

Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

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Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Latest News

A recent dispute involving the US and Russia highlighted the geopolitical and environmental implications of TAC enforcement.

What is Total Allowable Catch (TAC) ?

- **Total Allowable Catch (TAC)** refers to the **maximum quantity of a particular fish species** that can be **legally harvested** from a specific water body, such as **oceans, seas, or lakes**, within a defined period.
- It is a regulatory measure adopted by **national governments** and **international fisheries management agencies** to ensure the **sustainable exploitation** of marine resources.

Why is TAC Important?

- **TAC ensures the long-term sustainability** of fish stocks by maintaining a **minimum viable population size** that can replenish naturally each year.

- In the absence of TAC, **overfishing** can occur, depleting fish populations to the extent that they are **unable to recover**, thus **threatening marine biodiversity**, ecosystem balance, and the **livelihoods of coastal communities**.
- It acts as a scientific tool for **preventing resource collapse**, especially in **commercially valuable species**.

Indian Context

- India implements a **seasonal fishing ban**, which functions as a **TAC equivalent of zero** for a specified duration to conserve fish stocks during the **breeding season**.
- The ban is enforced in India's **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** for **61 days annually**:
 - **East Coast**: From **April 15 to June 14**
 - **West Coast**: From **June 1 to July 31**
- This restriction aims to **protect spawning fish** and support **regeneration** of marine life during peak monsoon when fish reproduce in large numbers.

Total Allowable Catch (TAC) FAQs

Q1. What does Total Allowable Catch (TAC) mean?

Ans. TAC is the maximum quantity of a specific fish species that can be legally caught in a given period to prevent overfishing.

Q2. Who sets TAC limits?

Ans. TAC is determined by national fisheries authorities or international bodies like FAO or Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

Q3. How does TAC help marine ecosystems?

Ans. TAC prevents overexploitation of fish stocks, supporting marine biodiversity and long-term sustainability.

Source: TH

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