seaweed producing State in the country. Tamil Nadu is also home to more than 20 seaweed processing industries, reflecting the growing importance of the sector.

- Seaweed production was **18,240.45 MT** in **2025-26** - the highest of any State - against an estimated industrial demand of **1,15,150 MT**.

To further expand seaweed cultivation, Fisheries Co-operative Societies will be identified and provided subsidy assistance for establishing seaweed rafts and monoline culture units in suitable coastal districts, along with support for essential farming inputs. The Department also

[5] *Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, GoTN*

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proposes to import high yielding and climate resilient seaweed germplasm through the TNFDC to overcome productivity stagnation in the existing *Kappaphycus* stock and enhance farm productivity.

A phased action plan for enhanced seaweed production will be implemented with the objective of doubling the State's seaweed production in the next five years. Species diversification will also be promoted by encouraging the cultivation of commercially important seaweeds such as *Gracilaria, Gelidiella, Hypnea, Ulva* and *Sargassum* species.

7.2.2 Establishment of Multipurpose Seaweed Park

To unlock the full potential of the seaweed sector and establish an integrated value chain from seed production to processing and

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marketing, the Government has accorded administrative sanction for Rs.127.71 crore towards the establishment of a Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Ramanathapuram and Pudukkottai districts.

- A Multipurpose Seaweed Park sanctioned at **Rs.127.71 crore** has a seed production hub at Valamavur, Ramanathapuram and a processing hub at Gandarvakottai, Pudukkottai.

The project comprises:

- Hub-I: Seaweed Seed Production Park at Valamavur, Ramanathapuram District.
- Hub-II: Seaweed Processing Park at Gandarvakottai, Pudukkottai District.
- Spoke infrastructure in villages with high seaweed production potential.

While an estimated annual industrial demand is 1,15,150 MT, the current production is only 18,240.45 MT. The Seaweed Park will address the critical shortage of quality planting material by multiplying high yielding germplasm sourced both locally and internationally and supplying it to seaweed farmers. Industrial plots under Hub-II will be leased to private

entrepreneurs for processing, value addition and product development.

To strengthen farmer participation, three Fish Farmers Producer Organisations (FFPOs) have already been formed through Cluster Based Business Organisations (CBBOs) for organised seaweed production. On completion, the project is expected to produce 49,000 MT of seaweed over a period of three years, generate employment for local fishers and act as a preferred destination for investment.

7.2.3 Open Sea Cage Culture

Open Sea Cage Culture is an environmentally sustainable mariculture technology for farming marine species such as Cobia, Asian Seabass, Pompano and Lobster in floating cages installed in coastal waters. The technology supplements marine capture

- Open sea cage culture farms Cobia, Asian Seabass, Pompano and Lobster in floating cages - a supplement to capture fisheries.

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fisheries, enhances seafood production and provides an alternative source of livelihood to coastal fishing communities. Open sea cage culture has been promoted through various schemes. The Department envisages a phased expansion of cage farming by next five years through strengthening seed production and supply, promoting cluster-based cage farming, providing capacity building to fish farmers.

7.3 Policy Framework for Brackish Water Aquaculture and Mariculture

With growing interest from entrepreneurs and investors, the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive Brackish water Aquaculture Policy and Mariculture Policy through extensive stakeholder consultations and expert inputs. The policy framework will provide a clear roadmap for the sustainable development of the sector by establishing transparent

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regulatory mechanisms, streamlining approvals, promoting modern technologies and strengthening environmental and biosecurity safeguards.

The proposed policies will facilitate scientific allocation and leasing of suitable coastal lands and water areas, promote the planned development of Aquazones, mariculture parks, hatcheries, cage farming and seaweed cultivation and create an enabling ecosystem for private investment and innovation. The initiative is expected to enhance investor confidence, accelerate sustainable sectoral growth, direct and indirect livelihood opportunities.

8. INLAND FISHERIES SECTOR

The inland fisheries sector plays a pivotal role in enhancing food and nutritional security, improving rural livelihoods and generating

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employment. The Government is committed to developing an ecologically sustainable, economically viable and socially inclusive inland fisheries sector.

The key focus areas of inland fisheries development include scientific assessment and sustainable management of inland fishery resources, conservation of indigenous fish species, expansion of aquaculture, promotion of scientific stocking of fish seed in suitable water bodies, development of ornamental fisheries and recreational fisheries, creation of rural employment through innovative fish culture practices, strengthening fisheries education and skill development and promoting value addition to enhance domestic consumption.

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8.1. Inland Fisheries Activities

The Department implements a comprehensive range of developmental, technical and extension activities to promote sustainable inland fisheries and aquaculture across the State. The major activities include:

i. **Promotion of Inland Fisheries through District Fish Farmers Development Agencies (DFFDA):** District Fish Farmers Development Agencies have been established in all districts, except Chennai, to provide technical guidance, register fish farms and fish seed farms and promote scientific aquaculture practices.

District Fish Farmers Development Agencies function in every district except Chennai.

ii. **Scientific Management of Reservoir and Tank Fisheries:** Fisheries in reservoirs and irrigation tanks are managed through

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licensing, share fishing and leasing in accordance with Government policy, with priority accorded to Inland Fishermen and Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes engaged in fishing activities.

iii. **Production and Supply of Quality Fish Seed:** The Department operates Government fish seed production and rearing centres while encouraging private investment to ensure timely availability of quality fish seed for aquaculture development.

iv. **Promotion of Species Diversification:** Fast growing and high-value species such as Amur Carp, Jayanti Rohu, GIF Tilapia, Murrel, Pearl spot and Calbasu are

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being promoted to enhance productivity and diversify aquaculture. The Department also proposes to establish hatcheries for Pacu and freshwater prawn to strengthen seed production and support future expansion of inland aquaculture.

v. **Strengthening Fish Seed Infrastructure:** New fish seed farms are being established and existing Government farms are upgraded to increase the production and timely supply of quality fish seed across the State.

vi. **Promotion of Fish Feed Production:** The establishment of private fish feed mills is being encouraged to ensure the availability

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of scientifically formulated quality feed for cultured fish species.

vii. **Promotion of Cage Culture:** Cage farming has been introduced in selected reservoirs to improve fish production and productivity. At present, cage culture is being practised in five reservoirs (Krishnagiri, Chittar, Anaimaduvu, Bhavanisagar and Sathanur) in Tamil Nadu.

viii. **Fish Seed Stocking in Inland Water Bodies:** Fish seed stocking programmes are being implemented in rivers, reservoirs and Panchayat tanks to augment fish stocks and improve inland fish production.

ix. **Adoption of Advanced Aquaculture Technologies:** Modern production systems such as

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Biofloc and Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS) are being promoted to maximise fish production with efficient utilisation of limited water resources.

x. **Strengthening Fish Marketing:** Hygienic fish markets, fish kiosks, insulated vehicles and cold-chain infrastructure are being established to improve fish handling, minimise post-harvest losses and enhance market access.

xi. **Capacity Building and Extension:** Regular training programmes, exposure visits and extension activities are organised to strengthen the technical capacity of fish farmers, entrepreneurs and department personnel and facilitate

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the adoption of modern aquaculture technologies.

8.2. Promotion of Fish Culture

The Government envisages increasing the State's inland fish production from 3.00 lakh MT[6] in 2025-26 to its potential of 4.50 lakh MT over the next five years, through scientific management and optimum utilisation of all suitable inland water resources. This will be achieved by improving fish seed availability, enhancing stocking density, promoting scientific aquaculture practices and strengthening the capacity of fish farmers.

8.2.1. Enhancing Fish Production in Riverine Systems

Tamil Nadu has 17 river basins, comprising the Cauvery as the major basin, 13 medium and 3 minor river basins, which offer considerable

[6] *Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, GoTN*

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scope for inland fisheries development. To conserve native fish diversity, enhance fish stocks and improve the livelihoods of inland fishing communities, the Department will undertake river ranching by releasing quality fingerlings of indigenous fish species in suitable river stretches.

The programme envisages stocking of fingerlings in 2,000 km of river stretches, with an estimated additional fish production of 400 MT.

8.2.2. Enhancing Fish Production in Reservoirs

Reservoir fisheries constitute one of the major inland fishery resources of the State. At present, the Department manages fisheries in 63 reservoirs covering 56,782 hectares, where fish production is supported through regular

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stocking of quality fingerlings produced in Government fish seed farms.

To further enhance reservoir productivity, additional reservoirs under the Water Resources Department will be brought under organised fisheries management. Scientific stocking of advanced fingerlings, improved fisheries management practices and habitat enhancement measures are expected to increase fish production by 600 MT annually.

