Estuarine fish diversity of Tamil Nadu, India

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Systematic and updated checklist of estuarine fishes contains 330 species distributed under 205 genera, 95 families, 23 orders and two classes. The most diverse order was perciformes with 175 species, 100 genera and 43 families. The top four families with the highest number of species were gobidae (28 species), carangidae (23 species), engraulidae (15 species) and lutjanidae (14 species). Conservation status of all taxa includes one species as endangered, five species as vulnerable, 14 near threatened, 93 least concern and 16 data deficient. As numbers of commercial, sports, ornamental and cultivable fishes are high, commercial and recreational fishing could be organized. Seed production by selective breeding is recommended for aquaculture practices in estuarine areas of Tamil Nadu.

[Keywords: Estuarine fishes, updated checklist, fishery and conservation status, Tamil Nadu]

Introduction

The total estuarine area of Tamil Nadu was estimated to be 56000 ha, which accounts 3.88 % of the total estuarine area of India 1. The estuaries and brackish water wetlands in Tamil Nadu were Adyar, Agnai, Alangkulam, Ambuliayar, Araniar, Arasalar, Athankarai, Coleroon, Cooum, Edaiyur-Sadras, Ennore, Gadilum, Giriyampeta, Gulf of Mannar lagoon, Gundar, Hanumanadhi, Kaliveli lagoon, Kallar, Kanjirankudi, Karumendiayar (Manapadu), Kaveri, Kollidam, Kottakarayar, Kuduvaiyar, Manakudy, Manimuttar, Muthupet lagoon, Muttukadu backwaters, Muttukadu lagoon, Nambyayar, Nandalar, Palayakayal, Pambar, Pantri, Pazhayar, Pichavaram, Ponnaiyar, Pulicat lake (South) lagoon, Pullavazi, Punnakayal, Sayalkudi, Thengapattinam, Thirumullavayasal, Uppanar, Uppar, Vaigai, Vaipar, Valliyar, Velankanni, Vellar, Vembar, Vennar, Vetar and Yedayanthittu 2.

Estuaries being a dynamic ecosystem provide diverse habitat for the proliferation of diadromous and estuarine resident fish species to complete their life cycle 3. They also form a significant component of coastal ecosystem due to their immense biodiversity values in aquatic ecology. The fish fauna inhabiting the estuarine ecosystems of Tamil Nadu are diverse and fairly well known. Significant contributions to systematics of estuarine fish fauna of Tamil Nadu were made 4-18. Since publication of these pioneering works, numerous changes in taxonomy and/or systematic placement of species took place and a comprehensive review on the entire estuarine fish fauna of Tamil Nadu is not available now. The list of species presented earlier by many authors is updated by inclusion of all species of estuarine fishes now known to occur in the Tamil Nadu.

Material and Methods

Estuarine fish fauna of Tamil Nadu was compiled 4-18. Thirteen brackish water wetlands under nine estuarine ecosystems of Tamil Nadu explored for fish biodiversity assessment (Fig. 1). The records and nomenclature have been updated, listing and classification of estuarine fish species of Tamil Nadu carried out based on Catalog of Fishes 19, 20.
Details on the occurrence of fishes in the estuaries of Tamil Nadu, habitat, maximum size and fisheries status of listed species were obtained by retrieving species level information from the published literatures 4-18, FishBase 21 and with selected field observations. Information on the conservation status of all taxa in this paper was retrieved from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), whose underlying assessments are based on the IUCN Red List Categories and criteria (Version 2017-1) accessed from 15 to 19 July 2017 22.

Results

The comprehensive checklist of estuarine fishes of Tamil Nadu includes a total of 330 different species, which were distributed among 205 genera, 95 families, 23 orders and two classes (Table 2). Among these, 123 species were marine cum brackish, 88 were marine cum freshwater cum brackish, 78 were marine, 35 were freshwater cum brackish and the remaining six species were freshwater (Table 1). Under the class elasmobranchii, nine species were recorded representing five orders, seven families and nine genera (Table 2).

