



FISHERY RESOURCES IN RATNAGIRI DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

Dr. Mrs. N. D. Kashid-Patil,

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Shri Shahaji Chh. Mahavidyalaya, Kolhapur. E-Mail: kashidpatilnd@gmail.com

Dr. D. L. Kashid-Patil,

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Shri Shahaji Chh. Mahavidyalaya, Kolhapur. E-Mail: kashidpatildl@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Fishery activity is one of the major economic activity providing livelihood opportunities to large number of people of Ratnagiri district. The present paper has attempted to find out fishery resources in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra State. The secondary data is used for the purpose of analysis and interpretation. Fishing is a significant activity in the Ratnagiri district. Marine fishery is carried out 167 km. Ratnagiri coast has rich variety of fish. Distribution of fish production is varies from tahsil to tahsil.

INTRODUCTION

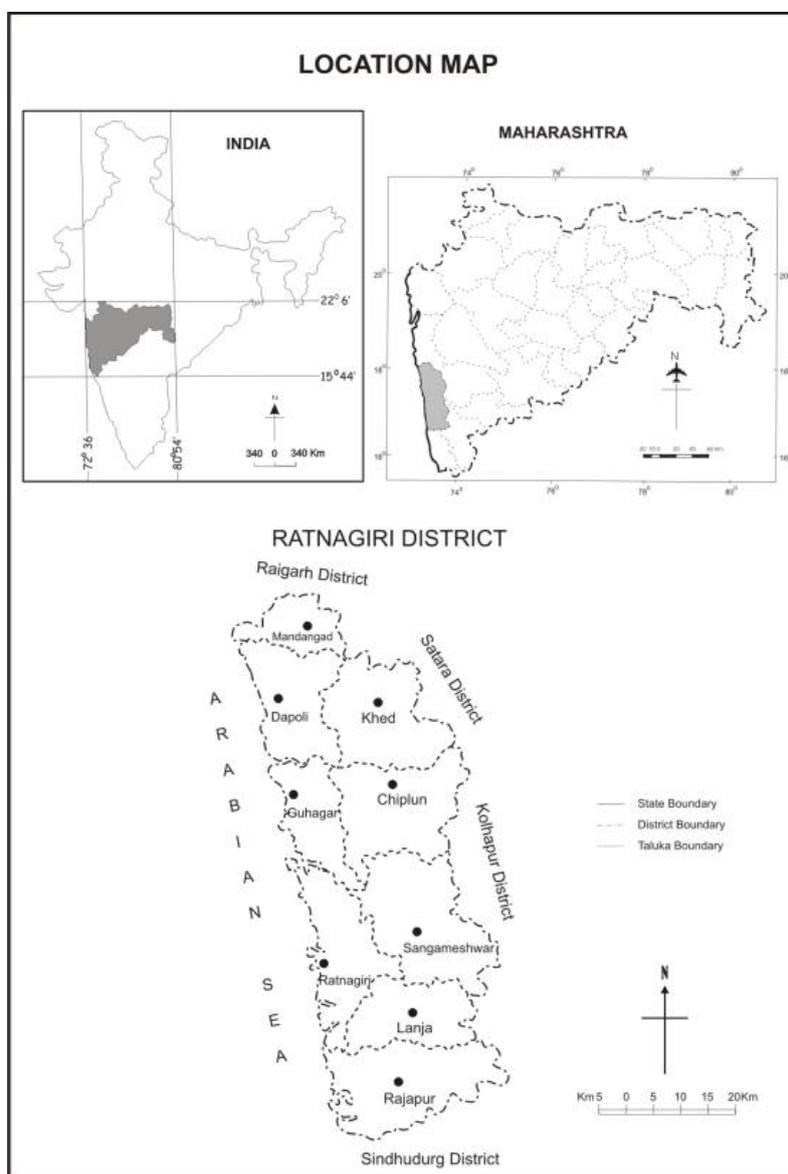
Any programme of development of a region has to be based, among other things on the availability of required resources in that region. If the region possesses a good number of resources industrialization is accelerated. But it is also true that development, if it has to be sustained over a long period, should primarily depend on the availability of a number of resources such as agricultural, horticultural, forest, mineral, marine, water, animal husbandry, power, mineral and human resources.

Ratnagiri is located in western coast of Maharashtra called the Konkan region. There are five maritime districts in Maharashtra viz. Thane, Greater Mumbai, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg from where the fishing vessels operate. At present there are 184 fish landing centres in the five maritime districts of Maharashtra. However, there are only three harbours namely Sassoon Docks, New Ferry Wharf and Mirkarwada which have properly constructed permanent facilities for fish landings. The first two harbours are in the Greater Mumbai District under the direct control of the Mumbai Port Trust while the third one is in Ratnagiri District which has been constructed by the state fisheries department under the centrally sponsored scheme. The district of Ratnagiri is known for its long coast line and convenient harbours, together with its comparative nearness to the Arabian Coast.