To ensure uniformity, minimise litigation, safeguard the interests of traditional fishing communities and promote sustainable fisheries management, the Government also proposes to implement a uniform leasing policy for fishery management in water bodies administered by different departments.

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8.2.3. Enhancing Fish Production in Panchayat Tanks

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department administers about 21,608 minor irrigation tanks, which represent a vast untapped resource for inland fisheries. The Department has initiated large scale stocking of quality fish seed in suitable Panchayat tanks to augment fish production and improve the availability at affordable price. Every year, fish seed will be stocked in 5,000 hectares of suitable Panchayat tanks, with an estimated additional fish production of 2,000 MT annually.

8.2.4 Enhancement of Freshwater Prawn (Scampi) Resources

Freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*), commonly known as Scampi, is a high-value species with strong demand in both

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domestic and export markets. However, natural populations have declined due to overfishing, habitat degradation and pollution.

To restore natural stocks and enhance inland fisheries productivity, the Department proposes to implement a focused Scampi stock enhancement programme by stocking quality juveniles in selected reservoirs and river stretches across the State.

8.2.5. Promotion of Cage Culture in Selected Reservoirs

Reservoir cage culture offers significant potential for enhancing fish production without increasing water use and provides substantial scope for scientific intensification.

The Department proposes to establish grow-out cage culture in selected reservoirs through installation of floating cages with the

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assistance of PMMSY. Supported by the availability of quality GIFT seeds, the initiative is expected to substantially enhance reservoir fish production while generating employment and improving rural livelihoods.

8.2.6. Promotion of Murrel and GIF Tilapia Culture in Farm Ponds

To improve the income of inland fish farmers, the Government proposes to promote the culture of high value Murrel and fast growing GIFT in multipurpose farm ponds across the State.

Subsidy assistance will be provided for essential aquaculture inputs such as fish seed and feed to encourage farmers to adopt scientific fish culture practices. The initiative will enhance farmers income and create self employment opportunities.

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8.2.7. Expansion of Fish Culture Area

Expansion of aquaculture into new farming areas will contribute significantly to increased inland fish production, rural employment and farmers' income. The Department proposes to bring an additional 250 hectares under fish farming over the next five years through financial assistance, technical guidance and supply of quality fish seed.

Fish farmers will be encouraged to adopt high value species such as Murrel and fast growing GIFT to improve productivity and profitability. The programme will also support scientific farming practices, input supply and capacity building.

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8.2.8. Strengthening Government Fish Farms

Government fish farms play an important role in ensuring the availability of quality fish seed for inland fisheries development. These farms comprise breeder ponds, nursery ponds, rearing ponds, conditioning ponds, eco-carp hatcheries and other supporting infrastructure required for fish seed production.

To strengthen fish seed production capacity and meet the growing demand from fish farmers, the Government is investing in development, modernisation and strengthening of Government fish farms every year.

8.3. Ornamental Fisheries Sector

Tamil Nadu is the leading State in ornamental fish production, contributing nearly 30 percentage of the country's ornamental fish

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trade and playing a significant role in both domestic and international markets. The sector offers considerable potential for entrepreneurship, employment generation and income diversification.

To promote and popularise ornamental fish culture, the Government has established a state-of-the-art Ornamental Fish Trade Centre in Chennai. In addition, initiatives are underway to establish an Ornamental Fish Brood Bank in Madurai District. These facilities will ensure the availability of quality broodstock, improve the production of indigenous and exotic ornamental fish varieties, promote entrepreneurship and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for ornamental fish farmers, traders and allied industries.

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8.4. Cold Water Fisheries

Tamil Nadu is one of the few States in India endowed with cold water fisheries resources, with considerable potential in the hill regions of the Nilgiris owing to their favourable climatic conditions and pristine water resources. The Government Trout Hatchery at Avalanche, established in 1907, plays a pioneering role in trout seed production and conservation. The hatchery produces quality trout seed for stocking in the upstreams of the Nilgiris, thereby replenishing natural trout populations, improving genetic quality.

To harness the potential of cold water fisheries, the Department proposes to adopt an integrated approach encompassing the establishment of trout hatcheries, nurseries and Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS). Capacity building and skill development

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programmes will be organised for fish farmers, entrepreneurs and fisheries personnel to promote sustainable, resource efficient and climate resilient trout farming practices, positioning the Nilgiris as a centre for cold water aquaculture.

9. FISHERIES INFRASTRUCTURE

Recognizing the pivotal role of the fisheries sector in the economy, the Government is making significant investments in fisheries infrastructure development. These initiatives include establishment and upgradation of Fish Landing Points (FLP), Fish Landing Centres (FLC), Fishing Harbours (FH), Fish farms and other infrastructure facilities. These investments are aimed at improving fish quality and hygiene, reducing post-harvest losses, strengthening the cold chain and value chain and improving market access. Besides enhancing the safety

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and efficiency of fishing operations, these initiatives are expected to provide better price for the fish catch. The details of marine infrastructure facilities developed are given in Table – 2 in Annexure.

The required financial resources are being mobilised through multiple funding sources, including the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and State Funds. The Government accorded administrative sanction for fisheries infrastructure projects amounting to Rs.1,161.18 crore and works are being carried out. The details are given in the Table – 3 in Annexure.

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9.1 Development of Fishing Harbours

Fishing harbours are provided with essential marine infrastructure such as breakwaters, jetties, wharfs, auction halls, net mending sheds and other amenities. Fifteen fishing harbours have been established along the coast of Tamil Nadu.

Fifteen fishing harbours and 149 fish landing centres line the coast; infrastructure projects worth **Rs.1,161.18** crore are sanctioned, funded through **FIDF**, **PMMSY**, **NABARD** and State funds.

9.2 Development of Fish Landing Centres

Fish Landing Centres are designed to provide safe berthing facilities for fishing vessels, along with essential infrastructure for fish landing, auctioning and net repair activities. There are 149 Fish Landing Centres along the coast of Tamil Nadu.

9.3 Shore Protection Works

Shore protection works are of critical importance in addressing coastal erosion caused

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by climate change and high wave activity. Anti-sea erosion structures such as bait arches, groynes, Rubble Mound Seawall (RMS) and training walls at river bar mouths are constructed along the coastline to mitigate erosion and safeguard coastal infrastructure.

9.4. Development of Climate Resilient Coastal Fishing Villages

Recognising the increasing vulnerability of coastal communities to climate change and extreme weather events, the Government has launched an initiative to develop selected fishing villages as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishing Villages (CRCFV) under PMMSY. Under this initiative, 16 coastal fishing villages across the State have been selected for integrated development with an allocation of Rs.2.00 crore per village, involving a total investment of Rs.32.00 crore.

- 16 villages are being developed as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishing Villages under **PMMSY** at **Rs.2.00 crore** each - 70% for infrastructure and 30% for livelihoods.

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The programme adopts a balanced approach, with 70% of the project cost earmarked for fisheries infrastructure and 30% for livelihood and economic development activities.

Infrastructure components include construction of multipurpose community halls with training centres and control rooms, net mending sheds, fish drying yards and other essential fisheries facilities. The livelihood component includes assistance for ice boxes, life buoys, bivalve culture, brackish water fish culture in ponds and other income generating fisheries activities.

So far, an expenditure of Rs.15.96 crore has been incurred under the scheme and implementation is progressing across all the selected villages.

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9.5. Project Design and Management Unit for Fisheries Infrastructure

To strengthen planning, execution and monitoring of fisheries infrastructure projects, a dedicated Project Design and Management Unit (PDMU) comprising of experts from various departments will be established. The PDMU will provide technical and project monitoring support to ensure effective planning, timely implementation and continuous monitoring of fisheries infrastructure projects.

10. FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Fisheries Co-operative Societies (FCS) constitute an important institutional framework for the socio-economic development and empowerment of fishermen and fisherwomen in Tamil Nadu. These societies play a pivotal role in implementing welfare and development

programmes, strengthening community participation, facilitating access to institutional credit and marketing services and improving the overall livelihoods of fishing communities.

At present, about 7.10 lakh fishermen and fisherwomen are enrolled as members in 1,513 Primary Fishermen and Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies functioning across the State.

- **7.10 lakh** members belong to 1,513 primary fishermen and fisherwomen co-operative societies, supported by 12 district federations and **TAFCOFED**.