Under the class actinopteri, the most diverse order was perciformes which includes 175 species, 100 genera and 43 families. The second most diverse order was the clupeiformes with 32 species, 15 genera and five families (Table 1). Top four families with diverse species composition were gobidae (28 species), carangidae (23 species), engraulidae (15 species) and lutjanidae (14 species) (Fig. 2).

There are 54 estuarine wetlands known from Tamil Nadu of which 13 estuarine wetlands explored in detail for fish biodiversity assessment (Fig. 1). Two hundred species of fishes recorded from Coleroon, Pichavaram, Vellar, Parangipettai, estuarine complex (E3) in Cuddalore district, 145 species of fishes from Pulicat lake (E2) in Thiruvallur district, 91 species of fishes from Manakudy estuary (E7) in Kanyakumari district, 77 species of fishes from Punnakayal estuary (E8) in Thoothukudi district, 72 species of fishes from Yedanyantittu estuary (E4) in Villupuram district, 53 species of fishes from Adyar estuarine complex (E1) in Chennai corporation, 40 species of fishes from Kaliveli floodplain and Uppukalli creek (E9) in Pondicherry, 18 species of fishes from Muthupet estuary (E5) in Thiruvarur district and six species of fishes from Arasalar estuary (E6) in Tanjore district (Table 1).

