



Ghol Fish

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Why in News?

Gujarat recently declared the **black-spotted croaker(Protonibea Diacanthus)**, locally known as the **Ghol fish, as the state fish.**

- The decision was based on various factors, emphasizing its uniqueness, economic value, and the need for conservation.



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What are the Key Facts About Ghol Fish?

- **Geographical Distribution:**
 - The ghol fish is primarily found in the [Indo-Pacific region](#).
 - Its habitat spans from the [Persian Gulf](#) to the expansive waters of the Pacific Ocean.
- **Economic Significance:**
 - The ghol fish has a substantial market demand in **China and other Asian countries**.
 - Ghol fish is also known as **'Sea Gold'** for its high market value.
 - Its meat is exported to **European and Middle-Eastern countries, while the dried air bladder** is in high demand, especially in China.
 - A kilogram of ghol can fetch between Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 in Gujarat.
 - The dried air bladder, considered the costliest part, can reach amounts as high as Rs 25,000 a kilogram in the export market.
- **Benefits:**
 - Good for eye health and helps in maintaining eyesight.
 - Prevent ageing and wrinkles, the collagen content in the ghol fish prevents wrinkles and also keeps the **elasticity of the skin intact**.
 - Omega-3 content in ghol fish improves the Intelligence Quotient (IQ) of infants if fed on a regular basis - it stimulates the **growth of brain cells**.
- **Conservation:**
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List: Near Threatened.

Note:

- Gujarat is one of the leading states in fisheries production in India, with a rich diversity of marine and inland fish species.
- In the year 2021-22, Gujarat recorded a **total fish production of 8.74 lakh tonnes.**

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