Table No. 6

Details of FCS

Sl. No.	Society	Nos.	Members enrolled
1.	Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies	571	3,32,764
2.	Marine Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies	496	2,81,151
3.	Inland Fishermen Co-operative Societies	308	67,025
4.	Inland Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies	73	17,382

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Sl. No.	Society	Nos.	Members enrolled
5.	Ornamental, Marketing and other types of Fisheries Co-operative Societies	65	11,298
Total		**1,513**	**7,09,620**

These societies are supported by 12 District Fishermen Co-operative Federations and the Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation (TAFCOFED), which coordinate co-operative activities and facilitate effective implementation of welfare programmes.

10.1 Marine Fishermen and Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies

The Government is extending relief assistance to the members, under the schemes such as, Savings-cum-relief scheme for Marine

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Fishermen/Fisherwomen, Fishing ban relief assistance, Special Allowance during fishing lean months, Group Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS), etc.,

These societies also contribute significantly to the socio-economic welfare of their members through a range of financial and marketing services. Members are provided access to microcredit through TAFCOFED, Co-operative Banks and other Nationalised Banks. Several societies also operate co-operative marketing outlets in Fishing Harbours for the supply of fishing gear and accessories. Further, Jewel loan facilities are provided through the Colachel, Vallavilai Fishermen Co-operative Societies in Kanniyakumari District and Thoothukudi Fishermen Co-operative Society and so far, a sum of Rs.16.22 crore loan disbursed to the FCS members (up to July-2026).

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10.2 Inland Fisheries Co-operative Societies

Inland Fisheries Co-operative Societies play a vital role in promoting fisheries activities in rivers, reservoirs, irrigation tanks and Panchayat tanks. Besides undertaking capture fisheries, several societies are engaged in the marketing of fresh fish, dried fish and value added fish products within their operational areas.

10.3 Kisan Credit Card (KCC) for Fisherfolk and Fish Farmers

To improve access to institutional credit and meet the working capital requirements of fisherfolk and fish farmers, the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) has been extended to the fisheries sector and is being implemented across all districts of the State.

- The Kisan Credit Card now covers fisheries - credit up to **Rs.2.00 lakh** for capture fisheries, aquaculture, shrimp farming, seaweed and fish marketing.

The scheme supports a wide range of fisheries and allied activities, including capture fisheries, inland aquaculture, shrimp farming, seaweed cultivation and fish marketing. Eligible beneficiaries can avail institutional credit up to Rs.2.00 lakh, together with an interest subvention of 2 percent at the time of loan disbursement and an additional 3 percent incentive for prompt repayment.

Totally, 69,787 fisherfolk and fisheries-related beneficiaries availed loan assistance amounting to Rs.1,242.78 crore under the Kisan Credit Card scheme.

11. FISHERIES STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Fisheries Staff Training Institute (FSTI), established in 1962, serves as the State's institution for capacity building and human resource development in the fisheries

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sector. The Institute conducts induction and in-service training programmes for all department officers.

In addition to regular departmental training programmes, the Institute also organises specialised technical training for fish farmers and fishermen on emerging technologies such as Biofloc aquaculture and freshwater ornamental fish culture. Since its inception, the Institute has trained 758 personnel and provided refresher training to 364 department officers.

12. EXTENSION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Extension and capacity building are integral to the sustainable development of the fisheries sector. Regular awareness programmes, exhibitions, trade fairs, fishermen grievance day meetings and fish farmers' meetings provide an effective platform for

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stakeholder interaction, dissemination of best practices and resolution of field level issues. Awareness campaigns are also conducted on marine safety, hygienic fish handling, sanitation at Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres and conservation of fisheries resources.

To ensure the swift and effective resolution of fishermen grievances regarding welfare schemes, relief measures and regulatory issues, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has ordered that exclusive grievance redressal meetings be conducted by regional officers in all coastal districts once in every 15 days. Accordingly, such meetings are currently being held on a fortnightly basis, thereby facilitating the speedy delivery of Government services to coastal fishermen.

The Department commemorates World Ocean Day (June-8), World Fisheries Day

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(November-21) and National Fish Farmers' Day (July-10) every year through awareness campaigns, exhibitions, medical camps, student competitions and extension programmes to promote sustainable fisheries and recognise the contributions of fishermen and fish farmers. Outstanding performers are honoured with awards in recognition of their achievements in fisheries development and resource conservation.

12.1 Collaboration with Fisheries Research Institutions and Industry

Knowledge dissemination, technology transfer and capacity building are critical for improving fish production, enhancing productivity and promoting sustainable fisheries development. To facilitate the adoption of modern fisheries and aquaculture technologies, the Department collaborates closely with leading

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National and State-level research institutions, academic organisations and industry partners.

These include the Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU), Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (CIBA), Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). Through these collaborations, the Department promotes technology transfer, scientific resource management, innovative aquaculture practices, value addition, post-harvest management and entrepreneurship.

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12.2 Skill Development Programmes for Fisher Youth and Fisherfolk

The Government accords high priority to skill development as a means of enhancing employability, promoting entrepreneurship and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for fishermen, fisherwomen and fisher youth. With financial support from the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), the Department implements a range of demand driven training programmes across the State.

The major training programmes include:

- Fisheries-based livelihood activities
- Seaweed cultivation and allied activities
- Open sea cage aquaculture
- Fish processing
- Preparation and marketing of value-added fish products

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So far, 8,221 beneficiaries have undergone skill development training, of whom 6,725 beneficiaries have been assisted in undertaking livelihood activities and a total expenditure of Rs.5.33 crore has been incurred towards implementation of these training programmes.

To improve navigational skills and promote safe fishing practices, a Boat Driving Training Programme is also being implemented for 500 fisher youth from the coastal districts with financial assistance from the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation through Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU). The programme equips fishermen with practical skills in navigation, boat handling, communication systems and maritime safety. So far, 377 fishermen have successfully completed the training and have been awarded Boat Driving Licences.

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12.3 Maritime Education Scholarship for Fisher Youth

Recognising the need to improve employability and create career opportunities for fisher youth, the Government is implementing a Maritime Education Scholarship Scheme to support professional education and skill development in the maritime sector.

Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs.50.00 lakh is provided annually to eligible fisher youth, with scholarship assistance of Rs.50,000/- per student, disbursed in two equal instalments at the time of admission and upon successful completion of the course.

The scholarship is available for the following maritime courses:

1. Diploma in Nautical Science
2. Diploma in Marine Engineering

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3. Deck Cadet – One-year Course leading to B.Sc. (Nautical Science)
4. Two-year Trainee Marine Engineering Course for Diploma Engineers
5. One-year Trainee Marine Engineering Course for Graduate Engineers
6. Three-year B.Sc. (Nautical Science)

In the current year, educational scholarships amounting to Rs. 50.00 lakh will be provided to students pursuing maritime education under this scheme.

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

TAFCOFED was registered on 6 November 1991 under the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983 and has been functioning since 19 October 1992, with its headquarters at

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Chennai. As the apex co-operative institution in the fisheries sector, it plays a pivotal role in strengthening fisheries co-operatives, implementing Government welfare schemes such as supply of sales tax exempted diesel, subsidized industrial kerosene, PMMSY scheme and promoting fisheries-based livelihood activities.

At present, 1,080 Marine Fishermen and Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies, 290 Inland Fisheries Co-operative Societies and 11 District Fishermen Co-operative Federations are affiliated to TAFCOFED. The Director of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare functions as the Functional Registrar of the Federation, while its day-to-day administration is carried out by an Administrator/Managing Director. TAFCOFED operates through five Project Offices located at Chennai, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Nagercoil.

13.1 Fish Retail Stalls

To provide quality fish to consumers at affordable prices while creating better marketing opportunities for fishermen, TAFCOFED operates fish retail stalls at Pazhaverkadu (Tiruvallur), Vaiyavur (Kanchipuram), Neyveli Township (Cuddalore), Ariyalur, Ramanathapuram, Paramakudi, Tirunelveli, Pettai (Tirunelveli) and Kanniyakumari.

13.2 Micro Credit to Fisherwomen

To strengthen the economic empowerment of fisherwomen, TAFCOFED launched a micro credit scheme through Joint Liability Groups (JLGs). Under the scheme, loans of Rs.5,000 per member are extended to groups of five members for undertaking fisheries-based livelihood activities such as fish marketing,

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seaweed cultivation and fish farming, with an overall project outlay of Rs.25.00 crore.

So far, 16,185 fisherwomen organised into 3,237 Joint Liability Groups and provided loans amounting to Rs.8.09 crore.

13.3 Supply of Two-Wheelers with Ice Boxes (PMMSY scheme)

To strengthen retail fish marketing and improve last-mile distribution of hygienically handled fish, TAFCOFED has been sanctioned Rs.1.59 crore for supplying 506 two-wheelers fitted with insulated ice boxes under PMMSY.