A consolidated list of estuarine fishes of Tamil Nadu comprises of 273 species worth for capture fishery, 79 species worth for sports fishery, 66 species worth for ornamental fishery and 55 species worth for aquaculture (Table 1). The primary analysis of the threat status of estuarine fishes of Tamil Nadu revealed one species under Endangered (EN) category facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild, five species are under Vulnerable (VU) category facing a high risk of extinction in the wild, 14 species are under Near Threatened (NT) category is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future, 93 species are under Least Concern (LC) category included in widespread and abundant taxa, 16 species are under Data Deficient (DD) category and 201 species has not yet been evaluated against the IUCN Red list criteria (Table 1). The overall aim of IUCN Red List is to convey urgency and scale of conservation problem to public and policy makers and to motivate the global community to reduce species extinction.
Fig. 2. Family wise representation of estuarine fishes of Tamil Nadu, India
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxa</th>
<th>Occurrence of fishes in Estuaries of Tamil Nadu</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Maximum size (TL)</th>
<th>Fishery Status</th>
<th>IUCN Status</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E1</td>
<td>E2</td>
<td>E3</td>
<td>E4</td>
<td>E5</td>
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<td>Taxa</td>
<td>Occurrence of fishes in Estuaries of Tamil Nadu</td>
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<td>IUCN Status</td>
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<td>Capture</td>
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<td>(Hamilton, 1822)</td>
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<td>Bascanichthys deraniyagali</td>
<td>(Menon, 1961)</td>
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<td>LC</td>
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<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
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<td>40.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
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<td>Cynops rostratus</td>
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<td>Capture</td>
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<tr>
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MOGALEKAR et al.: ESTUARINE FISH DIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU, INDIA
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<td>8.0 cm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family: Carangidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alectis ciliaris (Bloch, 1787)</td>
<td>- + + - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>150 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>10, 14, 15, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alectis indica (Rüppell, 1830)</td>
<td>- + + - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>165 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 10, 14, 15, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alectis djeada (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>- - + - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>40.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alectis kleinii (Bloch, 1793)</td>
<td>+ + + + - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>16.0 cm FL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>7, 10, 12, 15, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atule mate (Cuvier, 1833)</td>
<td>- - - + - + -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carangoides chrysophrys (Cuvier, 1833)</td>
<td>- - + - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>72.0 cm FL</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carangoides coeruleopinnatus (Rüppell, 1830)</td>
<td>- - + - - + + + -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>41.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carangoides ferdau (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>- - - + - + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>70.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carangoides malabaricus (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
<td>- - + - + - + + + + -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>60.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>8, 10, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carangoides praeustus (Bennett, 1830)</td>
<td>- + + + - + -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>25.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caranx heberi (Bennett, 1830)</td>
<td>- + + + - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>88.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 10, 15, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caranx ignobilis (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>+ + + + + - +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>170 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 10, 11, 12, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caranx sexfasciatus Quoy &amp; Gaimard, 1825</td>
<td>+ + + + - + + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>120 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxa</td>
<td>Occurrence of fishes in Estuaries of Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Maximum size (TL)</td>
<td>Fishery Status</td>
<td>IUCN Status</td>
<td>References</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caranx tille Cuvier, 1833</td>
<td>E1: +, E2: -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>80.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parastromates niger (Bloch, 1795)</td>
<td>E3: -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>75.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 15, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scomberoides commersonsonianus Lacepède, 1801</td>
<td>E4: -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>120 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scomberoides tala (Cuvier, 1832)</td>
<td>E5: -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>70.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scomberoides tel (Cuvier, 1832)</td>
<td>E6: -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>60.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 11, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trachinotus africanaus Smith, 1967</td>
<td>E7: -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>92.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trachinotus blochii (Lacepède, 1801)</td>
<td>E8: -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>110 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trachinotus bota (Shaw, 1803)</td>
<td>E9: -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>75.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trachurus novaezelandiae Richardson, 1843</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>50.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uraspis helvola (Forster, 1801)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>58.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Cepolidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acanthocepola abbreviata (Valenciennes, 1835)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Channidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channa punctata (Bloch, 1793)</td>
<td>E1: -</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>31.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>7, 8, 9, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channa striata (Bloch, 1793)</td>
<td>E2: +, E3: -</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>100.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Cichilidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etoplus maculatus (Bloch, 1795)</td>
<td>E1: -</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>8.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etoplus suratensis (Bloch, 1790)</td>
<td>E2: +, E3: +</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>40.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oreochromis mossambicus (Peters, 1852)</td>
<td>E4: +, E5: +</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>39.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oreochromis niloticus (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>E6: +, E7: -</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>60.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Drepanidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drepane punctata (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>E1: +, E2: -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>50.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 6, 10, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Echeneidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remora brachyptera (Lowe, 1839)</td>
<td>E1: -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>50.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Eleotridae</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batis humeralis (Valenciennes, 1837)</td>
<td>E1: -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>14.2 cm SL</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batis koiomadon (Bleeker, 1849)</td>
<td>E2: -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>10.7 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleotris fusca (Forster, 1801)</td>
<td>E3: -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>2.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Ephippidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephippus orbis (Bloch, 1787)</td>
<td>E1: -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>25.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Gerreidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerres erythrous (Bloch, 1791)</td>
<td>E1: +, E2: -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerres filamentosus Cuvier, 1829</td>
<td>E2: +, E3: +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>35.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerres limbatus Cuvier, 1830</td>
<td>E1: +, E2: -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>15.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>4, 6, 10, 15, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxa</td>
<td>Occurrence of fishes in Estuaries of Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Maximum size (TL)</td>
<td>Fishery Status</td>
<td>IUCN Status</td>
<td>References</td>
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<tr>
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<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerres longirostris (Lacepède, 1801)</td>
