

Tsunami media update 8 January 2005

*Note: This is a daily summary of media reports concerning damage to aquaculture, aquatic livelihoods of coastal communities and related issues, gathered for the purpose of preparing a regional assessment to aid medium- to long-term rehabilitation of affected areas. It is **not** intended as a comprehensive summary of media reports, nor is it a summary of general damage. The content does not necessarily reflect the views of the NACA organization.*

ESTIMATED death toll / missing persons as of 5 January*

Country	Dead	Injured	Missing	Displaced	Notes
Indonesia	113,306 ¹	23,293	6700	474,610	Aceh: 14 out of 21 districts affected. 1,550 villages destroyed.
Sri Lanka	30,196	15,683	3,846	834,849	212,223 families affected, 103,753 houses destroyed.
India	9,571	3,281	5,914	627,119	153,226 dwelling units and 894 villages affected.
Thailand	5,288	8,475	3,716	8,500**	**Evacuated to other islands.
Maldives	82	1,313	26	8,352	
Myanmar	59	43	3	3,205	592 houses in 17 villages destroyed. 638 households homeless.
Malaysia	68	767			
Bangladesh	2				

* Source: World Health Organization Situation Report No.8 (covering period 5 January 2005).

1: According to a more recent statement by Social Affairs Ministry's relief coordination center, 7 January.

Thailand

No relevant clips today.

Sri Lanka

The catch that puts fishermen out of work

In addition to damage to their homes and boats, Sri Lanka's fishermen are having to contend with the widespread perception that fish is unfit for consumption following the disaster. Rumours that the fish have become infected with viruses from feeding on rotting corpses have spread like wildfire. Text messages have raced around naming the fictitious virus and warning people not to eat fish, a staple. The Hong Kong Government has also warned people not to eat seafood from tsunami-hit areas, saying it could be contaminated with heavy metals churned up by the turbulent waters. Health experts have dismissed the fears as unfounded but as the rumours continue to circulate. The price of fish has plummeted, further complicating the difficulties of fishermen.

Source: Times Online.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,18690-1428917,00.html>

Experts shrug off health concerns over tsunami fish

The consumption of fish caught off the shores of countries struck by the massive December 26 tsunamis is safe, especially if it is cooked, experts said as seafood has disappeared off menus in Sri Lanka. Shopkeepers say spooked Sri Lankans have stopped buying seafood as they are fearful of eating fish that may have been feeding on corpses washed out to sea by last week's tsunami. However experts say that there are no problems save psychological ones about eating such fish as they pose little health risk to humans.

Source: AFP (via TurkishPress.com)

<http://www.turkishpress.com/news.asp?ID=35731>

India

Tsunami or not, Govt still ignores the Dalits

NAGAPATTINAM: Dalits from 63 affected villages are being thrown out of relief camps, by Meenavar fishermen, pushed to the rear of food and water lines, not being allowed to take water from UNICEF facilities and in some cases not even being allowed to use the toilet. The Government is reinforcing this caste divide, establishing separate camps for the Meenavar, and the lower castes. Government officials indicated that this was a practical decision to cope with the real divisions and distrust among communities.

The National Commission of Scheduled Castes said that the panel's director in Chennai has been asked to visit the areas and take action against ostracism. It was highlighted that some NGOs operating in the area for the first time are not aware of the scale of the caste problem, though they have undertaken not to tolerate discrimination in relief efforts.

Source: NewIndPress.com

<http://www.newindpress.com/Newsitems.asp?ID=IET20050107105700&Title=Southern+News+-+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=-367>

Tsunami impact on marine sector brief

Shrimp exports still remain the most significant component, constituting the biggest chunk in the total marine exports from India. However, the bulk of shrimp exports are now sourced from aquaculture, which has not been significantly affected by the tsunami, and the wild catch season for shrimp is largely over, as is the major export period of pre-Christmas and New Year. According to sources in MPEDA, fishing is a seasonal activity, providing employment for 250 days on an average. Fishermen will not be able to undertake their livelihood until their boats and gear are restored.

Source: The Hindu Business Line

<http://www.blonnet.com/2005/01/01/stories/2005010100271000.htm>

Chennai fish traders lose Rs.500 million in 12 days

Rumours that the [fictitious] killer 'Zulican' virus has infected seafood after the tsunami has led to a massive slump in the sale of fish, with some estimating the city's fish traders have lost up to Rs.500 million since Dec 26. Chennai's daily seafood trade is usually around 50 tonnes worth Rs. 50 million per day, but since the tsunami the markets are deserted and currently sales are less than 1 tonne per day. Fishermen are being forced to sell their fish to poultry farmers for feed at low rates. Chennai's annual turnover in seafood is worth Rs. 25 billion. According to D. Poonnurangam of the Fish Trade Union, over 100,000 people are dependent on the fish trade, including 25,000 retail traders spread over 60 markets across the city.

