



Baluchistan offers substantial scope for fish production

Baluchistan fish catch is increasing under the provincial government's strategy to meet growing domestic demand and export earnings.

Pakistan is rich both in the marine as well as inland fisheries resources. While marine fishing is done in the coastal areas of Sindh and Baluchistan, the inland resources consist of rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs, dhands, dhoras, sluices, water-logged areas and village ponds.

Marine fisheries account for about 59% of the total production, including both fish and shrimps. In this context shrimps account for only 15% of the pro-

duction; yet, they are of much significance due mainly to their value and demand in foreign markets. As for inland fisheries, it forms 41% of the total production.

In 2012, Baluchistan produced 146,000 tonnes of fish from 144,000 tonnes in 2011. The increase in fish catch to more efficient employment of 7,000 plus fishing boats, use of better fishing nets and hard work of fishermen. Total fish production increased from 640 thousand tonnes in 2007 to 719 thousand tonnes in 2012, thus showing increase of 27% as given in Table 1.

Sea-cat fish, Hair-tail fish, Indian Mackerel, Sardines, Small Croaker and the most sought-after Tuna are the main fish species found in Baluchistan. In 2012 their cumulative catch they made up about 50% of the total fish production in the province.

More than three dozen species of fish and shell fish including shrimp and lobsters are netted in on regular basis from eight main landing sites along the coastal areas including those of Gwadar and Pasni. Improved security and brisk operational activities at Gwadar Port by the new government continue to facilitate

**Table-1: Fish Production
(000' Tonnes)**

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Baluchistan	Pakistan
2007					
Inland	85.0	135	12.0	18.0	250.0
Marine	--	250.0	--	140.0	390.0
Total	85.0	385.0	12.0	158.0	640.0
2008					
Inland	85.0	120.0	3.0	--	208.0
Marine	--	339.0	--	138.0	477.0
Total	85.0	459.0	3.0	138.0	685.0
2009					
Inland	85.5	125.0	4.0	--	214.5
Marine	--	340.0	--	140.0	480.0
Total	85.5	465.0	4.0	140.0	694.5
2010					
Inland	86.2	128	5.0	--	219.2
Marine	--	342	--	143.0	485.0
Total	86.2	470.	5.0	143.0	704.2
2011					
Inland	88.4	131.0	6.0	--	225.4
Marine	--	343.0	--	144.0	487.0
Total	88.4	474.0	6.0	144.0	712.4
2012					
Inland	90.0	132	6.0	--	228.0
Marine	--	345	--	146	491.0
Total	90.0	477	6.0	146	719.0

Source: Marine Fisheries Department, Karachi.

Exclusive on Baluchistan

fishing at these two sites. Fish catch from there during the current year is also on the rise. In 2012, fish catch from Pasni and Gwadar was about 45% of the total fish production in Baluchistan.

Fishing activities at six other main landing sites (Damb, Gaddani, Jiwani, Ormara, Pishukan and Surbandar) are also progressing well and they hope that overall 2013 fish haul in the province would easily cross 150,000-tonne mark. About 10% of total fish catch of Baluchistan is consumed within the province, another 10%-20% finds its way into Karachi's main fish markets and the remaining 70%-80% is exported.

Karachi and Mekran are being the most important fishing ports. Fishing industry has about 3,026 trawlers and 13,000 fishing vessels. The total marine fishing fleet includes about 3,026 shrimp trawlers and about 3,408 gill netters. Other fishing boats are mainly motor-cum-sail boats with outboard engines. Province wise fishing crafts are given in Table 2.



Baluchistan provincial authorities state that on the one hand they are taking measures to enhance marine fish resource and on the other hand, they are also trying to promote farm fish production, both through existing sources and by facilitating establishment of new fish farms.

Marine fish catch can be improved by augmenting fishing boats, training fishermen on best practices of maximizing per-visit fish haul, improving on-boat

preservation of fish and investing in fishing nets and gears.

Pakistan has a domestic and an international market for fish, shrimps and fish products. At the domestic level, the catch from marine fisheries is supplied to the local fish markets; frozen or processed fish is supplied to only a few large departmental stores in some cities. The per capita consumption is only 2 kg p.a. On an international level, Pakistan has a good market for fish and fish products. About 30% to 40% of the total fish catch is exported to 30 countries of the world.

Pakistan exports considerable quantities of fish and fish preparations to China and Middle Eastern countries, where it is very popular.

Export of fish and fish preparations decreased from US \$ 320 million in 2011-12 to US \$ 318 million in 2012-13. If the growth trend is sustained, profit-making fishing companies would likely invest in areas like marine fish hauling and fish farming. ♦

Table 2: Fishing Crafts

(Number)

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Baluchistan	Pakistan
2011					
Inland					
Sail boats	6450	2760	--	--	9210
Row boats	490	1612	201	--	2303
Mech.-cum-Sail boat:	575	--	90	--	665
Marine					
Sail boats	--	6404	--	40	6444
Trawlers	--	3010	--	--	3010
Gill netters	--	2670	--	1645	4315
Mech.Sail boats	--	4560	--	4655	9215
Row boats	--	--	--	--	--
2012					
Inland					
Sail boats	6486	2810	--	--	9296
Row boats	502	1705	223	--	2430
Mech.-cum-Sail boat:	587	--	98	--	685
Marine					
Sail boats	--	6502	--	48	6550
Trawlers	--	3026	--	--	3026
Gill netters	--	1710	--	1698	3408
Mech.Sail boats	--	4632	--	4690	9322
Row boats	--	--	--	--	--

Source: Marine Fisheries Department, Karachi.