

Time Series Evaluation of Import of Cured Fish Products to India

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The fish production in India has witnessed a positive growth over the decades, even then the import of fish and fishery products catch the momentum. India imports cured fish products under the code HS – 0305 in different forms such as dried, salted or in brine, smoked fish, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process, fish meal fit for human consumption. The compositional structure of

import of cured fish products to India changed over the decades. The sub-classifications of HS – 0305 under which cured fish and fishery products imported to India are given in Table 1. In this article, secondary data on different HS codes were collected from the database <https://comtrade.un.org/data/> and analyzed descriptively the dynamics of compositional structure of import of cured fish products to India.

HS Codes	Description of HS codes
0305	Fish; dried, salted or in brine, smoked fish, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process, fish meal fit for human consumption
030510	Fish; flours, meals and pellets, fit for human consumption
030520	Fish; livers, roes and milt of fish, dried, smoked, salted or in brine
030530	Fish; fillets, dried, salted or in brine, but not smoked
030539	Fish fillets; dried, salted or in brine, but not smoked, n.e.c. in item no. 0305.3
030541	Fish; smoked, whether or not cooked before or during smoking, salmon, Pacific (<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i> , <i>gorbuscha</i> , <i>keta</i> , <i>tschawytscha</i> , <i>kisutch</i> , <i>masou</i> , <i>rhodurus</i>), Atlantic (<i>Salmo salar</i>) and Danube (<i>Hucho hucho</i>), includes fillets, but excludes edible fish offal
030542	Fish; smoked, whether or not cooked before or during smoking, herrings (<i>Clupeaharengus</i> , <i>Clupeapallasii</i>), includes fillets, but excludes edible fish offal
030549	Fish; smoked, whether or not cooked before or during smoking, n.e.c. in item no. 0305.4, includes fillets, but excludes edible fish offal
030551	Fish; dried, whether or not salted but not smoked, other than edible fish offal, cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>)
030559	Fish; dried, whether or not salted but not smoked, other than edible fish offal, other than cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>)
030562	Fish; salted or in brine, not dried or smoked, other than edible fish offal, cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>)
030563	Fish; salted or in brine, not dried or smoked, other than edible fish offal, anchovies (<i>Engrails spp.</i>)
030569	Fish; salted or in brine, not dried or smoked, other than edible fish offal, n.e.c. in item no. 0305.6
030572	Fish; edible offal, fish heads, tails and maws
030579	Fish; edible offal, other than shark fins, fish heads, tails and maws

*n.e.c indicates that not elsewhere considered

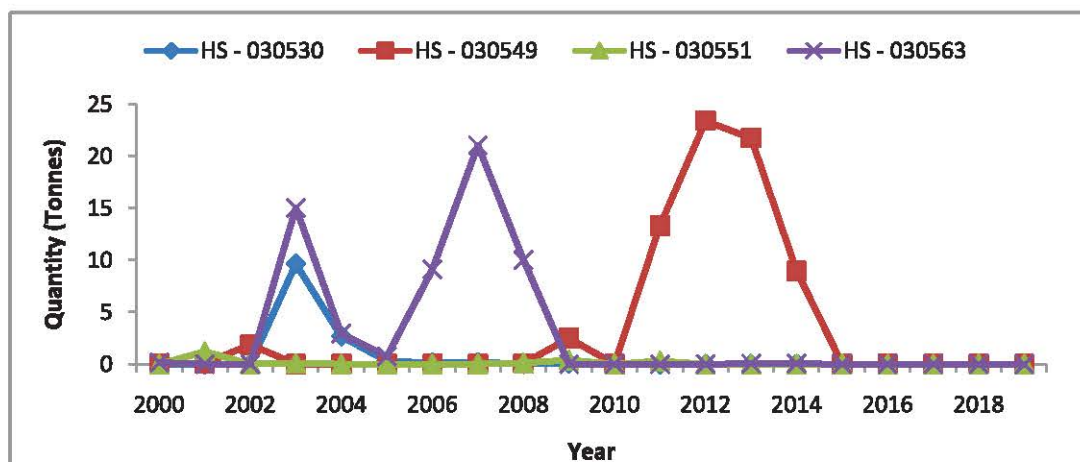
India had imported 8.28 tonnes of cured fish and fish products in 2000, which increased to 805 tonnes worth 1.23 million US \$ in 2010 and reached to a maximum quantity of 2780 tonnes worth 4.5 million US \$ in 2014, before starting to declining the import quantity in the following years. The import, however, decreased in quantity to 1896, 1472, 1376 and 993 tonnes in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively. Bangladesh was the major country exporting cured fish products to India under the head HS – 0305 accounting for about 90 % of total import throughout the period 2000-2019.