<td>+ - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>44.5 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 8, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerres melanother Regan, 1920</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerres ovina (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>+ - - - - - - - +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 11, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerres settifer (Hamilton, 1822)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>15.0 cm SL</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 6, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Gobiidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acentrogobius audax Smith, 1959</td>
<td>- + - + - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>10.0 cm SL</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acentrogobius cyanomos (Bleeker, 1849)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>11.5 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acentrogobius ennoresens Menon &amp; Rema Devi, 1980</td>
<td>- - - - - - + + -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>5.8 cm SL</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acentrogobius madraspatensis (Day 1868)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>7.0 cm SL</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acentrogobius viridipunctatus (Valenciennes, 1837)</td>
<td>- + + + + + - - +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>16.5 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apocryptodon madarenensis (Bleeker, 1849)</td>
<td>- - - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>9.0 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arcgobius ballarius (Valenciennes, 1837)</td>
<td>- - + - - + - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>10.2 cm SL</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boleophthalmus boddaerti (Pallas, 1770)</td>
<td>- - + + - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>22.0 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callgobius seshayai Jacob &amp; Rangarajan, 1960</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>3.5 cm SL</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drombus globiceps (Hora, 1923)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>4.3 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favonigobius reichei (Bleeker, 1854)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>8.3 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossogobius giuris (Hamilton, 1822)</td>
<td>+ + - - + + - - +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>50.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5, 6, 7, 8, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gobiopsis macrostoma Steindachner, 1861</td>
<td>- - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>10.0 cm SL</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oligogobus acutipennis (Valenciennes, 1837)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>15.0 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osyrrhichys microlepis (Bleeker, 1849)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>13.5 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 6, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osyrrhichys ophthalmonema (Bleeker, 1856)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>18.0 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osyrrhichys tentacularis (Valenciennes, 1837)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>17.0 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parachaetrichys polynema (Bleeker, 1853)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>15.0 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parapocyprites vicinosus (Valenciennes, 1837)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>15.0 cm SL</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paratrichopos microcephalus (Bleeker, 1860)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>18.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periophthalmus barbatus (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>25.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periophthalmus variabilis Eggert, 1935</td>
<td>- - - - + - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>6.4 cm SL</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psammogobius biocellatus (Valenciennes, 1837)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>12.0 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5, 6, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudapocypris elongatus (Cuvier, 1816)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>20.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stigmatogobius minima (Hora, 1923)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>2.0 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taenioides cirratus (Blyth, 1860)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td></td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trypauchen vagina (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>22.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tongrichterichys crinitig (Valenciennes, 1837)</td>
<td>- + - - + - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>15.0 cm SL</td>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Haemulidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagramma pictum (Thunberg 1792)</td>
<td>- + - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>100.0 cm FL</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plectocharacinus gibbosus (Lacepède, 1802)</td>
<td>- + - - - - + + -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>75.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>11, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pomadasys argenteus (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>70.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxa</td>
<td>Occurrence of fishes in Estuaries of Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Maximum size (TL)</td>
<td>Fishery Status</td>
<td>IUCN Status</td>
<td>References</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pomadasys commersonii</em> (Lacepède, 1801)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>80.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pomadasys giouraca</em> (Cuvier, 1829)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>46.0 cm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pomadasys kaukan</em> (Cuvier, 1830)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>80.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 10, 14, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pomadasys maculatus</em> (Bloch, 1793)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>59.3 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5, 10, 14, 15, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Kyphosidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Kyphus vaigiensis</em> (Quoy &amp; Gaimard 1825)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>70.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Lactidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lactarius lactarius</em> (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>40.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Latidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Lates calcarifer</em> (Bloch, 1790)</td>
<td>+ - + - - - - + -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>200 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Leiognathidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Eubleekeria jonesi</em> (James, 1971)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>13.9 cm SL</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Eubleekeria splendens</em> (Cuvier, 1829)</td>
<td>+ + + + - - + + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>17.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Gaza minuta</em> (Bloch, 1795)</td>
<td>+ + - + - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>21.0 cm FL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>6, 8, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Karalla daura</em> (Cuvier, 1829)</td>
<td>- - - - - - + - +</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>14.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Karalla dussumieri</em> (Valenciennes, 1835)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>14.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Leiognathus brevirostris</em> (Valenciennes, 1835)</td>
<td>- + - + - - + + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>13.5 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 8, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Leiognathus equulus</em> (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>28.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Photoplectrurus bindus</em> (Valenciennes, 1835)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>11.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 10, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Secutor insidiator</em> (Bloch, 1870)</td>
<td>+ + + - - - - + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>11.3 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Secutor ruconius</em> (Hamilton, 1822)</td>
<td>+ + + - - - - + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>8.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Lethrinidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Lethrinus lentjan</em> (Lacepède, 1802)</td>
<td>- - - - - - + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>52.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lethrinus nebulosus</em> (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>87.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 10, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Lobotidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lobotes surinamensis</em> (Bloch, 1790)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>110 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Lutjanidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aphareus stilanus</em> Cuvier, 1830</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>110 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus argentinum</em> (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>150 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus ehrenbergii</em> (Peters, 1869)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>35.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus fulviflamma</em> (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>- + + + - - + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>35.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus fulvus</em> (Forster, 1801)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>40.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus gibbus</em> (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>- - - - - + + -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>50.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus jocu</em> (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>128 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus johnii</em> (Bloch, 1792)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>97.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 10, 11, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxa</td>
