

## Indian oil sardine

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### About Indian oil sardine:

- It is a very important **pelagic fish species**.
- It contributes to about **15% of the total marine fish** production in India.
- Local names of oil sardine are, Mathi, Nalla mathi, Nei chala (Malayalam); Bhutai (Kannada); Tarli (Marathi and Hindi).
- **Distribution**
  - It is distributed on the **entire west coast** from Gujarat to Kerala and also on the Tamil Nadu, **Andhra Pradesh and Orissa coasts in the east**.
  - Highest abundance and large scale shoaling are observed off **Kerala and Karnataka coasts**.
- **Significance**
  - The sardines are an **ecologically important part of the marine ecosystem** as they form an intermediate link in the food web and serve as prey for larger predators.
  - The genome assembly of the **sardines is a valuable tool** for studying how fish adapt to climate change.

- Indian oil sardine is a vital fisheries resource in the Indian subcontinent, contributing substantially, approximately 10%, to the total marine fisheries industry in India.
  - One of the findings of the study is that Indian oil sardines exist in two highly distinct stocks, one in the Indian waters and another in the Gulf of Oman.
  - The researchers have identified the genes involved in the **biosynthesis of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA)** of the oil sardine, offering insights into the genomic mechanisms behind **the high nutritional quality of the fish**.
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## Q1) What are Saturated fatty acids?

Saturated fatty acids are a type of fatty acid molecule in which the carbon atoms are bonded to as many hydrogen atoms as possible, resulting in a structure where all carbon-carbon bonds are single bonds. This saturated arrangement of hydrogen atoms on the carbon chain makes the fatty acid “saturated” with hydrogen atoms.

**Source:** [Scientists unravel genome secrets of Indian oil sardine](#)

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