Source: Indo-Asian News Service (via NewKerala.com)

<http://www.newkerala.com/news-daily/news/features.php?action=fullnews&id=56662>

Tsunami blow for HLL, other seafood exporters

Seafood exporters have begun to feel the pressure of the tsunami. The Rs 7,000 crore (Rs 70 billion) industry that is already suffering due to the anti-dumping duties imposed by the US on shrimp exports has been further impacted by the catastrophe. Leading exporters like Hindustan Lever, Liberty Oil Mills and Allanasons among others have begun to experience an impact on their businesses. Though it is too early to quantify the effect, they anticipate a fall in marine exports. According to the Abraham Tharakan, president of the Kochi-based Seafood Exporters Association of India, "The affected areas of Nagapattinam, Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari account for about 10-15 per cent of the shrimp catch, while 30 per cent of the total exports of the low value squid and cuttlefish comes from here." India's marine exports amounted to \$1.4 billion last year, of which 80 per cent was of shrimp.

Source: Rediff.com

<http://inhome.rediff.com/money/2005/jan/07tsunami.htm>

Chhattisgarh gets 'tsunami fish' at throwaway prices

Raipur: Inland in Chhattisgarh people are getting their favourite sea fish at one-fourth the normal price. From Rs.40 per kg, sea fish from tsunami hit regions of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh is being sold at Rs.10-12 a kg in the tribal area of Bastar and Bilaspur. Agents from the disaster stricken area had been supplying fish that had been washed ashore after the waves struck on Dec 26 morning. Ulhar Das of the Bilaspur Sea Merchants Association said "We purchased about eight-10 tonnes of sea fish from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu a day and supplied it in markets in the tribal areas, but after Dec 26, supply has gone up to 20 tonnes a day. Local agents have been roasting most of the sea fish before retailing it in weekly markets in the tribal areas to save it from rotting.

Source: Indo-Asian News Service (Via NewKerala.com)

<http://news.newkerala.com/india-news/?action=fullnews&id=56591>

Tsunami may prove to be a boon for fishing industry

An Indian fisheries expert has said that the tsunami could be a boon for the Indian fishing industry. R. Santhanam, Dean of Fisheries College and Research Centre in southern Tuticorin, said that the tremors and the high waves would have churned the sea, supplementing the nutrients fish feed upon in the ocean waters, and subsequently the fish productivity will also increase. The break in the kind of intensive fishing being carried out by the fishermen would result in fish rejuvenation leading to a good harvest of sea food subsequently. However, the saline sea water which swamped large farm land and fresh water bodies inland would hit agriculture and lead to a scarcity of drinking water.

Source: WebIndia123.com

<http://www.webindia123.com/news/showdetails.asp?id=58893&cat=India>

Restore mangroves to fight disaster: Experts

Bsiwajit Mohanty, secretary of the Wildlife Society of Orissa said that a tsunami striking Orissa's coast could kill 100,000 people, blaming 'rampant proliferation' of prawn farms along the coast and estuarine areas for mangrove removal. He said that currently the area covered by mangroves was around 215 sq km, down from an estimated 1,000 sq km in the pre-independence period, citing the last Forest Survey of India report, with the the Bhittarkanika and Mahanadi delta being the most rich. He also said that high sand dunes along the coast have been removed due to casuarina

plantations established to provide cyclone protection. Now there is an urgent need to cover the estuarine and river mouth areas with mangrove plantations and also free the beaches from casuarinas trees so that natural sand dunes can be rebuilt.

Source: *WebIndia.com*

<http://www.webindia123.com/news/showdetails.asp?id=58715&cat=India>

List of contact numbers for Disaster Management and Mitigation Department

<http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/contact.htm>

Government of Tamil Nadu assistance package to fishermen

- The following relief was announced by the Minister:
- Replacement of gill nets for Vallams at Rs.20,000 per unit for 10000 units at a total cost of Rs.20 crores.
- Replacement of gill nets for catamaran at Rs.10,000 per unit for 20000 units at a total cost of Rs.20 crores.
- Repair/ rebuilding of Vallams at Rs.15,000 per unit for 10000 boats at a total cost of Rs.15 crores.
- Repair/ rebuilding of catamarans at Rs.5000 per unit for 20000 catamarans at a total cost of Rs.10 crores.