<td>Occurrence of fishes in Estuaries of Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Maximum size (TL)</td>
<td>Fishery Status</td>
<td>IUCN Status</td>
<td>References</td>
</tr>
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<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus kasmira</em> (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>40.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus leucomaculatus</em> (Valenciennes, 1828)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>65.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus lutjanus</em> Bloch, 1790</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>35.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus russelli</em> (Bleeker, 1849)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>50.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lutjanus sanguineus</em> (Cuvier, 1828)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>100.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pinnaeus pinnaei</em> (Bleeker, 1850)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>80.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Menidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Mene maculata</em> (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Monodactylidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Monodactylus argenteus</em> (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>27.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Mullidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Upeneus moluccensis</em> (Bleeker, 1855)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>22.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Upeneus sulphureus</em> Cuvier, 1829</td>
<td>+ + - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>23.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 10, 12, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Nandidae</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nandus nandus</em> (Hamilton, 1822)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>20.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Nemipteridae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nemipterus bipunctatus</em> (Valenciennes, 1830)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nemipterus randalli</em> Russell, 1986</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>20.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nemipterus zyron</em> (Bleeker, 1856)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>29.7 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Osphronemidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Pseudoophromenus cupanus</em> (Cuvier, 1831)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>7.5 cm</td>
<td>Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Polyodontidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Eleutheronephalus tetradactylus</em> (Shaw, 1804)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>200 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 10, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Leptomelanosoma indicum</em> (Shaw, 1804)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>142 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Polydactylus plebeius</em> Broussonet, 1782</td>
<td>+ - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>45.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Polydactylus quadrifilis</em> (Cuvier, 1829)</td>
<td>+ - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>200 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Pomacentridae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Abudelfalufi septemfasciatus</em> (Cuvier, 1830)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>23.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Rachycentridae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rachycentron canadum</em> (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>200 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Scaridae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Scarus ghobban</em> Forsskål, 1775</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>90.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Scatophagidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Scatophagus argus</em> (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
<td>+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>38.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>Cultivable</td>
<td>4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18</td>
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<td><strong>Family: Sciaenidae</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Devescovia albida</em> (Cuvier, 1830)</td>
<td>- + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>90.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Dendrophysa russelli</em> (Cuvier, 1829)</td>
<td>- + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>25.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 10, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Johnius caruña</em> Bloch, 1793</td>
<td>- + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 10, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Kathala axillaris</em> (Cuvier, 1830)</td>
<td>- + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>27.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 15</td>
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<td>Taxa</td>
<td>Occurrence of fishes in Estuaries of Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Maximum size (TL)</td>
<td>Fishery Status</td>
<td>IUCN Status</td>
<td>References</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nibea maculata (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nibea soldado (Lacepède, 1802)</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>60.0 cm SL</td>
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<td>NE</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pannas microdon (Bleeker, 1849)</td>
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<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
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<td><strong>Family: Scombridae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Euthynnus affinis (Cantor, 1849)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>100.0 cm FL</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scomberomorus commerson (Lacepède, 1800)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>240 cm</td>
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<td>NT</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scomberomorus guttatus (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>76.0 cm FL</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunnus thynnus (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>458 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td><strong>Family: Serranidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Epinephelus bleekeri (Vaillant, 1878)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>76.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epinephelus diacanthis (Valenciennes, 1828)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>55.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epinephelus fasciaticomaculatus (Peters, 1865)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epinephelus lanceolatus (Bloch, 1790)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>270 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>VU</td>
<td>5, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epinephelus malabaricus (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
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<td>M, B</td>
<td>234 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>NT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epinephelus morrallius (Valenciennes, 1833)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>90.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epinephelus retoceti Bleeker, 1868</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>50.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epinephelus tauvina (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>100.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siganus canaliculatus (Park, 1797)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siganus javus (Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>53.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siganus lineatus (Valenciennes, 1835)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>43.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siganus spinus (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>28.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siganus verruculatus (Valenciennes, 1835)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>45.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Sillaginidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sillago sihama (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>31.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sillago vincenti McKay, 1980</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 11, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Sparidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Acanthopagrus berda (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>90.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acanthopagrus sivicolus Akazaki, 1962</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>45.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crenidens crenilis (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhabdosargus sarba (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>80.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Sphyraenidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sphyraena barracuda (Edwards, 1771)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>200 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport, Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sphyraena jello Cuvier, 1829</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>150 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16</td>
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<td><strong>Family: Stromatidae</strong></td>
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<td>Taxa</td>
<td>Occurrence of fishes in Estuaries of Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Maximum size (TL)</td>
<td>Fishery Status</td>
<td>IUCN Status</td>
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<td>E1 E2 E3 E4 E5 E6 E7 E8 E9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pampus chinensis (Euphrasen, 1788)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>40.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Teraponidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pelates quadrilineatus (Bloch, 1790)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - + + -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terapon jarbua (Forsskål, 1775)</td>
