

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

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
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