

## India grouper - gillnet and trawl

### Overview

#### FIP Description

Industry led FIP started by Netuno USA, Inc. and local partners Neptune, IndoFisheries and Baraka targeting grouper fisheries in India. Groupers are found in the waters of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Paradeep and Andaman seas (Varghese et al. 2021). On the southwest coast, Kerala represents 47.8% of the marine fish harvest, followed by 43.7% is from Karnataka and 8.5% from Goa. Catches largely occur by mechanized fishing crafts (75.7%), motorized fishing crafts (21.8%) and non-mechanized country crafts (2.5%) (Sathianandan et al. 2021). In Kerala waters, grouper are found at depths 60-150m in rocky and coral reef grounds in areas called the "Kalava grounds". The main grouper species caught in Kerala include *Epinephelus diacanthus*, *E. malabaricus*, *E. tauvina*, *E. chlorostigma* and *E. bleekeri*. *Epinephelus diacanthus* is the main grouper species caught here, constituting 90% of the groupers landed (Varghese et al. 2021). The most recent catch data indicate that the species comprises ~61% of the catch landed at the main landing centre in the southwest area (specifically Kerala) with no clear sign of a decline in landings (Nair et al. 2018a). The Karnataka coast is around 300 km long and trawls form the main gear type from the mechanised sector. The State has around 96 fish landing centres, the most important being Mangaluru fisheries harbour (representing around 40 percent of Karnataka's total catch). A recent study of landings at the site suggested that bycatch represents around 68% of the trawl catches, with shrimp, flatfishes, sciaenids, squids and crabs representing target species (Velip & Rivonker, 2015). Most bycatch in Karnataka is landed by single-day trawlers (SDT). SDTs generally operate in depths up to 30 m with the entire catch landed (including both edible ~74% and LVB ~26%).

### How is this FIP Doing?

#### Current Status:



**% of Indicators Tracked** Basic FIPs may focus their workplans on a subset of the indicators. This shows the proportion of total indicators the FIP is working on.

100%

**Actions Progress** This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.

0%

**Actions Overview** This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	100%	0%	0%

**FIP Progress Rating**

C - Some Recent Progress

**FIP Objective(s)**

The objective of this FIP is to gather information, conduct a species-specific data collection for the Spinycheek Grouper fisheries, engage two State fisheries authorities to build a pilot shared monitoring, compliance and surveillance program and engage other stakeholders to achieve comprehensive status by January 2026.

**FIP Type**

Basic

**FIP Stage**

Stage 3: FIP Implementation

**Start and Projected End Dates**

April, 2023 -  
December, 2025

**Species**

**Common Name**

Spinycheek Grouper

**Scientific Name**

Epinephelus diacanthus

**Gear Type**

[Gillnet](#)

[Trawl](#)

#### Location

##### FAO Major Fishing Area

[Area 51 \(Indian Ocean, Western\)](#)

##### Exclusive Economic Zones

###### Country

India

###### Geographic Scope

Karnataka and Kerala States

###### Country Flag of Vessel

India

#### Estimated Total FIP Landings

4000 metric tons

### FIP Leads

##### Organization Name

IABS Eurasia

##### Organization Type

NGO

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