<td>+ + + + - - + + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>36.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terapon puta Cuvier, 1829</td>
<td>+ + + + - - + + -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>16.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terapon theraps Cuvier, 1829</td>
<td>- + - - - - - + -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>6, 7,</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Trichiuridae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lepturacanthus savala (Cuvier, 1829)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>100.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Uranoscopidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uranoscopus guttatus Cuvier, 1829</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>20.0 cm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Order: Pleuronectiformes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Cynoglossidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cynoglossus arel (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - + + -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>40.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10, 11, 14, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynoglossus lida (Bleeker, 1851)</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>21.3 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 10, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynoglossus lingua Hamilton, 1822</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>45.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cynoglossus macrostomus Norman, 1928</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>17.3 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cynoglossus puncticeps (Richardson, 1846)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>35.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 10, 14, 15, 18</td>
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<td><strong>Family: Paralichthyidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pseudohombrus arsius (Hamilton, 1822)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - - +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>45.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 5, 7, 8, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudohombrus elevatus Ogilby, 1912</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>20.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paralichthys oblongus (Mitchill 1815)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>41.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td><strong>Family: Pleuronectidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>60.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td><strong>Family: Psettodidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Psettodes erumei (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>64.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td><strong>Family: Soleidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brachirus orientalis (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>30.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 6, 8, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daetrichthys albomaculatus (Kaup 1858)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daetrichthys commersonii (Lacepède 1802)</td>
<td>- - - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>32.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zebrasius muagga (Kaup, 1858)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>15.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td><strong>Order: Scorpaeniformes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Family: Cottidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Myoxocephalus octodecemspinus (Mitchill, 1814)</td>
<td>- + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>46.0 cm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family: Platyccephalidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grammoglyphis scaber (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platyccephalus indicus (Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>- + + - - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>100.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 8, 14, 16, 18</td>
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<td>Taxa</td>
<td>Occurrence of fishes in Estuaries of Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Maximum size (TL)</td>
<td>Fishery Status</td>
<td>IUCN Status</td>
<td>References</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Arius arius</em> (Hamilton, 1822)</td>
<td>- + + + + - - + + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>40.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Arius jello</em> Day, 1877</td>
<td>- + - - - + + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>11, 12</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Arius maculatus</em> (Temminck &amp; Schlegel, 1840)</td>
<td>- + + + + + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>80.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Arius subrostratus</em> Valenciennes, 1840</td>
<td>- - - + + + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>39.5 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hemiaris sona</em> Hamilton, 1822</td>
<td>- + - - + + +</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>92.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Nemasteryx caelata</em> (Valenciennes, 1840)</td>
<td>- + + - + -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
<td>45.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
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<td><em>Nemasteryx thalassina</em> (Rüppell, 1837)</td>
<td>- + + + + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>185 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Sport</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>7, 9, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Plicofollis dussamieri</em> (Valenciennes, 1840)</td>
<td>- - - - + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>62.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Mystus gulio</em> (Hamilton, 1822)</td>
<td>- + + + + + +</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>46.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 17</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Mystus vittatus</em> (Bloch, 1794)</td>
<td>- + + + + + +</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>21.0 cm SL</td>
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<td>LC</td>
<td>5, 7, 8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>F, B</td>
<td>150 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
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<td>Capture, Cultivable, Ornamental</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- + + + + + +</td>
<td>M, F, B</td>
<td>150 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
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<td><em>Ompok bimaculatus</em> (Bloch, 1794)</td>
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<td>45.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Wallago attu</em> (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
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<td>Capture, Cultivable, Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Macrornathus aral</em> (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)</td>
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<td>F, B</td>
<td>63.5 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Macrornathus pancalus</em> Hamilton, 1822</td>
<td>- + + + + + +</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>18.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td><em>Ophisternon bengalense</em> McClelland, 1844</td>
<td>- + - - - + +</td>
<td>F, B</td>
<td>100.0 cm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>- + - - - - -</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>29.0 cm</td>
<td>Ornamental</td>
<td>DD</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Trachyrhamphus longirostris</em> Kaup 1856</td>
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<td>40.0 cm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Trachyrhamphus serratus</em> (Temminck &amp; Schlegel, 1850)</td>
<td>- + - - - - -</td>
<td>M, B</td>
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<td><em>Melichthys niger</em> (Bloch, 1786)</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>50.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxa</td>
<td>Occurrence of fishes in Estuaries of Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Maximum size (TL)</td>
<td>Fishery Status</td>
<td>IUCN Status</td>
<td>References</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Diodon hystrix</em> Linnaeus, 1758*</td>
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<td>91.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture, Ornamental</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Arothron leopardus</em> (Day, 1878)*</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - + + - - M, B</td>
<td>15.0 cm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Arothron reticularis</em> (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)*</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - - M, F, B</td>
<td>45.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC, B</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Chelonodonops patoca</em> (Hamilton 1822)*</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - - M</td>
<td>38.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>6, 18</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Lagocephalus inermis</em> (Temminck &amp; Schlegel, 1850)*</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - - M, B</td>
<td>90.0 cm SL</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Lagocephalus spadiceus</em> (Richardson, 1845)*</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Takifugu oblongus</em> (Bloch, 1786)*</td>
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<td>40.0 cm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>LC, B</td>
<td>6, 18</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tetraodon cinctus</em> (Hamilton, 1822)*</td>
<td>- - + - - - - - - - - M</td>
<td>15.0 cm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Tetraodon fluviatilis</em> Hamilton, 1822*</td>
<td>- - - + - - - - - + F, B</td>
<td>17.0 cm</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Tetraodon lineatus</em> Linnaeus, 1758*</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Lagocephalus lunaris</em> (Bloch &amp; Schneider, 1801)*</td>
<td>- + - - - - - - - - M, B</td>
<td>45.0 cm SL</td>
<td>Ornamental</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Triacanthus biaculeatus</em> (Bloch, 1786)*</td>
<td>+ + - - - - - - - + + + M, B</td>
<td>30.0 cm</td>
<td>Capture</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 18</td>
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</table>

