

Table S1: Inland fisheries resources in the states along the Ganga River in the year 2020-21.

State	Rivers & Canals (km)	Small reservoirs		Medium & large reservoirs		Tanks & Ponds (ha)	Brackish water (ha)	Beels/ Oxbow lakes/ Derelict water (ha)	Other
		No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)				
Uttarakhand	2,686	0	0	7	20,587	879.79	0	0	50
Uttar Pradesh	39,545.13	53	12,899.59	29	132,655	172,859	0	12,034.15	0
Bihar	21,300	0	0	37	26,304	93,218	0	9,50,000	0
Jharkhand	1,800	412	28,789.6	23	104,363	79,010	0	0	19,936
West Bengal	2,526	52	28,050	0	0	263,372	210,000	42,082	26,925
Total	67857.13	517	69739.19	96	283909	609338.79	210000	1004116.15	46911
India	280,751.115	12906	754,832.81	504	2,045,250.46	2,448,368.61	1,066,968.96	1,355,060.33	920,390.71

Source: Fisheries Statistics Division, 2023.

Table S2: National legislations governing discarded plastic fishing nets

Ministry	Policy or legislative tool	Focus	Provision of reduction or minimizing plastic pollution	Provision for addressing ALDFG	Ways to Reduce /Minimize Pollution	Plastic Pollution with respect to Aquatic Species/ Water Quality	Recycle Plastic	Buy Back/Subsidies / Circular economy
Constitution of India, 1950		Conservation and Regulation	No	No	Art.21 Right to life include pollution free environment.	Art.21 Right to life include pollution free environment.	No	No
Ministry of Law and Justice	Indian Penal Code, 1860	Regulation	No	No	Sec.277 Fouling water of public spring or reservoir.	No	No	No
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974	Regulation	Yes	No	Sec. 25. Restrictions on new outlets and new discharges in water bodies. Sec. 26. Provision regarding existing discharge of sewage or trade effluent in water bodies.	Sec. 24 Prohibition on use of stream or well for disposal of polluting matter, etc.	No	No

	Environment (Protection) Act, 1986	Conservation and Regulation	No	No	Sec. 7. Persons carrying on industry, operation, etc., not to allow emission or discharge of environmental pollutants in excess of the standards	Sec. 3 Power of Central Government to take measures to protect and improve environment	No	No
	Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016	Regulation	Yes	No	Sec. 5 (b) Use of plastic waste which cannot be further recycled for road construction.	No	SEC. 5 (a) plastic waste, should be recycled.	Sec. 9 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
	Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022	Regulation	Yes	No	Sec. 9. Imposition of environmental compensation.	No	Sec. 7(b) Obligation for recycling.	Sec. 7 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	National Fisheries Policy, 2020	Ecological and economic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Indian Fisheries act, 1897	Regulation	No	No	Sec. 6 Prohibit fixed engines or nets erected or used in contravention of the rule.	Sec. 4 & 5. Prohibit destruction of fish by explosives & poisoning waters.	No	No

Table S3: States legislations governing discarded plastic fishing nets along the Ganga River

Governance level	Ministry	Policy or legislative tool	Focus	Provision of reduction or minimizin g plastic pollution	Provision for addressing the issue of ALDFG	Ways to Reduce /Minimize Pollution	Plastic Pollution w.r.t Aquatic Species/ Water Quality	Recycle Plastic	Buy Back/Sub sidies/ Circular economy
Uttarakhand	Department of Fisheries	The Uttarakhand Fisheries Act, 2003	Economic and Regulation	No	No	Sec. 3(3)(c) Prohibit pollution of waters by trade effluents.	Sec. 6 & 7. Prohibit destruction of fish by explosives & poisoning waters.	No	No
Uttar Pradesh	Fisheries Department	The U.P. Fisheries Act, 1948	Protection, Conservation and Development	No	No	Sec.3(3)(b)Prohibit using any substance likely to cause pollution of water.	Sec.3(3)(b)Prohibit destruction of fish by explosive substance or poisoning.	No	No
Bihar	Department of Fisheries	The Bihar Fish Jalkar Management Act, 2006.	Development and Regulation	No	No	No	Sec. 13(v) Use of dynamite or explosives, poison and poisonous chemicals for fishing shall be prohibited.	No	No
Jharkhand		No Act enacted	No Act enacted	No Act enacted	No Act enacted	No Act enacted	No Act enacted	No Act enacte d	No Act enacted

West Bengal	Department of Fisheries	The West Bengal Inland Fisheries Act, 1984	Conservation, development, propagation, protection	No	No	Sec. 6 No person shall discharge into any flowing water or any confined water area any industrial waste, sewage or other polluting substance.	Sec.5 Prohibit destruction of fish by explosive substance or poisoning.	No	No
-------------	-------------------------	--	--	----	----	---	---	----	----

References

- Government of India. (1860). Indian Penal Code. Retrieved from <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/4219/1/THE-INDIAN-PENAL-CODE-1860.pdf>. Accessed on November 15, 2023.
- Government of India. (1897). Indian Fisheries Act. Retrieved from https://www.indiacode.nic.in/repealed-act/repealed_act_documents/A1897-4.pdf. Accessed on November 15, 2023.
- Government of India. (1950). Constitution of India. Retrieved from https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/15240/1/constitution_of_india.pdf. Accessed on November 15, 2023.
- Government of India. (1974). Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. Retrieved from <https://ddashboard.legislative.gov.in/actsofparliamentfromtheyear/water-prevention-and-control-pollution-act-1974>. Accessed on November 15, 2023.
- Government of India. (1986). Environment (Protection) Act. Retrieved from <https://ddashboard.legislative.gov.in/actsofparliamentfromtheyear/environment-protection-act-1986>. Accessed on November 15, 2023.
- Government of India. (2016). Plastic Waste Management Rules. Retrieved from <https://cpcb.nic.in/rules-4/>. Accessed on November 15, 2023.
- Government of India. (2020). National Fisheries Policy. Retrieved from https://dof.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-12/Policy_0.pdf. Accessed on November 15, 2023.
- Government of India. (2022). Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules. Retrieved from <https://cpcb.nic.in/uploads/plasticwaste/2-amendment-pwmrules-2022.pdf>. Accessed on November 15, 2023.
- Government of Uttar Pradesh. (1948). The U.P. Fisheries Act. Retrieved from <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/17107/1/fishriesactfinal1.pdf>. Accessed on November 15, 2023.
- Government of Uttarakhand. (2003). The Uttarakhand Fisheries Act. Retrieved from https://fisheries.uk.gov.in/files/Acts/Fisheries_Act.pdf. Accessed on November 15, 2023.
- Government of West Bengal. (1984). The West Bengal Inland Fisheries Act. Retrieved from <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/14470/1/1984-25.pdf>. Accessed on November 15, 2023.