13.4 Fish Farmers Producer Organizations (FFPOs)

To promote cluster farming and market led fisheries development, TAFCOFED facilitates the formation and strengthening of Fish Farmers

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Producer Organizations (FFPOs). So far, 105 FFPOs have been formed under PMMSY and 289 Fisheries Co-operatives have been strengthened under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY). These organizations support collective input procurement, fish production, value addition, processing, branding, packaging and direct marketing of fish and fishery products. TAFCOFED also provides capacity building, financial linkage and market support to improve the income of fishers.

13.5 Ice Plants

TAFCOFED leased out five ice plants located at Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi, Colachel, Tharuvaikulam and Thengapattinam. These ice plants ensure the supply of hygienic ice for preserving the quality of fish during handling, transportation and marketing.

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13.6 Construction and Expansion of Fishing Harbours

TAFCOFED has availed a loan to the tune of Rs.600.00 crore from National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) for construction and expansion of fishing harbours at Thoothukudi, Tharuvaikulam, Colachel and Vaniyakudi under Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).

13.7 Overall Performance

During 2025-26, TAFCOFED achieved a turnover of Rs.289.72 crore and earned a net profit of Rs.4.36 crore (unaudited), reflecting its continued contribution towards the socio-economic development of members of FCS in Tamil Nadu.

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14. TAMIL NADU FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (TNFDC)

The Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited (TNFDC), established in 1974 under the Companies Act, is a State owned Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Corporation is mandated to develop sustainable business models in the fisheries sector and promote commercial fisheries in the State.

TNFDC plays a key role in demonstrating commercially viable fisheries enterprises, promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and supporting value addition across the fisheries value chain. Successful business models developed by the Corporation are disseminated to fisheries entrepreneurs and start-up groups to facilitate investment and enterprise development in the sector.

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The Corporation is administered by a Board of Directors, headed by a Chairman appointed by the Government. The Director of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare functions as the Managing Director of TNFDC. The TNFDC is implementing the Government schemes such as supply of sales tax exempted diesel, subsidized industrial kerosene, PMMSY scheme, etc.

14.1. Reservoir Fisheries Management

TNFDC manages fisheries in eight reservoirs taken on long-term lease from the Department for a period of 30 years. For the year 2025-26, 614.33 MT of fishes have been caught and the revenue of Rs.6.25 crore was realised. During the current year 2026-27 (up to July-2026), the Corporation has so far harvested 351.73 MT of fish from these reservoirs.

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14.2. Fish Seed Production and Rearing

TNFDC undertakes fish seed production and rearing at a total usable extent of 5.0 hectare fish farms located at Sathanur, Aliyar, Amaravathy, Tirumoorthy and Palar–Porandalar.

A total of 4.65 crore early fry and 1.16 crore fingerlings have been produced during the year 2025-26. During the current year 2026-27 (up to July-2026), 44 lakh early fry and 55.61 lakh fingerlings have been produced so far.

14.3. Ornamental Fish Culture and Aquarium Units

To promote ornamental fisheries and create public awareness, TNFDC operates aquariums and ornamental fish sales centres at

Chetpet Eco Park, Kolathur Ornamental Fish Trade Centre, Aliyar, Tirumoorthy and Sathanur.

For the year 2025-26, a total revenue of Rs.16.39 lakh has been earned and during 2026-27 (up to July-2026), a revenue of Rs.4.07 lakh have been generated.

14.4. Establishment of High-Quality Handline Tuna Fishermen Fish Producer Organisation (FFPO) Clusters

A Pilot scheme of "Establishment of High Quality Tuna Fishermen Fish Producer Organisation (FFPO) Clusters with Phase Change Material (PCM) Based Cold Chain Facilities" to demonstrate quality enhancement of high value handline Tuna catches by the traditional craft fishermen, with sustainability certification of handline tuna fishery to increase the international market access to substantially

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increase their value realization is being implemented at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore with 100% assistance under PMMSY.

The scheme aims at skill upgradation of fishermen in onboard handling of high value Tuna catches at sea, appropriate cold chain infrastructure such as PCM powered Fish boxes, onshore catch handling facilities with blast freezer to enhance and maintain the high quality of the handline Tuna catches to ultimately result in high value realization.

A handline tuna fishery cluster has been identified in Nagapattinam District and selected for the implementation of the Pilot scheme. Site has been identified at Tirumullaivasal Fishing Harbour and the design of shore Tuna handling facility is under preparation in consultation with overseas expert. The formation of FFPO's involving fishermen from that cluster is under

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progress, the scheme will be completed and put into use by March-2027.

14.5. Empowering Fisherwomen through Hygienic Dry fish production

A pilot project "Empowering Fisherwomen – Revitalising Dry Fish Production Using Hygienic Solar Greenhouse Clusters" to establish high quality hygienic dry fish production clusters in Tamil Nadu, involving fisherwomen dry fish producers' organizations equipped with solar greenhouse drying facilities at an estimated cost of Rs.65.00 lakh, with the funding support from Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII). The project is expected to deliver high quality dry fish with green certification to enhance the value realization of dry fish production through solar energy, improved hygiene practices and market linkages.

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The project aims to establish two technologically advanced solar greenhouse drying units, covering an area of 1,000 sq. ft. each in the Pazhayar and Poompuhar Fishing Harbour premises in Mayiladuthurai District, using Polycarbonate Sheets (600 GSM) with temperature and humidity control systems. Suitable sites have been taken over and the engineering designs have been completed and is under tender process. The project is expected to be completed during 2026-27.

14.6. Greening Marine Fisheries Initiative

To promote clean, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable fuel for fishing, the Government has launched the Greening Marine Fisheries Initiative as a pilot project in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts at a total cost of Rs.1.90 crore. The initiative aims to phase out the use of kerosene

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by converting conventional kerosene driven Outboard Motors (OBMs) to Liquid Offtake Technology (LOT)-LPG operated engines, thereby reducing fuel costs and emissions.

Under the project, 150 ICAT-certified LPG conversion kits are being supplied free of cost, 33 new LPG-operated outboard motors are being provided with a subsidy of Rs.1.50 lakh per unit, and 133 no's 19 kg LOT-LPG cylinders per fishermen will be supplied annually at a subsidised rate. So far, 14 LPG conversion kits and 2 LPG-operated OEM outboard motors are under operation in these three districts.

TNFDC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for the seamless supply of LOT-LPG cylinders and last mile connectivity. TNFDC has been appointed initially as a direct customer and will be appointed as

Non-Domestic, Non-Exempted Dealer for supplying subsidized LOT-LPG cylinders to fishermen. IOCL has also extended financial support of Rs.25.00 lakh towards implementation of the project. Initial field experience indicates a substantial reduction in fuel expenditure demonstrating the economic and environmental benefits of the initiative.

14.7. Fresh Fish Marketing

To promote domestic fish consumption and ensure the availability of fresh, hygienically handled fish to consumers, TNFDC is strengthening its retail marketing network across the State. At present, the Corporation operates 39 retail fish outlets, 14 mobile fish vending units and a central kitchen for the sale of fresh fish and value-added fish products.

For the year 2025-26, marketed 547.80 MT of fresh fish with a turnover of Rs. 14.75 crore. In addition, value-added fish products worth Rs. 51.86 lakh were sold, generating a profit of Rs. 3.15 lakh.

During 2026-27 (up to July-2026), 229.81 MT of fresh fish marketed with a turnover of Rs.5.24 crore and value added fish products worth of Rs.4.62 lakh was sold, generating a profit of Rs.2.13 lakh.

The Government envisioned to establish retail outlets for the sale of fish and fishery products across the State. These outlets will sell fresh fish and value added sea food products to enhance the domestic consumption.

14.8 *"Meengal"* Online Fish Marketing

To improve consumer access and promote digital marketing of fish and fishery products,

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TNFDC operates an online marketing platform through the "Meengal" web portal and mobile application, enabling doorstep delivery of fresh fish through an e-commerce platform. The Meengal platform is undergoing a comprehensive upgradation for the enhanced customer experience.

A total of 5,518 online deliveries has been completed with a supply of 8.20 MT of fishes valued at Rs.52.89 lakh during the year 2025-26.

So far, during the current year 2026-27 (up to July-2026), a total 1,444 online deliveries have been completed supplying 2.19 MT of fish valued at Rs.14.74 lakh.

14.9. *"e-Meen"* -A Digital Fish Market initiative

The TNFDC has initiated the "e-Meen" (e-Fish) digital fish market platform at an

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estimated cost of Rs.50.00 lakh to strengthen domestic fish auction through a transparent and technology-driven ecosystem.

