

SEASONAL CATCH DYNAMICS AND TRENDS OF HILSA (*TENUALOSA ILISHA*) IN THE DOWNSTREAM REGION OF THE FARAKKA BARRAGE

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*This three-year study observes the catch pattern of *Tenualosa ilisha* during 2022-2024, downstream of the Farakka Barrage with special emphasis on seasonal and quarterly variations. The catches of Q1 (January-March) and Q4 (October-December) peaks related to Hilsa's migration. The largest catch was in 2024, showing better management and environmental conditions. The results show that sustainable fisheries management is possible in the Ganges River because there is a steady increase in Hilsa catches, that indicates improved ecosystem health and local fishermen's livelihoods.*

Keywords: *Hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*), Anadromous migration, Seasonal catch patterns, Sustainable fisheries management*
