

WORLD FISHERIES DAY

The World Fisheries Day is celebrated on the 21st November. India's riverine fisheries support over 10 million people by providing livelihoods as well as nutrition.

India is the world's largest producer of inland fish. Our bias in favour of selected species like *Katla and Rohu*, however, has led, relatively speaking, to the neglect of documentation and research on the great variety of fish that we have in India as a component of its overall biodiversity. Not just that, we do not have authentic and full record of riverine fish catch and its trends. The effects of introduction of the above species in a variety of water bodies, construction of dams, pollution, soil erosion etc. on indigenous species' populations and their dynamics are also still some major neglected areas. With the Forest Rights Act 2006 having recognized the "forest rights" in the forest areas on fish also in favour of the Forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers, the need for conservation of fish, specially local species, becomes still more important.

An effort is being made by the Forest Department of Maharashtra in association with the Modern College, Pune to document 50 wild fishes of Western Ghats giving their identification, conservation status, and strategies for sustainability. The book will be published in Dec. 2015.