The platform aims to ensure fair and remunerative price realisation for fishermen and fish farmers, expand market access, facilitate transparent price discovery and provide real-time information on fish availability, market arrivals and prevailing prices. For effective implementation, TNFDC collaborated with the National Co-operative Development Federation of India (NCDFI), to leverage its expertise in digital auction systems and National-level market integration. The platform will establish an efficient digital marketplace connecting fishermen, fish farmers, traders and consumers.

14.10. Kayal – Integrated Fish Retail Chain

The "Kayal" Project of TNFDC has been conceived to provide consumers with quality fish and fish-based products at affordable prices

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through a modern, hygienic and integrated supply chain.

The project envisages direct procurement of fish from fishermen, ensuring better price realisation by eliminating intermediaries, while maintaining stringent quality assurance and food safety standards. Based on market demand, modern retail outlets will be established across the State to market fresh, processed, ready-to-cook and value-added fish products, thereby strengthening domestic fish marketing and enhancing consumer confidence.

14.11. Wholesale Fish Market at Ukkadam, Coimbatore

TNFDC, in collaboration with the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, has established a Wholesale Fish Market at

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Ukkadam, Coimbatore, to facilitate hygienic handling and marketing of fish.

An Ice plant cum Cold storage of 10 MT has been established under the National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) at a cost of Rs.1.11 crore for cold chain management to preserve the quality and to reduce post-harvest loss. The wholesale market has been entrusted to the PE-9 Covai Fish Merchant Co-operative Society for its operation and maintenance.

14.12. Management of Chetpet Eco Park

The Sport Fishing-cum-Eco Park at Chetpet, established by the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, is operated and maintained by TNFDC, as a recreational and public awareness facility. The park has been renovated by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) at a cost of

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Rs.21.00 crore. The renovated Eco Park has been reopened to the public.

The Eco Park registered the visit of 2,20,881 visitors with a collection of Rs.76.24 lakh as entry fee during the year 2025-26. The other recreational facilities in the Eco-Park are leased out to private parties and generated an income of Rs.1.40 crore to sustain the operation and maintenance of the park.

The Eco Park attracted 81,725 visitors, generating Rs.19.02 lakh through entry fees and an additional income of Rs.1.47 crore through leasing of recreational facilities within the park generated during the year 2026-27 (up to July-2026).

14.13. Operation of Fish Feed Mill

TNFDC operates the Fish Feed Mill at Achampatti, Thanjavur District, to support Government and TNFDC fish farms with quality

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fish feed. The feed mill is undergoing renovation and upgradation at an estimated cost of Rs.1.00 crore to enhance the quantity and quality of the feed produced.

A total of 261.92 MT of fish feed has been produced during the year 2025-26, generating a revenue of Rs.120.46 lakh. So far, the mill produced and supplied 69.00 MT of fish feed, generating a revenue of Rs.20.87 lakh during the year 2026-27 (up to July-2026).

14.14. Fish Waste Management and Fish Silage Production

To promote environmentally sustainable management of fish waste and encourage value addition, TNFDC has established fish waste management (silage) units at Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi.

The fish waste management unit at Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram and

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Thoothukudi have been entrusted to women Self-Help Group for operation and maintenance. The silage units recycle fish waste generated from fishing harbours and fish markets into raw material for fish feed and organic fertiliser, thereby reducing environmental pollution, while creating additional livelihood opportunities for fisherwomen through Self-Help Groups.

14.15. Financial Performance

During 2025-26, TNFDC achieved a turnover of Rs.830.73 crore (unaudited) and earned net profit of Rs.16.87 crore, reflecting its strong financial performance and growing contribution to the commercial development of the fisheries sector.

- **TNFDC** recorded a turnover of **Rs.830.73 crore** and net profit of **Rs.16.87 crore** in **2025-26**, paying an interim dividend of **Rs.1.25 crore** and **Rs.2.01 crore** to the Welfare Board.

14.16. Contribution to the Government and Welfare Activities

In recognition of its strong financial performance, the Board of TNFDC paid an interim dividend of Rs.1.25 crore out of the

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anticipated dividend of Rs.2.50 crore to the Government of Tamil Nadu for the year 2025-26. The Corporation has also contributed Rs.2.01 crore to the Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board during 2025-26. In addition, a sum of Rs.20.09 lakh has been earmarked towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, to support welfare and developmental activities in the fisheries sector.

15. TAMIL NADU FISHERMEN WELFARE BOARD (TNFWB)

The Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board (TNFWB) was established in 2007, with the objective of providing comprehensive social security and welfare support to fishermen and workers engaged in fishing and allied activities. The Board functions as a dedicated institutional mechanism for extending financial assistance,

- The Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board was established in **2007**; the Director of Fisheries is its Member Secretary, and **4.81 lakh** members are enrolled.

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social protection and welfare benefits to the fishing community across the State.

The Board is headed by a Chairperson appointed by the Government and comprises official members representing various Government departments, along with non-official members representing fishermen and workers engaged in fishing and allied activities. The Director of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare functions as the Member Secretary of the Board. At present, 4.81 lakh fishermen and allied workers are enrolled as members.

The Board mobilises its resources through contributions from the following sources:

i. Annual membership contribution of Rs.20 per member.

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ii. Contribution of Rs.0.10 per litre of diesel sold through the diesel bunks of the TNFDC and the TAFCOFED.

iii. Contribution of Rs.0.20 per litre of sales tax-exempted diesel purchased by owners of mechanised fishing vessels from the diesel bunks operated by TNFDC and TAFCOFED.

iv. 7% of the fisheries lease amount realised from water bodies.

v. Rs.2 per kilogram of fish marketed through the Mettur Dam Fishermen Co-operative Marketing Society.

The Welfare Board funds itself from **Rs.20** annual membership, **Rs.0.10** a litre on diesel sold at **TNFDC** and **TAFCOFED** bunks, **Rs.0.20** a litre on tax-exempt diesel, 7% of fisheries lease amounts and **Rs.2** a kilogram of fish sold at Mettur.

During 2025-26, the Board mobilised Rs.5.91 crore through these contribution mechanisms. In addition, the Government sanctioned Rs.2.00 crore as Grant-in-Aid for implementation of various welfare schemes benefiting Board members.

The relief and assistance schemes administered by the Board are detailed in

Table – 4 of the annexure and the assistance disbursed during 2026-27 is furnished in Table – 5 of the annexure.

To improve service delivery and ensure transparency, member registration and processing of welfare claims are carried out through the online portal (**www.tnfwb.tn.gov.in**). Financial assistance under various welfare schemes is credited directly to beneficiaries through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

In addition to welfare assistance, the Board supports higher education for the children of fishermen by providing educational sponsorship to students admitted under the 5 percent fishermen ward quota in the Bachelor of Fisheries Science (B.F.Sc.,) and Bachelor of Fisheries Engineering (B.Tech.,) programmes offered by the constituent colleges of the

- A 5% fishermen ward quota in B.F.Sc. and B.Tech. Fisheries Engineering carries Welfare Board sponsorship - 29 students received **Rs.14.27 lakh** in **2025-26**.

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Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University. During 2025-26, educational sponsorship amounting to Rs.14.27 lakh was provided to 29 students pursuing fisheries education under this scheme.

During 2026-27, the board disbursed an amount of Rs.2.35 crore to 1,938 beneficiaries (up to July-2026) under various welfare schemes.

16. BUDGET ALLOCATION

The Government with a view of holistic and sustainable development of the fisheries sector encompassing the overall welfare of the fisherfolk, has allocated an amount of Rs.1,535.98 crore in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026–27.

- The department's allocation for **2026-27** is **Rs.1,535.98 crore**.

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Table No.7
Revised Budget Estimate (2026-27)

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Scheme Description	Revenue	Capital	Total Allocation
1.	Salaries	119.05	0	119.05
2.	Marine Relief Schemes (State Fund)	467.05	0	467.05
3.	PMMSY Schemes (Central and State shared Schemes)	150.29	0	150.29
4.	Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University	50.23	0	50.23
5.	Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation (TAFCOFED)	13.22	0	13.22
6.	Infrastructure works (State Fund)	0	35.02	35.02

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S. No	Scheme Description	Revenue	Capital	Total Allocation
7.	Infrastructure works - FIDF (Central and State shared Scheme)	0	250.00	250.00
8.	Infrastructure works - NABARD	0	450.00	450.00
9.	Infrastructure works - PMMSY Schemes	0	0.50	0.50
10.	Infrastructure - Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University	0	0.62	0.62
Total		**799.84**	**736.14**	**1535.98**

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

Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU), established on 19 June 2012 under the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University Act, 2012, is the State's premier institution dedicated to higher education, research and extension in fisheries and allied sciences. Headquartered at Nagapattinam, the University plays a pivotal role in developing skilled human resources, advancing fisheries research, promoting innovation and supporting the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in Tamil Nadu. It has been accorded 12(B) status by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The three constituent Fisheries Colleges offering Bachelor of Fisheries Science (B.F.Sc.), Master of Fisheries Science (M.F.Sc.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programmes are accredited with an 'A' grade by the Indian Council of

- The Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University was established on 19 June **2012** under the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University **Act, 2012**, headquartered at Nagapattinam.
- **TNJFU** holds **UGC** 12(B) status; its three fisheries colleges are **ICAR** 'A' grade accredited and its B.Tech, **BBA** and **MBA** programmes are **AICTE** approved.

