been recorded, of which 1,518 species are from the marine environment, 113 from brackish waters and 877 are from freshwater habitats. In addition, 291 exotic fish species also occur in India.

Fish Diversity of India*

Native Fishes	Number of Species
Marine Ecosystem	1518
Brackishwater Ecosystem	113
Freshwater Ecosystem	877
Sub-total	2508
Exotic Fishes	291
Total	2799

*Uttam K Sarkar, JK Jena, Shri Prakash Singh, AK Singh and SC Rebello (2012). *Documenting Coastal Fish Biodiversity of India: Status, Issues and Challenges.* Conference Paper, International Day for Biological Diversity, Marine Biodiversity, 22 May 2012, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow, pp. 22-28.

Categorization of Fish by their habitat:

- **Freshwater Fish:** Fish that spend most or all of their life in freshwaters, such as rivers and lakes, having a salinity of less than 0.5 ppt. Around 40% of all known species of fish are found in freshwater.

  They may be divided into **Coldwater Fish** (5 – 20 °C); examples: Mahseer, Trout, etc., and **Warmwater Fish** (25 – 35 °C); example: Carps, Catfish, Snakeheads, Featherbacks, etc.

- **Brackishwater Fish:** Fish that can tolerate a wide range of salinity (0.5 – 30.0 ppt) and live in backwaters, estuaries and coastal waters.
  Example: Mullet, Milkfish, Seabass, Pearlspot, Mudskipper, etc.

- **Marine Fish:** Fish that spend most or all of their life in seawater, such as Seas and Oceans, having salinity above 30 ppt. There are about 240 species contributing to the marine fisheries.
  Example: Sardines, Mackerel, Ribbonfish, Anchovies, Grouper, Cobia, Tuna, etc.

Mahseers	
Fish Name	**Picture**
Golden Mahseer *Tor putitora*	
Tor Mahseer *Tor tor*	
Deccan Mahseer *Tor khudree*	
Chocolate Mahseer *Neolissocheilus hexagonolepis*	
Trout	
Common Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii*	
Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*	