



Sea Ranching Initiative to Boost Marine Fisheries

Source: TH

The Kerala Fisheries Department launched a **sea ranching project** off Thiruvananthapuram, with 10 lakh **pompano and cobia fingerlings (marine fish species)** to be released at 10 coastal locations to replenish **marine fishery resources and support sustainable fishing**.

- Sea ranching, or ocean ranching, is a type of **fish farming where juvenile fish are released into the ocean** to grow naturally without protection or assistance before being harvested.
- The project follows the **artificial reef initiative** under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, aimed at enhancing **marine biodiversity**.
 - **Artificial reefs** deployed at **42 locations** in Thiruvananthapuram have attracted various fish species like tuna, trevally, and mackerel.
- Future phases of the project propose expanding artificial reefs to **96 villages** in Kerala.
- PMMSY was launched by the Department of Fisheries; Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying; to bring about **ecologically healthy, economically viable, and socially inclusive development** of the fisheries sector of India.

Objectives of PMMSY

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- > Harness the potential of the fisheries sector in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner
- > Enhance fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification and productive utilization of land and water
- > Modernize and strengthen the value chain including post-harvest management and quality improvement
- > Double fishers and fish farmers' incomes and generate meaningful employment
- > Enhance the contribution of the fisheries sector to Agricultural GVA and exports
- > Ensure social, physical and economic security for fishers and fish farmers
- > Build a robust fisheries management and regulatory framework

Targets of PMMSY

Fish Production and Productivity

- Increasing fish production to 22 million metric tons by 2024-25 from 13.75 million metric tons in 2018-19.
- Enhancing aquaculture productivity to 5 tons per hectare from the current national average of 3 tons.
- Augmenting domestic fish consumption from 5 kg to 12 kg per capita.

Economic Value Addition

- Increasing contribution of fisheries sector to the Agriculture GVA to about 9% by 2024-25 from 7.28% in 2018-19.
- Doubling export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crores by 2024-25 from Rs.46,589 crores in 2018-19.
- Facilitating private investment and growth of entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector.
- Reduction of post-harvest losses from the reported 20-25% to about 10%.

Enhancing Income and Employment Generation

- Generating 55 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities along the value chain.
- Doubling the incomes of fishers and fish farmers.

Read more: [Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana](#)