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Agricultural Research (ICAR). The professional degree programmes, namely Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.), Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), are also approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

17.1. Vision

"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.

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17.3. Objectives

The University aims to:

i. Impart quality professional education in different branches of Fisheries Sciences as the University may determine.

ii. Conduct organised research in the frontier areas to develop cutting-edge technologies in Fisheries Sciences.

iii. Provide extension services like training, consultancy, project formulation to fish farmers, fisherfolk, unemployed youth and entrepreneurs in Fisheries Sciences.

iv. Facilitate comprehensive development of Fisheries Sciences for increased contribution to state's economy and set benchmark standards through appropriate interventions in fisheries teaching, research and extension.

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17.4. Administrative Setup

The University has its headquarters located at Nagapattinam, which holds the office of the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Director of Research, Director of Extension Education, Controller of Examinations, Director of Sustainable Aquaculture, Finance Officer and Estate Officer.

Table No - 8
Constituent Colleges

S.No	Colleges
1.	Fisheries College and Research Institute, Thoothukudi
2.	Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri
3.	Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Thalainayeru
4.	College of Fisheries Engineering, Nagapattinam
5.	Institute of Fisheries Post Graduate Studies, Vaniyanchavadi
6.	Institute of Fisheries Biotechnology, Vaniyanchavadi

- Constituent colleges: Thoothukudi, Dr. M.G.R. institutes at Ponneri and Thalainayeru, the College of Fisheries Engineering at Nagapattinam, and the Institutes of Fisheries Post Graduate Studies and Biotechnology at Vaniyanchavadi.

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S.No	Colleges
7.	Fisheries Business School, Muttukadu
8.	College of Fish Nutrition and Food Technology, Madhavaram

Table No - 9

Para-professional Institutes

S.No	Para-professional Institutes
1.	Para-professional Institute of Aquaculture, Muttukadu
2.	Para-professional Institute of Fishing Technology, Thoothukudi
3.	Para-professional Institute of FisheriesTechnology, Madhavaram

Table No - 10

Directorates

S.No	Directorates
1.	Directorate of Research, Nagapattinam
2.	Directorate of Extension Education, Nagapattinam
3.	Directorate of Sustainable Aquaculture, Nagapattinam
4.	Directorate of Incubation and Vocational Training in Aquaculture, Muttukadu

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Table No - 11
Centres for Sustainable Aquaculture

S.No	Centres
1.	Thanjavur Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Soorakkottai
2.	Kanyakumari Ganapathipuram Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Ganapathipuram
3.	Kanyakumari Parakkai Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Parakkai
4.	Erode Bhavanisagar Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Bhavanisagar
5.	Mandapam Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Seniyappa Dharga
6.	Krishnagiri Barur Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Barur
7.	Trichy Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Jeeyapuram
8.	Theni Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Periyakulam
9.	TNJFU - Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Mylaudy
10.	TNJFU - Seaweed Research Centre, Ariyaman Beach, Mandapam

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Table No - 12
Centre for Incubation and Vocational Training in Fisheries

S.No	Centres
1.	Centre for Incubation and Vocational Training in Fisheries (CIVF), Ramanathapuram
2.	Centre for Incubation and Vocational Training in Fisheries (CIVF), Thoothukudi
3.	Centre for Incubation and Vocational Training in Fisheries (CIVF), Thoothur
4.	Centre for Incubation and Vocational Training in Fisheries (CIVF),Ponneri

Table No - 13
Centre for Incubation and Vocational Training in Aquaculture

S.No	Centres
1.	Centre for Incubation and Vocational Training in Aquaculture (CIVA), Muttukadu (HQ)
2.	Centre for Incubation and Vocational Training in Aquaculture (CIVA), Kolavai
3.	Centre for Incubation and Vocational Training in Aquaculture (CIVA),Poondi

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Other Units/ Colleges

1. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) – Sikkal (Nagapattinam District)

2. Fisheries Training Centre - Chengam (Thiruvannamalai District)

3. Affiliated Private Fisheries College - St. Devasahayam Institute of Fisheries Science and Technology, Midalam (Kanniyakumari District)

All the above institutes and centres spread across 13 districts of Tamil Nadu, supporting teaching, research and extension activities throughout the State.

17.5. Academic Programmes

The University offers academic programmes under the following four faculties:

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Faculty of Fisheries Science

- Bachelor of Fisheries Science (B.F.Sc.)
- Master of Fisheries Science (M.F.Sc.)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
- Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc.)

Faculty of Basic Sciences

- Bachelor of Technology (Biotechnology)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) in Fisheries Enterprise Management
- Master of Business Administration(M.B.A.) in Fisheries Enterprise Management
- Doctor of Philosophy (Life Sciences)

Faculty of Fisheries Engineering

- Bachelor of Technology (Fisheries Engineering)
- Master of Technology (M.Tech.)

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Faculty of Food Science

- Bachelor of Technology (Food Technology)

In the current academic year, the University has admitted 363 students for UG courses, 63 students for PG courses and 41 students for doctoral studies. The overall strength of the University is currently 1,573 students.

17.6. Student Welfare and Government Support

The Government continues to support students from fishing communities through various educational assistance programmes.

During the current academic year,

- 7 students admitted under the 5 percent Fishermen Community Quota received full reimbursement of tuition and hostel fees

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through the Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board.

- 18 students secured admission under the 15 percent Fishermen Quota.
- 19 students were admitted under the 7.5 percent reservation for Government School students.

Further,

- 77 female students benefited under the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme (Pudhumai Penn).
- 39 male students benefitted under the Tamizh Pudhalvan Scheme.

The University has also been creating awareness among school students on career opportunities in fisheries.

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17.7. Convocation

The Tenth Convocation of Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University was held on 03.11.2025 in the University headquarters at Nagapattinam. A total of 512 graduates (in person and in absentia) were conferred with the degrees and 38 candidates were awarded with 86 medals in different categories, by the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu.

17.8. Infrastructure Development

The Government has significantly strengthened the infrastructure of the University.

- Students Hostel for the College of Fish Nutrition & Food Technology and Para Professional Institute of Fisheries Technology at Madhavaram, Chennai.
- Breeding and Seed Production of “Asian Seabass" (*Lates calcarifer*) for distribution

of fingerlings to the Coastal Fish Farmers of Ramanathapuram and selected Coastal districts of Tamil Nadu for livelihood enhancement.

- Development of breeding and seed production Technology of "Pacu" fish to enhance farmers income and Fish Production in Krishnagiri District.
- A Girl's hostel has been constructed and put to use at the Fisheries College and Research Institute, Thoothukudi.
- Biofloc Technology at University Campus, Nagapattinam - Student experience learning and research unit.
- Strengthening of departments and laboratories for education and research in Fisheries College and Research Institute, Thoothukudi, Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri and

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Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Thalainayeru.

17.9 Research and Development

Research, innovation and technology development form the core mandate of the University, with emphasis on addressing emerging challenges and promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

17.9.1 Ongoing Research Projects

Sixty seven externally funded research projects are currently under implementation at the University, with a cumulative budget outlay of approximately Rs.55.90 crore. Of these, 30 State-funded projects supported by agencies such as EDII, Tamil Nadu Wetland Mission, Directorate of Technical Education (Chief Minister's Research Grant), State Planning Commission (TANII) and other Government of

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Tamil Nadu initiatives are under operation with a combined allocation of Rs. 15.83 crore.

Nineteen projects funded by Central Government agencies including Department of Fisheries (Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) & Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Science and Technology - Science and Engineering Research Board (DST-SERB), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) and other national agencies are being implemented with a total funding support of Rs.38.55 crore.

Further, two international projects sponsored by United States Food and Drug

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Administration (USFDA) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are under implementation, with a total budget support of around Rs. 96.54 lakh. In addition, 17 industry sponsored projects with funding support of Rs. 69.01 lakh are also in operation.

17.9.2 Research Publications

In the year 2025, 184 research papers have been published in peer reviewed International and National Journals.