India also imported 0.01 tonnes of fish - flours, meals and pellets fit for human consumption from Thailand in 2007 under the head HS – 030510; 0.06 tonnes of fish- livers, roes and milt of fish, dried, smoked, salted or in brine from Republic of Korea in 2003 under the head HS -030520 and 6.39 tonnes of fish fillets- dried, salted or in brine, but not smoked, not elsewhere considered in item no. 0305.3 from Republic of Korea in 2013 under the head HS – 030539. The import of fish - fillets, dried, salted or in brine, but not smoked to India under the head HS – 030530 mainly from Italy, Netherland and Denmark during 2003-2008 but completely stopped due to unknown reasons.

India imported only 0.04 and 0.02 tonnes of fish- (cooked or not cooked before or during smoking), herrings (*Clupea harengus*, *Clupea pallasii*), includes fillets, but excludes edible fish offal under the head HS – 030542 from United Kingdom in 2005 and Norway in 2013, respectively. Also, India imported fish – (cooked or not cooked before or during smoking salmon, Pacific (*Oncorhynchus nerka*, *O. gorbuscha*, *O. keta*, *O. tshawytscha*, *O. kisutch*, *O. masou*, *O. rhodurus*),

Atlantic (*Salmo salar*) and Danube (*Hucho hucho*), includes fillets, but excludes edible fish under the head HS-030541 up to 2014 from Norway and United Kingdom but import stopped since then under this head. The import of products under the HS code. 0305.4, includes fillets, but excludes edible fish offal under the head HS - 030549 discreetly during 2000 - 2014 but subsequently stopped import of smoked items under this category.

India had just imported 0.10 tonnes of fish- salted or in brine, not dried or smoked, other than edible fish offal, cod (*Gadus morhua*, *Gadus ogac*, *Gadus macrocephalus*) under the head - 030562 from Portugal only in 2003. India mainly imported fish - salted or in brine, not dried or smoked, other than edible fish offal, anchovies (*Engrails spp.*) under the head HS - 030563 from Republic of Korea in 2004 and 2005; and from Thailand in 2006, 2007 and 2008. But, later imported only from Italy a mere quantity 0.04 and 0.02 tonnes in 2013 and 2014, respectively. The import source of fish- salted or in brine, not dried or smoked, other than edible fish offal, not elsewhere considered in item no. 0305.6 to India under the head HS – 030569 varied during the period 2000-2019. The major countries importing the items under the head HS – 030569 were Bangladesh, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom; also China, Singapore and Thailand contributed at times. India had only once imported 22 tonnes of fish - edible offal, fish heads, tails and maws worth 0.50 million US \$ from United Kingdom in 2019. India imported 0.40 and 0.001 tonnes of fish- edible offal, other than shark fins, fish heads, tails and maws from Republic of Korea in 2016 and from Norway in 2019, respectively.



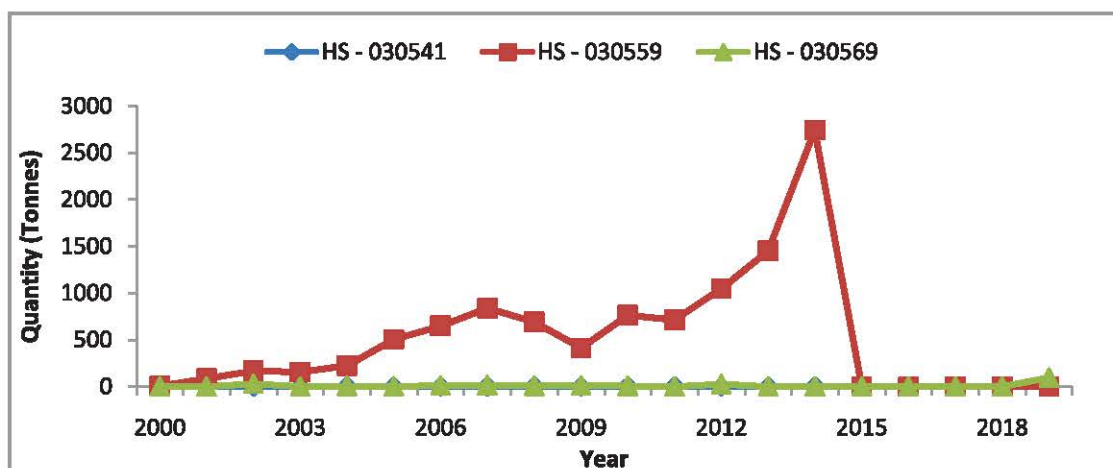


Fig. 1. The Import of major cured fish products to India

The quantity wise import dynamics of cured fish products is depicted in Figure 1 a & b. It could be inferred that the import of smoked fish products to India increased from 2000, but later completely stopped the import since 2015. India still continues the import of dried fish products, salted or in brine but not dried or smoke fish products during the period

2000-2019 from Bangladesh, which accounted nearly 90 % of total import of cured fish products to India. The import of cured fish products to India is considered as a free trade. The firms in India can import cured fish products after paying basic import duty, applicable taxes and surcharges; and fulfilling compulsory compliance reports.