



Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023

For Prelims: Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, Coastal Aquaculture Authority, [Seaweed](#), [Polluter Pays Principle](#), [Antibiotics](#), [Estuaries](#)

For Mains: Major Provisions Related to Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

The **Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, recently passed by Parliament. These amendments seek to **address ambiguities, streamline administrative processes, and integrate emerging aquaculture practices.**

What is the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005?

- **Coastal aquaculture** refers to the practice of cultivating and rearing aquatic organisms, such as fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants, in **marine or brackish water environments along the coastlines or in estuaries.**
 - The Act is about creating a special organization, called the **Coastal Aquaculture Authority**, to control and manage the activities related to raising seafood in areas near the coast.
- According to the Act, the government has the duty to take actions to make sure that **coastal aquaculture is done in a way that doesn't harm the environment.**

What are the Major Provisions Related to Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023?

- **Expanding the Scope of Coastal Aquaculture Activities:**
 - **Broaden Definition of Coastal Aquaculture:** The amendments aims to **bring all coastal aquaculture activities under the purview of the Act**, removing **ambiguities between different aspects of coastal aquaculture.**
 - **Inclusion of Emerging Aquaculture Practices:** The amendments acknowledge the **evolution of environmentally friendly aquaculture** practices beyond shrimp farming, incorporating methods like **cage culture**, [seaweed culture](#), marine ornamental fish culture, and more.
 - These practices align with the evolving landscape and offer substantial revenue and employment opportunities for coastal communities.
- **Facilitating Aquaculture Units within the No Development Zone (NDZ):** Establishments like **hatcheries, Broodstock multiplication centers (BMC), and Nucleus Breeding Centres (NBC)** are now permitted to operate within **200 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL).**

- The amendment aims to address **previous uncertainties arising from the interpretation of Section 13(8) of the original CAA Act of 2005**, which had **excluded coastal aquaculture from CRZ regulations**.
- **Simplifying Regulatory Processes and Encouraging Ease of Doing Business:**
 - **Modification of Registration:** The amendments replace the **stringent provision of imprisonment with civil penalties** for unregistered coastal aquaculture activities.
 - This shift towards civil instruments aligns with modern regulatory practices.
 - **Operational Flexibility:** The amendments introduce *provisions for modifying certificates of registration* in case of changes in ownership or activity size.
 - Additionally, they empower the **Coastal Aquaculture Authority to condone delays in renewal applications with a compounded fee**, enhancing administrative flexibility.
- **Environmental Protection and Compliance:**
 - **Standards for Emission and Effluents:** The amendments empower the Coastal Aquaculture Authority to establish **standards for emission or discharge of effluents from aquaculture units**, holding owners accountable for adhering to these standards.
 - **Polluter Pays Principle:** The amendments uphold the '[Polluter Pays Principle](#),' mandating **aquaculture unit owners to bear the cost of any environment-related damage** or demolition assessed by the Authority.
 - **Prohibition in Ecologically Sensitive Areas:** The amendments prohibit coastal aquaculture activities in **ecologically sensitive areas or areas with significant geomorphological features**, enhancing protection for vulnerable ecosystems.
- **Advancing Disease Prevention and Sustainable Practices:**
 - **Antibiotic-Free Aquaculture:** By explicitly **prohibiting the use of [antibiotics](#) and pharmacologically active substances**, the amendments prioritize the health of aquatic ecosystems and promote environmentally conscious practices.

What is the Status of Coastal Aquaculture in India?

- India has a coastline of about **7,517 km**, and a **vast potential for coastal aquaculture development**. The major coastal aquaculture species in India are **shrimp, fish, crab, oyster, mussel, seaweed, and pearl**.
 - Over the past **9 years**, shrimp production in India surged by **267%**.
- The nation's seafood exports experienced a doubling effect, **surging from Rs 30,213 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 63,969 crore in 2022-23**.
 - Notably, the major portion of these exports is attributed to shrimp.
- Key coastal states such as **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu** played a significant role in propelling the **expansion of coastal aquaculture shrimp production and subsequent exports**.

Conclusion

The **Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, enhances India's aquaculture sector by **clarifying regulations, promoting sustainable practices, and safeguarding the environment**. This aligns with **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)** and underscores India's commitment to responsible economic growth and ecological well-being.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Which one of the following regions of India has a combination of mangrove forest, evergreen forest and deciduous forest? (2015)

- (a) North Coastal Andhra Pradesh
- (b) South-West Bengal
- (c) Southern Saurashtra
- (d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Ans: (d)

Mains:

Q. Defining blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India. (2018)

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