17.9.3 Collaborations and Memoranda of Understanding

Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University has signed 18 MoUs/MoA in the year 2025 with National Universities, Organisations and Industries for the purpose of collaborative research and faculty exchange. These collaborations facilitate joint research,

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technology development, student and faculty exchange programmes and capacity building.

17.9.4 Significant Research Outcomes

i. Artificial reef (ACR/FAAR) installation in the Pulicat coastal waters significantly enhanced marine biodiversity, increased fisheries productivity, improved fisher income and strengthened sustainable fisheries management through enhanced ecosystem health and community participation.
ii. Identified the spawning seasons of 200 commercially important finfish and shellfish species, with peak reproductive activity during January–March (highest in February).
iii. Developed a climate-resilient Nile tilapia strain with 5–10% faster growth and 100% survival, reducing crop duration by

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up to one month and increasing farmer income and enhanced aquaculture productivity.

iv. Developed an innovative troller fishing boat with detachable outrigger booms supporting six trolling lines and an integrated wheelhouse, significantly enhancing fishing efficiency, operational safety and harvesting of high value pelagic fish resources.

v. Under overseas funded USFDA study, established a genomic surveillance framework for shrimp pathogens by identifying high-risk farming clusters for *Vibrio* and *Salmonella* in Nagapattinam and enabling targeted biosecurity measures, rapid disease diagnosis and improved shrimp export quality.

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vi. A modern mud crab hatchery in Pazhaverkadu to support seed production, stock enhancement and crab farming.

vii. Standardized a micropropagation technique for *Kappaphycus alvarezii* and supplied tissue-cultured planting material to 30 seaweed farmers, promoting quality seed availability and sustainable seaweed cultivation in Tamil Nadu.

viii. A TNSLURB project, standardized captive breeding technology for striped murrel (*Channa striata*), achieving high breeding success, developing a larval rearing protocol and commercialized for large-scale seed production and benefiting fish farmers and entrepreneurs.

ix. Under the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (2025–26), conducted statewide aquatic animal disease surveillance, enabling early

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detection of major viral and parasitic diseases and providing timely advisories that improved farm biosecurity, disease management and reduced production losses.

x. Developed six biodegradable and biocompatible packaging films as sustainable alternatives to conventional plastics.

17.10. Industry Interaction and Knowledge Dissemination

During 2025–2026, Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU) organized several flagship conferences, workshops, melas and industry interaction programmes to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and knowledge dissemination in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Major events included the 1st and 2nd Indian Fisheries Students Innovation & Startup Conferences

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(IFSISC), which encouraged student innovation and startup development through poster presentations, prototypes and startup pitch competitions. The TNJFU Foundation Day Kisan Mela and Mega Aqua Mela 2026 strengthened farmer–scientist–industry linkages by facilitating technology transfer and addressing key issues in aquaculture. The International Workshop on Aqua Nutrition (IWAN 2026) brought together national and international experts, industry representatives and researchers, while also fostering international collaboration through an MoU with NOFIMA, Norway. In addition, the University conducted 21 workshops, webinars and awareness programmes on fisheries, aquaculture, food technology, entrepreneurship, intellectual property and sustainable resource management, benefiting students, farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs and industry professionals and reinforcing TNJFU's

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commitment to innovation, capacity building and sustainable fisheries development.

17.11. Extension Programmes

Extension education forms an integral component of the University's mandate. During the year, 6 extension projects with a total outlay of Rs.70.49 lakh were implemented through the constituent institutions of the University.

17.11.1 Entrepreneurship Development and Incubation

The University continues to promote innovation and entrepreneurship through incubation support. The constituent units of the University have successfully developed 42 startups in fisheries and agro-based value addition sectors.

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17.11.2 Laboratory and Technical Services

State Referral Laboratory for Aquatic Animal Health at Madhavaram and in Thoothukudi rendered technical services in disease diagnosis and treatment. The State Referral Laboratory for Fish Quality Monitoring and Certification at Thoothukudi offers services in testing fish quality. The State Referral Laboratory for Feed Quality Testing, Institute of Fisheries Postgraduate Studies, Vaniyanchavadi, Chennai, offers services in testing aqua feed quality and its nutritional composition. Directorate of Incubation and Vocational Training in Aquaculture, Muttukadu, offers services in feed production to the farmers and industries.

17.11.3 Capacity Building and Outreach

The University conducted 159 training programmes for 4,921 participants, covering

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aquaculture technologies (RAS, Biofloc, Aquaponics, GIF Tilapia, Seabass, Murrel, ornamental fish culture, integrated fish farming), fish/shrimp health management, seafood safety (HACCP/FoSTaC), value addition, breeding, net fabrication and allied sectors like poultry rearing and medicinal plant cultivation. Technical advisory services also reached 1,009 farmers via phone, in-person and field visits.

In the year 2025, 268 fishermen were trained and certified under the Boat Driver License Course with the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation. Mud crabs were supplied to 50 tribal fisherfolk in Pazhaverkadu, promoting crab fattening as an alternative livelihood under PMMSY.

The University's quarterly Tamil magazine, *Meenvala Sudar*, reaches 1,680 subscribers with updates on aquaculture developments and farmer success stories.

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17.11.4 Services through Krishi Vigyan Kendra

Sixty-one training programmes for farmers and farm women, 11 skill development training programmes for rural youth were conducted, benefiting 3,624 participants. Through National outreach initiatives - Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan and Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and other extension programmes, the University's KVK covered 68 villages reaching 51,752 farmers.

17.11.5. Participation in Exhibitions

TNJFU took part in 10 agriculture exhibitions including Agri-Intex exhibition at CODISSIA complex, Coimbatore, Regional Agri Expo at Tiruvannamalai, Mega Aqua Mela at TNJFU, Nagapattinam. Around 13,049 visitors have been benefitted through these exhibitions.

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17.12. Way forward

The University proposes to undertake several strategic initiatives to strengthen fisheries education, research, innovation and extension over the coming years. These include:

- Introduce new industry-relevant diploma, PG diploma & executive programmes.
- Establish strong industry linkages and partnerships to improved employability of graduates.
- Foster international collaborations for student exchange and innovative research.
- Achieve a position among the Top 30 institutions in the NIRF Rankings under the Agriculture and Allied Sectors category.
- Train the fishermen in "Marine Engine Maintenance and Safety of Fishermen at

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Sea” and certify the trainees to apply for dedicated Boat Driver License.

- Institute a "One Faculty, One Project" policy, aiming to involve up to 100% of the faculty in externally funded research projects.
- NABL accreditation of major labs and promoting research for development of patentable technology.
- Promote the Blue Economy through the valorization of fish waste into high-value products and fertilizers for sustainable waste reduction and resource efficiency.
- Develop new viable technologies and disseminate the farmers and fishers in coordination with Fisheries Dept.

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- Promoting student startups and entrepreneurs utilizing the university incubation centres.
- Establish new centre of Excellence in Advanced Aquaculture systems and fish nutrition and health.
- Production of Pacu and Seabass seeds for farming and thereby enhance fish production of the State.

18. FUTURE ROADMAP (2026–2031)

Building on the strong foundation laid through sustained investments in fisheries development, welfare, infrastructure and resource management, the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare proposes to implement a comprehensive five-year roadmap to transform Tamil Nadu into a national leader in sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and the Blue Economy. The roadmap seeks to enhance fish

- A five-year roadmap to **2031** sets out sustainable production growth, marine and coastal strengthening, infrastructure modernisation and value addition - the Blue Economy frame.

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production and productivity, improve the livelihoods of fishers and fish farmers, strengthen climate resilience, modernize fisheries infrastructure and promote value addition, while ensuring the long-term conservation of aquatic resources.