Government of Tamil Nadu (India): Damages as of 7 January, 0900 HRS IST

Districts affected	No. of villages / Kuppams affected	Population affected	Houses/huts damaged	Deaths	Injured
Chennai	24	65,322	17,722	206	52
Kancheepuram	74	100,000	9,500	128	22
Tiruvallur	6	25,600	5,000	29	0
Cuddalore	51	99,704	15,200	612	214
Villupuram	33	78,250	11,112	47	73
Nagapattinam	73	196,184	36,860	6035	1,922
Tiruvarur	0	0	0	16	356
Thanjavur	23	24,000	100	24	356
Kanniyakumari	33	187,650	31,175	817	329
Thoothukudi	23	13,072	1084	3	
Tirunelveli	1-	27,948	630	4	0
Ramanathapuram	1	6,815	10	6	0
Pudukottai	25	66,350	1	15	0
Total	376	890,885	128,394	7,942	3,324

Source: *Government of Tamil Nadu, 7 January 2005*

<http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/damages.htm>

Nagapattinam District Coastal Areas TSUNAMI Affected Village Particulars and map

Source: Nagapattinam District website, 8 January 2005.

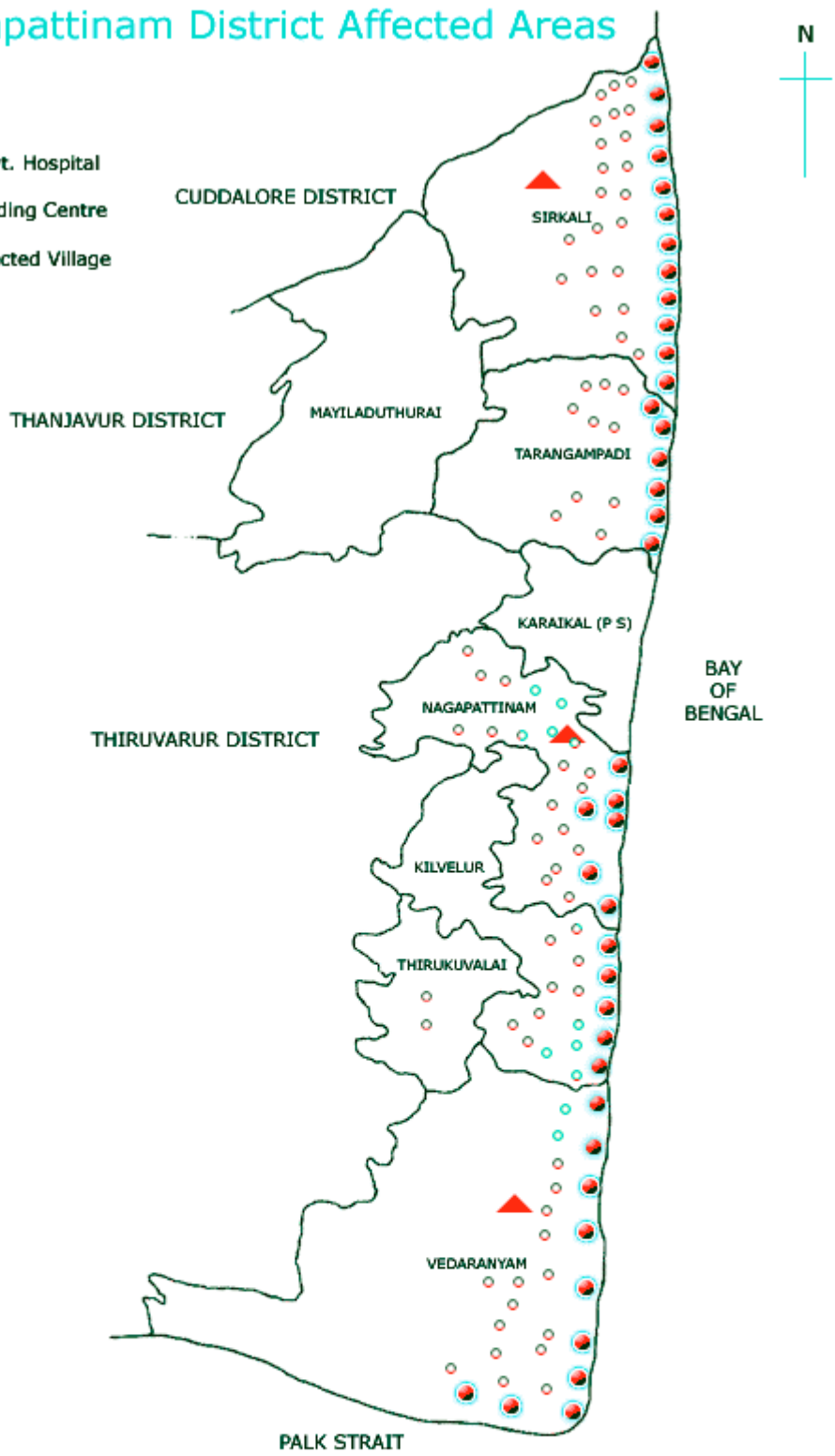
http://nagapattinam.nic.in/tsunami/tsuna_affv.htm