STUDY REGION

The district lies on the western coast of India. Geographically Ratnagiri district extends between 16°30' to 18°04' north latitude and 73°02' to 73°52' east longitude. The total geographical area of the district is 8249 sq.km. The district stands twenty-second (2.7%) in terms of area in the Maharashtra State. The district has a north south length of about 180 km and east-west extension of 64 km. It has a coast line of 167 km. The total population of the

district was 1696777 with 8 towns and 1519 villages as per 2011 Census. There are nine tahsils in Ratnagiri District. The study region is western part of Maharashtra bounded by Raigad district in the north, Arabian sea in the west, Sindhudurg district in the south and Sahyadri hills in the east. Beyond the Sahyadri hills Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur districts are located (fig. 1.1). The total rural population of the study region is 1504568 and the urban population is 192209 in 2011.



OBJECTIVE

The present paper has attempted

1. To understand the fishery resource in Ratnagiri district.
2. To assess the distribution of fish production in the study area.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The Secondary data is used for the purpose of analysis and interpretation. The secondary data are referred from District census Handbook, Socio-economic Abstract of



Ratnagiri district and fishery department of Ratnagiri. The data collected have been computed by recent research techniques and the results were brought through maps and diagrams.

The importance of fishery as a source of relative cheap protein food particularly for economically underdeveloped countries like our where per capita consumption of protein is much below the desired level cannot be over emphasized. Besides, it provides a source of livelihood to a number of people and sound base for the development of a few industries. From this view point fishing is a significant activity in the Ratnagiri, having a coastline of about 167 kms.

Ratnagiri district is one of the most important maritime districts of the State with the coastal belt extending to about 167 kms. Fishing industry in the district is mainly dependent upon the exploitation of marine resources. The Konkan coast has a rich variety of fish. Ghol, Wagli, Wam, Pomfret, Shingala, Ravas, Karel, Tambusa, Dori, Chand, Surmai, Palu and Bombay Duck are important types of fish which are found along the Ratnagiri coast. Besides, variety of mackerel (cornax) like Surmai, Palu, Bangda are found in the Ratnagiri, Dapoli and Rajapur tahsils while prawns, edible crabs and lobsters are common all along the district coast. Oysters are found at Harnai, Jaitapur, Vijaydurg, creeks of Ratnagiri, Jaitapur, possess large oyster beds. But important characteristics is that many species of the above mentioned fish are heterogeneous in catch which is main handicap to their economic and industrial development. However, some of the species that is prawns, Sardines, mackerel and shark are homogeneous in catch which is significant from the view point of fish canning, fish meal and oil extraction industries. Prawn processing is carried out in a big scale which has a great demand abroad. Besides this, shell fisheries are also exploited in a number of creeks, backwaters, and estuaries along the coast. Fishing season commences from September and lasts till the end of May. During the monsoon season, fishing activity practically comes to a halt except in the creeks.

Mirkarwada harbour in Ratnagiri town is a major fish landing and assembling centre of the Ratnagiri District whereas Rajiwada is the satellite landing centre in Ratnagiri town. The major fish landings of the Mirkarwada comprise Bombay duck, croakers, ribbonfishes, cat fishes, carangids, mackerel, pomfrets, penaeid and non-penaeid prawns and cephalopods. Mirkarwada fishery harbour has been constructed by the State Government under the centrally sponsored scheme at Ratnagiri. This is the only harbour taken up by the State Government with assistance from Government of India.

For marine fishing the area of operation (the fishing ground) limited to the 100 fathoms line is known as the continental Shelf because beyond 100 fathom line continental shelf falls steeply into the deep sea plain. It is believed by marine biologist that fishing is commercially possible only within the continental shelf which is wide on the northside and towards the south it is narrower. However though the fishing grounds off the Ratnagiri district coast are comparatively narrow, they are favorable for deep sea fishing and they yield certain fish that is homogeneous in catch.

Inland fisheries of the Ratnagiri district which yield hardly 0.09% of the total fish production is mostly carried on in the rainy season that is from June to August when the fishermen do not venture to enter into the sea. This obviously reveals that inland fisheries of

the Ratnagiri district as compared to marine fisheries is less developed. The main reason that lies behind it is short rapid and seasonal characteristics of the Ratnagiri's rivers.

The district has 595 km of long network of inland waterways. Among the seven rivers/ creeks originating from the western ghats and meeting the Arabian Sea, the Shavirti, Vashithi and Shastri are medium size rivers in order to navigation. Around forty villages are involved in inland fishing. Besides being sanctuaries for the estuarine fisheries the river afford potential 875hectares. The production of inland fisheries has 24.30 metric tonnes (only 1%) in 2012-13. The inland fish production Lanja tahsil stands first while Chiplun stand second. Lanja and Chiplun has large production of inland fisheries due to the comparatively larger area suitable for fish culture as well as length of river suitable for fishing and availability of larger market for fish in surrounding urban centres.