Over the next five years, the Department will focus on the following strategic priorities:

i. **Sustainable Growth of Fish Production:** Enhance inland, marine and coastal aquaculture production through scientific fisheries management, optimal utilization of water resources, expansion of aquaculture and mariculture, improved availability of quality fish seed, species diversification and adoption of modern production technologies.

ii. **Strengthening Marine and Coastal Fisheries:** Promote sustainable marine

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fisheries through resource conservation, sea ranching, artificial reefs, mariculture, climate-resilient coastal interventions and responsible fisheries management, while safeguarding the livelihoods of traditional fishing communities.

iii. Modernisation of Fisheries Infrastructure: Develop world-class fisheries infrastructure by upgrading fishing harbours, fish landing centres, Government fish farms, cold-chain facilities, fish markets and post-harvest infrastructure to improve fish quality, reduce losses and enhance market competitiveness.

iv. Welfare and Livelihood Enhancement: Further strengthen social security measures, diversify livelihood opportunities, improve skill

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development, promote entrepreneurship among fishers and fisherwomen and enhance income through value addition, improved market access and co-operative development.

v. Strengthening the Fisheries Value Chain: Promote processing, branding, certification, domestic marketing, export-oriented production and digital marketing platforms, to improve price realisation and enhance the competitiveness of Tamil Nadu's fisheries sector.

vi. Technology, Innovation and Digital Governance: Leverage modern technologies including GIS-based resource mapping, digital service delivery, scientific monitoring systems, research partnerships and innovative aquaculture practices, to support

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evidence-based planning and efficient governance.

vii. Climate Resilience and Resource Conservation: Adopt ecosystem-based management approaches by promoting sustainable fishing practices, biodiversity conservation, restoration of aquatic habitats, climate-resilient infrastructure and responsible utilisation of fisheries resources.

viii. Institutional Strengthening and Partnerships: Strengthen Fisheries Co-operative Societies, Fish Farmer Producer Organisations, TNFDC, TAFCOFED and other institutions while fostering collaboration with research organisations, academic institutions, the private sector and community-based organisations for accelerated sectoral growth.

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19. CONCLUSION

The fisheries sector occupies a pivotal position in Tamil Nadu's economy by contributing to food and nutritional security, rural employment, export earnings and the livelihoods of millions of marine and inland fishing communities. The sector has witnessed steady progress through sustained investments in fisheries infrastructure, scientific resource management, technology adoption, conservation initiatives and comprehensive welfare measures, enabling inclusive growth and improved socio-economic outcomes for fishermen and fish farmers.

Recognising the immense potential of marine fisheries, inland fisheries, aquaculture and the Blue Economy, the Government of Tamil Nadu remains committed to pursuing a balanced approach that integrates economic development with environmental sustainability.

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Over the next five years, the Department will focus on enhancing fish production and productivity through scientific management of fisheries resources, expansion of inland aquaculture, mariculture and seaweed farming, promotion of value addition and export-oriented fisheries, strengthening of fisheries infrastructure, adoption of advanced technologies and digital governance and improved research, extension and capacity building.

The Government will continue to accord the highest priority to the welfare, safety and livelihood security of fishermen and fish farmers by strengthening social security measures, protecting the traditional fishing rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen, enhancing climate resilience and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, particularly for fisherwomen and fisher youth. Simultaneously, greater emphasis

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will be placed on strengthening the conservation and sustainable management of marine and inland fisheries resources through the effective implementation and enforcement of relevant Acts, Rules and Regulations, ensuring responsible fishing practices and the long-term sustainability of aquatic ecosystems.

With a clear strategic roadmap for the next five years, the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare will continue to work in close partnership with fishing communities, research institutions, co-operatives, industry and other stakeholders to build a resilient, technology driven and globally competitive fisheries sector. These concerted efforts will contribute significantly to increasing fish production, improving livelihoods, strengthening food and nutritional security, expanding the Blue Economy and advancing Tamil Nadu's vision of inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient development.

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ANNEXURE

Table - 1
Financial Assistance to marine fishers under various Government welfare schemes in 2025-26

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Scheme	No. of beneficiaries	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Fishing ban relief assistance to fishermen families (2026-27)	1,87,218	149.77
2.	Special allowance to fishermen families during lean fishing period	1,90,661	114.39
3.	Savings cum Relief scheme for marine fishermen	2,00,252	59.78

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Sl. No.	Scheme	No. of beneficiaries	Amount Sanctioned
4.	Savings cum Relief scheme for marine fisherwomen	1,95,240	58.18
5.	Supply of sales tax exempted diesel to Mechanized Fishing Boats (MFB) and motorized Country Crafts (CC)	MFB - 4,293 Nos. CC - 12,698 Nos.	261.95
6.	Supply of subsidised Industrial kerosene to fishing crafts	6,997 crafts	85.78
Total			**729.85**

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Table – 2

Marine Infrastructure facilities

Categories	Fishing Harbours / Fish Landing Centres
Major Fishing Harbours – 11 Nos.	1. Chennai, Chennai District 2. Poompuhar, Mayiladuthurai District 3. Tharangambadi, Mayiladuthurai District 4. Nagapattinam, Nagapattinam District 5. Mookaiyur, Ramanathapuram District 6. Thoothukudi, Thoothukudi District 7. Chinnamuttom, Kanniyakumari District 8. Muttom,Kanniyakumari District 9. Colachel, Kanniyakumari District 10. Thengapattinam, Kanniyakumari District 11. Tiruvottiyur, Chennai District

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Medium Fishing Harbours – 4 Nos.	1. Cuddalore, Cuddalore District 2. Pazhayar, Mayiladuthurai District, 3. Nambiyar Nagar, Nagapattinam District 4. Mallipattinam, Thanjavur District
Fishing Harbours under construction – 5 Nos.	1. Vellapallam, Nagapattinam District 2. Arcottuthurai, Nagapattinam District 3. Samanthanpettai, Nagapattinam District 4. Tharuvaikulam, Thoothukudi District 5. Vaniyakudi, Kanniyakumari District
Fishing Harbours under Modernization – 3 Nos.	1. Thoothukudi, Thoothukudi District 2. Thengapattinam, Kanniyakumari District 3. Colachel, Kanniyakumari District
Fish Landing Centres	149

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Table - 3
Infrastructure works sanctioned and under implementation for the financial year 2025-26

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Works	No. of Works	Estimate Amount
1.	Fishing Harbour	3	332.50
2.	Modernization of Fishing Harbour	2	300.00
3.	Fish Landing Centre	30	135.50
4.	Modernization of Fish Landing Centre	19	227.09
5.	Government Fish Farms	4	6.19
6.	River training wall	1	21.83
7.	Dredging Bar mouth/ Channel	5	23.99
8.	Shore Protection Works - Groynes / RMS Wall	6	110.38
9.	Restoration of break waters	1	3.70
Total		**71**	**1161.18**

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Table – 4

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) Loss of one hand or one leg	1,00,000
	f) Total and irrecoverable loss of sight in both eyes	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 fishermen while fishing	2,00,000
4.	Natural Death	25,000
5.	Funeral Expenses	2,500

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6.	Educational Assistance to son and daughter of the Members	Day scholar		Hosteller	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	10th Std Pass	1,250	1,500	-	-
	12th 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

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Table - 5

Relief/Assistances disbursed by TNFWB during 2026-27

(01.04.2026 to 31.07.2026)

(Rs.in lakh)

Sl. No.	Relief/ Assistance	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount
1.	Accident Death	49	98.00
2.	Accidental Disability	3	3.00
3.	Death while fishing or immediately thereafter not due to accident	2	4.00
4.	Missing fisherman while fishing	2	4.00
5.	Natural Death	364	90.80

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Sl. No.	Relief/ Assistance	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount
6.	Funeral Expenses	390	9.75
7.	Educational Assistance	1089	24.04
8.	Marriage Assistance	39	1.63
Total		**1938**	**235.22**

A. Srinath
Minister for Fisheries -
Fishermen Welfare

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Thiru A. Srinath, upon assuming office as the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare, met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the Secretariat and received his best wishes.



Review meeting on the schemes and activities of the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare was held at the Secretariat on 14.07.2026, presided over by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.



An event to distribute relief assistance for the fishing ban period to West coast fishermen and welfare assistance to fishers was held in Kanniyakumari district on 08.06.2026. The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare, Thiru A. Srinath, disbursed the welfare assistance to the fishers.



The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare, Thiru A. Srinath, inspected the ongoing development projects undertaken by the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare in Kanniyakumari district and heard the grievances of the fishers on 08.06.2026.



The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare, Thiru A. Srinath, distributed outboard motors at subsidized rate to traditional country craft fishermen in Mandapam, Ramanathapuram on 09.06.2026.



The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare, Thiru A. Srinath, interacted with fisherwomen engaged in seaweed farming in Mandapam, Ramanathapuram on 09.06.2026.



The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare, Thiru A. Srinath, chaired a review meeting regarding departmental schemes and activities at the Directorate of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare on 12.06.2026.



The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare, Thiru A. Srinath, laid the foundation stone for a new fuel outlet to be established by the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation at Thiruvottiyur Tuna Fishing Harbour on 15.06.2026.



The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare, Thiru A. Srinath, distributed various welfare assistance to fishers and fish farmers during the "National Fish Farmers Day" celebrations held at the Directorate of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare on 10.07.2026.



The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare, Thiru A. Srinath, inaugurated the newly constructed girls' hostel at the Fisheries College and Research Institute, Thoothukudi on 01.08.2026.

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