

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in news?

To counter the trade ban, the fisheries sector in India eyes new markets with the global Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification.

- **MSC certification** - It is a program for **wild-capture fisheries** that meet an international standard for sustainable fishing.
- It is also known as an ecolabel, which is **voluntary** and ensures sustainability in the sector.
- **Objective** - To ensure fishery is well-managed and responsibly harvested to sustain fish stocks and the marine environment.
- Certified products carry the **blue MSC ecolabel**, assuring consumers that the seafood is traceable and comes from a sustainable source.
- **Based on** - The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's
 - Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing; and
 - Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries.
- **Assessment** - MSC Certification assesses a fishery by an independent, third-party certifier against the **3 principles** - Stock health, Environmental impacts and Effective management.
- **Validity** - The certification is valid for **5 years**, but it is subject to **annual surveillance audits**.
- **Development** - It is developed in consultation with a range of people and organizations around the world, including government, academics, researchers, the fishing industry and NGOs.
- At present, 20% of global fisheries are MSC certified.
- In India, the **Ashtamudi clam** (*Paphia malabarica*) was India's 1st MSC certified fishery, and now it has lapsed, looked for reapply.
- **Significance** - MSC certified products often fetch a price premium of up to 30% in international markets, boosting India's seafood export potential and helping India overcome trade barriers in global markets.

Quick Facts

Status of India's Fisheries Sector

- **Production Growth** - Total fish production reached 195 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, a 104% increase from 96 lakh tonnes in 2013-14.
- **Inland Fisheries Dominance** - Inland fisheries saw a 142% expansion, contributing over 75% of the total output and transforming rural areas.
- **Global Standing** - India is the world's **2nd largest** fish producer, with around 8% of global fish output.

References

1. [The Hindu | Eco-friendly labelling of fisheries](#)
2. [PIB | India's Fisheries at a Glance](#)

