

Capture Fisheries of India

1. POMFRET FISHERY

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Pomfrets are distributed at depth up to 150 m all along the coast of India; however, bulk of their catch comes from Gujarat and Maharashtra in the northwest and Orissa in the northeast coasts. Silver pomfret, Chinese pomfret/white pomfret and black pomfret are the three prominent varieties of pomfrets. They are **Perciforme** fishes belonging to the family **Stromateidae (Bramidae)**. Several species of Pomfrets are recognized as delicious and high priced table fishes, both in India and abroad '**Monchong**' is a famous Hawaiian cuisine prepared from Pomfrets. They are globally distributed particularly in High Seas.

Pomfrets represents one of the prominent groups of demersal fishery (species distributed from the seafloor to a distance of 5 m depth above). North-east coast displays a dominance of sciaenids and catfishes along with pomfrets. They contribute around 2% of total marine landings in India. Drift gillnets (mesh size 14-155 mm) are used to catch adult pomfrets while *dol* nets are employed to essentially exploit juveniles in northwest coast.

As pomfret fishery witnessed a collapse in 1990s, stringent regulations have been pressed for responsible pomfret fishing. Young ones of pomfret display a shoreward vertical migration up the estuaries. However, deeper waters (22-37m) are preferred for profitable pomfret fishing.

Pomfret



- **Scientific classification**
- Kingdom : [Animalia](#)
- Phylum : [Chordata](#)
- Class : [Actinopterygii](#)
- Order : [Perciformes](#)
- Suborder : [Percoidei](#)
- Superfamily : [Percoidea](#)
- Family : **Bramidae**

Distribution: They are found in the [Atlantic](#), [Indian](#), and [Pacific Oceans](#), and the largest species, the [Atlantic pomfret](#), *Brama brama*, grows up to 1 metre (3.3 ft)

1. *Pampus argentius* (Silver Pomfret)
2. *Pampus Chinensis* (Chinese Pomfret)
3. *Parastomateus Niger* (Black Pomfret)

Fishing areas : Bombay coasts, Versora, Veraval, Etc.

Fishing Seasons : From Sept. to January – Peak Season Oct-Dec.

Crafts&Gears : Main Net used “Dol” (Bag net)

Several species are important food fish, especially *Brama brama* in south [Asia](#). The earlier form of the pomfret's name was *pamflet*, a word which probably ultimately comes from [Portuguese](#) *pampo*, referring to various fish such as the blue butterfish ([Stromateus fiatola](#))