Table 1.1
Fishery in Ratnagiri District

Sr. No.	Tahsils	Length of coast line in kms	Fishing Villages in nos	Fish Landing Centres in nos
1	Ratnagiri	56	40	19
2	Guhagar	38	19	11
3	Dapoli	35	15	8
4	Mandangad	20	5	1
5	Khed	-	-	-
6	Chiplun	-	1	-
7	Sangameshwar	-	2	-
8	Lanja	-	-	-
9	Rajapur	18	17	4
	District	167	99	43

Source :- Director, Fishery Department, Ratnagiri & Mumbai.

Table 1.1 indicates that the highest fish landing centres (19) are recorded in Ratnagiri tahsil and the lowest number (1) is found in Mandangad tahsil. In Ratnagiri district the people of nine tahsils i.e.99 villages along the coast are engaged in extraction and development of marine fisheries. There are 43 fish landing centres. Major section of the fisherman families of 14064 from the district is engaged in marine fisheries. In order to increase the fish production, mechanization has been introduced on a large scale and there are about 2015 mechanized fishing trawlers operating in the region. Besides there are 49 motorized country crafts and 796 non motorized crafts are engaged in fishing activities in Ratnagiri district. Fishery related infrastructure is good in Ratnagiri district. There are 18 ice factories, 4 cold storages, 4 freezing plants, 4 processing plants and 6 fish meal plants. Several techniques are used both in inland and marine fishing activities. Fishing is carried out with the help of gill nets, long lines, sieve nets, Bag nets and Cast nets. Besides this some fishing activities are taken up in the drains of Khazan lands i.e. Prawn farming fish culture etc. There are various techniques adopted for marine fisheries.

Table 1.2
Marine Fish Production in Ratnagiri District

Sr. No	Tahsils	(2008-09)		(2010-11)		(2011-12)		(2012-13)	
		Production in M. Tonnes	In %						
1	Ratnagiri	39593	54.74	64507	67.48	52110	58.92	49675	56.64
2	Guhagar	6932	9.58	5185	5.42	11061	12.50	9642	10.99
3	Dapoli	16534	22.86	10679	11.17	12430	14.05	12697	14.47
4	Mandangad	854	1.18	920	0.96	549	0.62	1144	1.30
5	Khed	-		-		-		-	
6	Chiplun	-		-		-		-	
7	Sangameshwar	-		-		-		-	
8	Lanja	-		-		-		-	
9	Rajapur	8405	11.62	14299	14.95	12288	13.89	14532	16.57
	District	72318	100	95590	100	88438	100	87690	100

Source :- Director, Fishery Department, Ratnagiri & Socio-Economic Abstract of Ratnagiri District 2014.

Table 1.2 shows that the highest percentage of marine fish production 56.64percent was recorded in Ratnagiri district and the lowest percentage of marine fish production 1.30 percent was found in Mandangad tahsil in 2012-13. In Ratnagiri district annual average production of marine fish is about 72318 metric tones in 2008-09 and 87690 metric tonnes in 2012-13 which accounts about 99% of the total fish production. Distribution of fish production in Ratnagiri district varies from tahsil to tahsil. About highest marine fish production of the Ratnagiri district comes from Ratnagiri tahsil. Rajapur, Dapoli and Guhagar these three tahsils are very significant from the view point of fish production which accounts respectively 16.57%, 14.47% and 10.99% of the total marine fish production of the district in 2012-13.

The community as well as the government is not yet geared to make changes in traditional pattern, evolve it further for sustained development. Education in the field is very minimal and the use of modern technology is very selective and limited to operations. Especially the efficiency of design for conservatiof diesel as fuel for boats, cold storage facilities and use of energy efficient methods of transportation are lacking. Information resources such as meteorological information, availability of fish through satellite imaging techniques, storm warning systems are largely lacking. Government schemes provide subsidy support for diesel, financial support to buy boats, cold storage and market development but its impact at the implementation level has not been effective. There is large scope for purposeful and useful intervention in the sector for long term sustainability of this activity and needs urgent attention. Participation of local city government in the activity is very minimal. Potential for such engagement is both necessary and useful for the city and the community.

REFERENCES

1. District Census Handbook of Ratnagiri(2011)
2. Economic Survey of Maharashtra, 2009-10.
3. Ratnagiri District Gazetteer, (2001) Government of Maharashtra,
4. Socio Economic Abstract of Ratnagiri District, 2013.



5. Marine Census Report (2010), Central Marine Fisheries Research Centre, Cochin, India
6. Marine Fisheries Information Service (1998), Central Marine Fisheries Research Centre, Cochin, India
7. 'Marine Fishery Resource Development of Goa', -D.M. Jakati, A.A. Mulimani & Prakash Morkar, The Goa Geographer, The Research Journal of Geographer's Association Goa , Vol. VI No.1 Dec. 2009.
8. Governance Challenges for Fishing Activity in Ratnagiri Town - Project
9. State Fisheries Department Website, Government of Maharashtra