



Blue-finned Mahseer

Why in News

Recently, the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) has moved **Blue-finned Mahseer** from **Endangered to the Least Concern'** status on its **Red List**.



Key Points

▪ About:

- The Mahseer belongs to the genus **Tor**, of which there are **several subspecies to be found in India** and in other range countries in South Asia.
- The Blue-finned Mahseer or **Tor Khudree is one of the subspecies of the Mahseer.**

▪ Habitat:

- Mainly found in the **Mota Mola river east of Pune**. This species is also found in other **rivers of the Deccan Plateau**.
- The species is migratory; **moving upstream during rains. It prefers clean, fast flowing and well oxygenated waters.**

▪ Threats:

- Threatened by **habitat manipulation, over harvesting and competition from other fish species.**

▪ Significance:

◦ Freshwater Ecosystem Indicator:

- It is very **sensitive to dissolved oxygen levels, water temperature and sudden climatic changes.** It just cannot bear pollution.

◦ Cultural:

- They have cultural and religious significance as well as they are **protected in**

'temple sanctuaries' across India.

▪ Conservation Initiatives:

- Tata Power (private company) is involved in **conservation of the blue-finned for 50 years in Lonavala (near Pune), Maharashtra.**

▪ Protection status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern

International Union for Conservation of Nature

▪ About:

- IUCN is a **membership union uniquely** composed of both government and civil society organisations.
- Created in 1948, **it is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.** It is headquartered in **Switzerland.**

▪ The Red List:

- The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, is the **world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status** of plant and animal species.
- It **divides species into nine categories:** Not Evaluated, Data Deficient, Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild and Extinct.
- It is recognized as the **most authoritative guide to the status of biological diversity.**

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