**Abbreviations:**
- E1 = Adyar estuarine complex in Chennai Corporation
- E2 = Pulicat lake in Thiruvallur district
- E3 = Coleroon-Pichavaram-Vellar-Parangipettai estuarine complex in Cuddalore district
- E4 = Yedanyanithu estuary in Villupuram district
- E5 = Muthupet estuary in Thiruvanur district
- E6 = Arasalar estuary in Tanjore district
- E7 = Manakudy estuary in Kanyakumari district
- E8 = Punnakayal estuary in Thoothukudi district
- E9 = Kaliveli floodplain and Uppukalli creek in Pondicherry
- ‘+’ = Present, ‘-’ = Absent
- M = Marine water, F = Fresh water, B = Brackish water
- TL = Total Length, SL = Standard Length, FL = Fork Length, WD = Width in rays and skates from the tip of the left to the tip of the right wing
- EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened, LC = Least Concern, DD = Data Deficient, NE = Not Evaluated
A checklist of the estuarine fishes of Tamil Nadu is presented, along with their classification, distribution in different estuaries of Tamil Nadu, habitat in which they occur, maximum size, fisheries status and IUCN Red List conservation status (Table 1). It is observed that the checklist comprise mainly marine and estuarine fishes, chiefly constituted by the orders perciformes (53.03%) and clupeiformes (9.69%). Similar dominance of perciformes and clupeiformes were indicated by Bijukumar & Sushama 23, Remadevi et al. 6, Ramanujam & Anbarasan 8, Ghosh et al. 24. As 41 out of 54 estuaries have not been explored for fish biodiversity assessment, many species could be distributed in the unexplored estuarine systems of Tamil Nadu and therefore rigorous biodiversity explorations are obligatory.

