

Law and regulations

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National laws include the British-era Indian Fisheries Act, 1897, which penalizes the killing of fish by poisoning water and by using explosives; the [Environment Protection Act, 1986](#), being an umbrella act containing provisions for all environment related issues affecting fisheries and aquaculture industry in India, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#). The [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#) prevents the fishing of rare species of fishes.^[11] In 1996, the Indian Supreme Court prohibited the setting up of Shrimp farm ponds except traditional and improved traditional types of ponds on the Coastal Regulation Zone and on the [Chilka Lake](#) and [Pulicat Lake](#). The Order No 722 (E) of 2002 prohibited the use of certain antibiotics and pharmacologically active substances in hatcheries of production of the juveniles and larvae, or in manufacturing the fish feed or in processing fish products.^[12] In 2017, the Indian government banned selling of 158 fish species of ornamental fishes and also made it mandatory that a full-time fishery expert be present in the Ornamental fish farm for inspecting the health of the fishes. Regulations regarding the tank size, stocking density of fish and volume of water were also introduced.^[13]

In India, annually fishing is officially banned for 47 days (shortened from 61 days prior to 2020) during first two months of monsoon season for the breeding and spawning of the fishes.^[14] During this time mechanised fishing vessels like trawlers are banned from fishing^{[15][16]}

In 2019, a separate named the [Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries](#) was formed.^[17]