

UNIT 5

FISHING INDUSTRY

Fishing is the activity of catching fish. Techniques for catching fish include hand gathering, spearing, netting, angling and trapping.

The term fishing may be applied to catching other aquatic animals. The term is not normally applied to catching aquatic mammals, such as whales, where the term whaling is more appropriate, or to farmed fish. In addition to providing food, modern fishing is also a recreational pastime.

With a coastline of 814 km, Pakistan is rich in fishery resources that remain to be fully developed. Almost the entire population of the coastal areas of Sindh and Baluchistan depends on fisheries for its livelihood.

To exploit potential fishery resources, the government has undertaken such projects as construction of a modern harbor for fishing vessels at Karachi, procurement of diesel-powered vessels, establishment of cold storage and marketing facilities, export of frozen shrimp, and encouragement of cooperative fish-marketing societies. An aquaculture project financed by the Asian Development Bank and the EU aimed to increase the annual fish catch and to promote prawn farming.

KEY POINTS:

Introduction:

- Fishing is one of the oldest occupations for people who live near lakes, rivers and the sea.
- With the progress of civilization fishing communities started breeding fish.
- This is called fish farming or aquaculture.
- In Pakistan there are many fish farms inland using man made **rectangular ponds** as well as using protected areas in rivers and lakes.
- Marine fishing now includes some modern developments in the processing and exporting of the catch.
- Fishing industry has a share of 0.9 % in Pakistan's GDP.
- Pakistan earns **6 %** of its total foreign exchange earnings by exporting fish, shrimps and fish products.
- Fishing is the main occupation in the coastal settlements of Sindh and Baluchistan.
- The total number employed in fishing is 395000. Out of which 125000 (**31.6%**) are engaged in marine fishing and 270000 persons (**68.4%**) in inland fishing. But the marine catch is nearly three times that of the inland catch.

Fishing Areas and methods:

Marine Fishing:

- Pakistan has a coastline divided into Sindh (30%) and the Makran(70%) coasts.
- In Sindh Karachi is the main fishing centre.
- On the Makran coast fishing ports are small, often no more than villages like **Sonmiani** and **Jiwani**. **Gwader** is the most important fishing port on this coast. Gwader besides Ormara and Pasni is being developed as a fishing centre by providing improved facilities such as Ice factory, refrigeration plants and modern fish curing yards.

Types of Marine Fishing:

1: Subsistence fishing:

- In subsistence fishing fisherman and his family consume the fish they catch.
- Fish is the main component of their diet that lives on coastal areas.
- Subsistence fishermen uses conventional techniques like the traditional net, a small wooden sail boat which does not travel far out to sea.



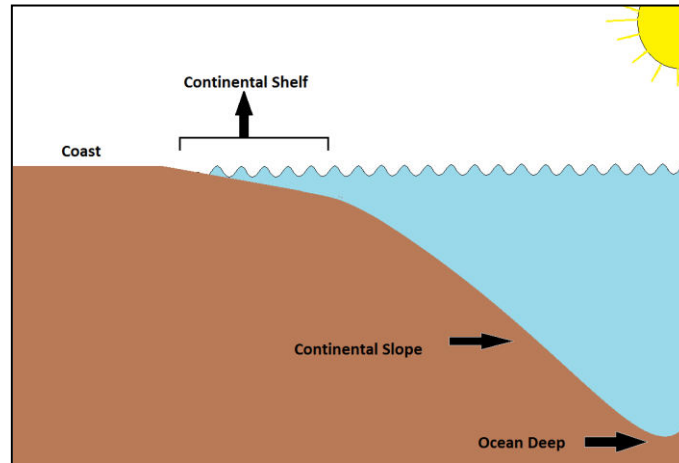
2:Commercial fishing:



- In commercial fishing fish is sold in the market.
- Fishing communities depend on fishing as the sole source of their income.
- 68 % of the total marine catch is at Sindh coast.
- Sindh coast is more developed because it has numerous creeks, sheltered harbors and a wide shallow sea beyond.



- It has a wider continental shelf than the Makran coast.
- The Indus delta is rich in fish food much of which is brought down to the delta by the river Indus.
- It has better export and processing facilities.
- In commercial fishing the gill netters and mechanized boats have made it possible to fish 50-60km from the coast in deep sea water.
- In Karachi the government has developed the Korangi fish harbor where storage and packing facilities are available to fisherman.



Types of Marine Catch:

- Sharks
- Drums
- Croakers
- Cat Fish
- Skates
- Rays

Inland Fishing:

- Inland fishing is practiced in almost all the rivers and lakes in the country.
- The large reservoirs behind Dams, the lakes of Sindh and irrigation channels are all utilized for fish farming.
- Dug ponds have also been made for this purpose.

Fish Farm:

- Fish farms are rectangular man made ponds for breeding of fish.
- They have a concrete or cemented impervious base to prevent water losses through leakage.
- The side of the farm is edged with solidified mud.
- Trees are planted around the fish farms to keep the water cool.



Main Fishing Center:

- Manchar Lake in Dadu district.
- Kairi (Keenjhar) Lake north of Thatta.
- Haleji Lake west of Thatta.
- Reservoirs of Mangla and Terbela Dams.
- River Indus at Sukkar, Kotri and Thatta.

Types of inland fish:

- Manaseer
- Palla
- Thalla
- Rahu
- Trout

Fish Marketing:

- Pakistan has a domestic and an international market for fish, shrimps and fish products.
- At the domestic level the catch from marine fisheries is supplied to the local fish markets through wholesale dealers.
- Karachi is the main fishing centre where street hawkers also buy some of the fish catch and provide a door to door service.
- Frozen or processed fish is supplied to only a few large departmental stores in urban areas because people prefer to buy fresh fish and prawns rather than the processed ones.
- However the local demand for fish is less than its catch.
- The per capita consumption is 1.6 kg p.a, which is quite low as compared to the European countries where it is 20 kg p.a.
- About 30% of the total fish catch is exported to 30 countries of the world.
- Japan is the main market for fish and shrimps.
- USA, UK and France are other markets.
- About 80 % of the total fish catch of the Makran coast is dried for export to the Middle East.

Sustainable Fishing

- Fishing of endangered species of fish must be banned to allow stocks to recover
- Nets with certain size of holes be used to avoid by catch of smaller fish
- Illegal fishing must be stopped as they do not conform to rules and regulations. Like they catch smaller and immature fish to maximize profits, unfortunately they can't breed so stocks are destroyed
- Quotas must be set for countries in international water

