

Hilsa fish

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Why is in news? Hilsa fishing banned during breeding season in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, catching hilsa fish will be banned for 22 days from October 12 to November 2 as it is the main breeding season of this year.

During the period of ban, procurement, marketing, buying, selling, transportation, stocking and exchange of hilsa will be prohibited across Bangladesh.

Hilsa is the National fish of Bangladesh and one of the geographical indication (GI) products in the country.

IUCN status: Least Concerned

The Hilsa is a species of fish related to the herring, in the family Clupeidae.

It is a very popular and sought-after food fish in the Indian Subcontinent.

It is the **state symbol** in the Indian states of **West Bengal and Tripura**.

The fish contributes about 12% of the total fish production and about 1.15% of GDP in Bangladesh.

Hilsa has a history of migrating to Allahabad in the Ganga river system from Bangladesh.

Though it's a **saltwater fish**, it migrates to sweet waters of the Ganges from the Bay of Bengal.

It travels upstream of the river during the mating seasons and returns to its natural abode after spawning.