As numbers of capture, sports, ornamental and cultivatable fishes are high, commercial and recreational fishing could be organized and seed production by selective breeding is recommended for culture of these species. Two hundred and one species of estuarine fishes of Tamil Nadu has not yet been evaluated for their conservation status by IUCN Red list due to lack of scientific investigations.

The presence of 200 fish species from estuarine wetlands in Cuddalore district is higher than Bijukumar & Sushama 23, Ghosh et al. 24, Kurup & Samuel 25, Roshith et al. 26. Bijukumar & Sushama 23 indicated 112 species of fishes belonging to 14 orders, 53 families and 80 genera from Ponnani estuary in Kerala. Investigations by Ghosh et al. 24 reported 140 species of fishes belonging to 18 orders and 55 families from Subarnarekha estuary in Orissa. Kurup & Samuel 25 recorded 150 species fishes in Cochin estuary on the west coast of India. Roshith et al. 26 reported 155 fish species belonging to 49 families and 15 orders from the tidal freshwater zone of the Hooghly estuary. However diversity of fishes for individual estuaries of Tamil Nadu is lower than Bijukumar & Sushama 23, Ghosh et al. 24, Kurup & Samuel 25, Roshith et al. 26. The lower number of species in the estuaries of Tamil Nadu compared to the Cochin estuary, Ponnani estuary, Subarnarekha estuary and Hooghly estuary in India is understandable as the latter are large estuarine systems than the former.

Conclusions
Tamil Nadu is endowed with rich estuarine fish diversity. Available data indicated the lack of scientific studies on estuarine fishes from the different locality of Tamil Nadu. Hence research need to be conducted on fish identification, taxonomic diversity, patterns of distribution and conservation status in Tamil Nadu for planning appropriate conservation strategies.

Acknowledgements
First author express his deep sense of gratitude to the persons contributed to estuarine fisheries research in Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu Fisheries University for providing merit scholarship.

References

<p>| Table. 2. Summary of the estuarine fish diversity of Tamil Nadu, India |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|</p>
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