

## Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

**Prelims** - *Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development.*

### Why in News?

*Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is often seen in news when India imposes a monsoon fishing ban.*

- **Total Allowable Catch (TAC)** - It is a regulatory limit on the total quantity of fish that can be harvested from a specific water body or region.
- It is typically imposed by government agencies and international bodies with jurisdiction over fisheries or fish stocks in seas, oceans, lakes, and other water bodies.

### Ecological Importance

- **Population sustainability** - It helps to maintain a minimum fish population size that allows species to reproduce and sustain themselves over time.
- **Preventing overfishing** - Without TAC limits, excessive fishing can deplete populations beyond their ability to recover naturally.
- **Ecosystem balance** - Maintaining healthy fish stocks supports broader marine ecosystem health and biodiversity.

### Implementation in India

- **Seasonal fishing ban** - India implements a complete fishing ban (effectively a TAC of zero) for **61 days annually** in the exclusive economic zone.
- **Regional timing** - The ban operates from April 15 to June 14 on the **east coast** and June 1 to July 31 on the **west coast**.

### International Dispute

- **Patagonian toothfish case** - It is the dispute involving the US and Russia.
- Since 2021, Russia has refused to accept the TAC for Patagonian toothfish in the South Atlantic Ocean established by the Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.
- The rejection forced all other countries on the Commission to set their own limits.
- The UK subsequently adopted a lower TAC for the Patagonian toothfish in the area.

### Reference

[The Hindu| Total Allowable Catch \(TAC\)](#)



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*