



Two New Species of Eels

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Recently, two new species of Marine Eels have been discovered by Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC) of the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**.

- One of them, a short brown un-patterned Moray Eel, named **Gymnothorax andamanensis**, is found near the south Andaman coast.
10 species of short brown unpatterned moray eels have been discovered in the world, out of which **two were found in Indian waters**.
- Another is a new white-spotted Moray Eel, now named **Gymnothorax smithi**.

Moray Eels

- Moray Eels occur in **all tropical and subtropical seas**, they live in shallow water among reefs and rocks.
- They are known for **two types of jaws**: one is regular (oral) jaws with big teeth and the second jaw is called the pharyngeal jaw (which drags prey inside the eels stomach).
- There **IUCN red list** status is **Least Concern**.

Zoological Survey of India

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a subordinate organization of the **Ministry of Environment and Forests** was **established in 1916**.
- It is a national centre for **faunistic survey** and exploration of the resources leading to the **advancement of knowledge** on the exceptionally **rich faunal diversity of the country**.
- It has its headquarters at **Kolkata** and 16 regional stations located in different geographic locations of the country.

Source: TH