

Fishing Industry

Fishing: fishing is 1 of the oldest occupations. With the progress of civilization, fishing communities started breeding fish called fish farming/aquaculture & there are many fish farms inland using man-made rectangular ponds & protected areas in rivers & lakes. Pakistan earns 6% of its total foreign exchange earnings by exporting fish, shrimps & fish. 125,000 people out of 395,000 are engaged in marine fishing/fishing in sea Sindh & Makran Coast, & 270,000 persons are engaged in inland fishing/fishing in freshwater. The marine catch is nearly 3x that of the inland catch.

Fish waste is used to make fertilizers & poultry feed.

Fish is used as food supply, a delicious, nutritious white meat. Preferred as a low cholesterol diet.

Oil extracted from fish provides a source of nutrition (Vitamin A & D).

Fishing Areas & Methods:

Marine Fishing: 2 coasts; Sindh & Makran coast. Mangrove trees, which are breeding grounds for fish & shrimps, grow in the mouths of the tributaries of the Indus & Hub deltas. Sonmiani & Jiwani are villages on Makran Coast. Gwadar is the most important fishing port on this coast. It is improving with an ice factory, refrigeration plants & modern fish curing yards.

Types of marine catch: Sharks, Croakers, Drums, Cat Fish.

2 types:

Subsistent Fishing: is when the fisherman & his family consume fish they catch. Use of conventional techniques like traditional net, small, wooden sailboat (doesn't travel far). The fish caught is also nominal & not a permanent income.

Commercial Fishing: is when the fish is sold in the market. A number of fishing communities depend on fishing as the sole source of their income.

- Numerous creeks, sheltered harbors & wider continental shelf than Makran Coast.
- Indus Delta is rich in fish food & has better export & processing facilities.

In commercial fishing new techniques are also used. Gill-netters & mechanized boats (50-60km). Government has made Korangi fish harbor where storage & packing facilities are.

Inland Fishing: is practiced in lakes, dams, rivers etc.

Types of inland catch: Rahu, Palla, Thalla, Trout.

Fish Farm: are rectangular man-made ponds for breeding of fish. They have a concrete/cemented impervious base to prevent water losses through leakage. The side of the farm is edged with solidified mud. Trees are normally planted around the fish farms to provide oxygen, to minimize water losses through evaporation & to keep the water body cool. This facilitates the growth & fertilization of fish.



A fish farmer has to take care of food, medicine, & breeding requirements of fish. Fish farming can be combined with livestock/poultry farming. The use of animal waste to fertilize fishponds leads to greater fish yield, as the manure provides active nutrients for fish. Poultry droppings also serve as an excellent fertilizer for fishponds. They are rich in highly soluble inorganic salts & promote the growth of plankton,

which is natural food for fish. Cattle, poultry & ducks can be raised on the embankments or in the vicinity of ponds. Moreover, fish waste is used for making poultry feed. The joint farming operation requires little space, low capital investment & gives quick returns.

Feasibility of Developing Fisheries as an Important Economic Activity in Gwadar.

Fishing Season: May-September which is fish breeding season.

Fish Species: Mackerel, Herring, Sardines, Drums, Catfish, Croakers & Shrimps.

Fishing Techniques: Nets, Nylon ropes, Floats & Winches. Big boats stay for 5-15 days.

Fish Processing at Gwadar: initially was salting & drying but then an ice factory in 1970. 16 ice factories are present in the district and fish canning is also done.

Fish Marketing: Packed in Karachi & exported to Sri-Lanka, China & Korea. Fish is marketed in 3 ways:

1. Some businessmen from Karachi or foreign countries buy fish in the open sea to avoid paying port charges.
2. Most fish is auctioned at fish harbors like Gwadar & Pasni from where businessmen send it to Karachi & the neighboring districts.
3. A proportion of the total catch is marketed locally.

The Government's efforts to develop the Fishing Industry:

A project of the Gwadar Fish harbor cum mini-port was completed to provide facilities like ice-factories & cold storage. One harbor was constructed at Pasni with assistance of the Asian Development Bank.

Future Projects: fishing is a family skill at Gwadar so the local population could be given training on modern fishing techniques to increase the catch of fish. Boat-making is an advancing industry of the district. The craftsmen are trained as apprentices.

Government's efforts to develop Fisheries:

- Introduction of new fishing methods.
- The development of value-added products by providing fish-processing facilities.
- Guidance & weather information of forecast.
- Development products by Marine Fisheries Department (MFD).

Fish Marketing or how you sell fish:

Local fish markets through wholesale dealers, street hawkers provide door-to-door service & department stores. The per capita consumption is 1.6kg p.a.

The expected Socio-economic Benefits of developing fish farming.

- Great return to fishermen & increase in employment.
- Use of technology & up-grading of skills will ensure increased fish production.
- Favorable impact on foreign exchange & reduces burden on crops/livestocks.
- Reduces burden upon BOP.

Problems of the Fishing Industry:

Water Pollution: spillage of oil from the ships & domestic & industrial waste. Chemical fertilizers that are washed out into rivers from soil & may be carcinogenic to skin. Extensive use of chemical fertilizers & pesticides in agriculture.

Over fishing: Over fishing of shrimps in breeding season limits its production.

Threat to Mangroves: protects coastlines from high-low tides. They are breeding ground for fish and can't thrive in polluted sea-water.

Lack of financial resources: No initial investment by government to develop fishing industry on modern lines & is done on traditional lines. Pakistan faces restrictions by developed countries on export. Unreliable income from export & low profits from fishing industry also decrease investment & keep production low.

Sustainable Fisheries: balanced & effective measures should be taken to ensure that fish populations are capable of growing & are accessible to future ages. Factors responsible for low performance of sector are:

- Over-fishing & catching baby fish.
- Use of illegal nets & destruction of mangroves.
- Water pollution resulting in fish extinction.

The government should develop sustainability by:

- Not allowing foreign trawlers to operate in the Arabian Sea under Pakistan.
- Implement the laws of banning illegal nets having small holes that catch baby fish.
- Maintain ecological balance by enforcement of laws against cutting of mangroves.

The development of fisheries on sustainable lines could result in:

- The provision of more white meat.
- An increase in employment opportunities.
- Increase in foreign exchange.
- The training & education of fishermen.
- The development of industries.
- An improvement in infrastructure facilities.

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