Taluk name	Village	Deaths	Population	Houses	Relief camps
Nagapattinam		3,364	39,235	10,075	30 with 30,369 occupants
	North Poiyur				
	Akkaraipettai				
	Keechankuppam				
	Theederkuppam				
	Velipalayam				
	Nambiyarnagar				
	Velipalayam Beach				
	Ariyanattu Street				
	Nalliyanthottam				
	Pattinacherry				
	Palpannaicherry				
	Samanthappettai				
	Silladi				
	Pandagasalai Street				
	Beerodum Street				
Kilvelur		1,479	39,939	8,525	13 with 11,514 occupants
	Vellankani				
	South Poigainallur				
	Kallar				
	Veerangudikadu				
	Prathamaramapuram				
	Seruthur				
	Kameshwaram				
	Vairavankadu				
	Manaimedu				
	Vilunthamavadi				
Vedaranyam		140	41,090	2060	15 with 14,065 occupants
	Pudupalli				
	Vettaikkaraniruppu				
	Vanavanmadevi				
	Vellapallam				
	Nalurvedapathy				
	Kovilpathu				
	Pushpavanam				
	Periyakuthagai				
	Arkattuthurai				

	Kollitheevu				
	Maniyantheevu				
	mottandithoppu				
	Agasthiyampalli				
	Kodiyakkadu				
	Kodiyakkarai				
Sirkali		505	53,920	10,000	28 with 21,288 occupants
	Thirumulaivasal				
	Thoduvai				
	Valuthalagudi				
	Thianthottam				
	Vanagiri				
	Poombukar				
	Pudukuppam				
	Vellapallam				
	Perunthottam				
	Nayakkarkuppam / Chavadikuppam				
	Kosalakuppam				
	Kadaikkadu				
	Keelamoovarkarai				
	Melamoovarkarai				
	Koolaiyar				
	Palaiyar				
	Madavamadu				
	Kettavaimadu				
	Olakattaimedu				
	Kottaimedu				
	Kodiyampalayam				
	Chinnurpettai				
Tharangampadi		517	22,000	6,200	10 with 13,800 occupants
	Chandrapadi				
	Tarangampadi				
	perumlpettai				
	Vellakoil				
	perumlpettai				
	Thalampettai				
	Kuttiyandiyur				
	Veppancherry				
	Chinnangudi				
	Chinnamedu				

Nagapattinam District Affected Areas

- ▲ Govt. Hospital
- Feeding Centre
- Affected Village



Maldives

No relevant clips today.

Myanmar

No relevant clips today.

Malaysia

No relevant clips today.

Indonesia

No relevant clips today.

Regional

U.N.: Mangroves could have reduced tsunami damage

Pasi Rinne, heading the U.N. Environment Program's response to the disaster, agreed with conservation groups that the swamps and reefs not already destroyed by humans may have reduced some of the damage caused by the tsunami. However, he said, it is too early to tell how much difference they made. Nick Davidson, deputy chief of the secretariat for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which also is based in Gland, near Geneva also agreed but said it remains unclear whether mangroves and coral reefs had a significant protective effect against a "tsunami on the scale that we've just witnessed." Up to half of the world's mangrove swamps have disappeared in the last 20-30 years because of the development of tourist resorts, transport infrastructure and commercial prawn fishing.

Source: The Star Online.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2005/1/7/latest/20587UNMang&sec=latest>

Waves may have wrecked world's most beautiful coral

The tsunami that took a heavy toll in human life also battered Indian Ocean coral reefs that already were in distress from pollution and global warming, possibly causing damage that will require decades to recover, experts say. Scientists have yet to conduct a complete survey of damage to the coral reefs from the tsunami, but experts fear that some of the Earth's most spectacular coral formations may carry scars from the killer wave for many years. Tom Hourigan, a coral reef expert for the National Marine Fisheries Service, said that coral formations throughout the Indian Ocean were severely damaged by El Nino warming in 1997 and 1998 and were just beginning to recover when they were slammed by the tsunami last month. He said the shallow reefs along hundreds of miles of beach in Indian Ocean would have been damaged firstly by the force of the wave, and secondly but the debris and sediment carried with receding waters. A large amount of the protein that human communities need come from fishing on the coral reefs. The fish population may be affected by damage to the reefs, which could impact on fishing communities for a long period of time."

Source: Associated Press (via Chicago Sun Times)

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-reef07.html>