



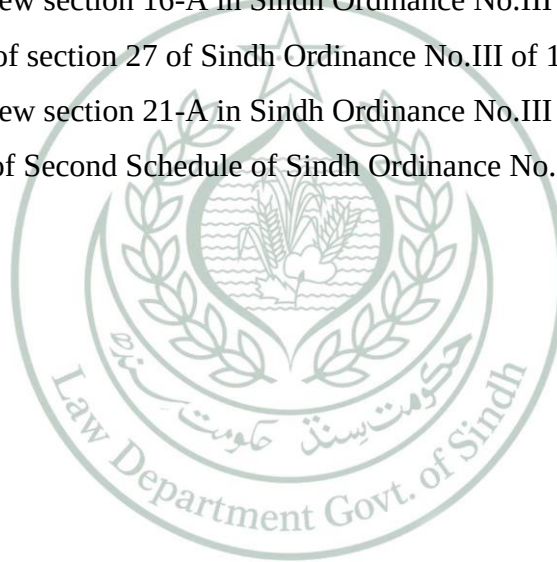
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THE SINDH FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2026.
SINDH ACT NO. XIII OF 2026.

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THE SINDH CODE

THE SINDH FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2026.

SINDH ACT NO. XIII OF 2026.

[09TH APRIL, 2026.]

AN ACT to amend the Sindh Fisheries Ordinance, 1980.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Sindh Fisheries Ordinance, 1980, in the manner hereinafter appearing; **Preamble.**

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Sindh Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2026. **Short title and commencement.**

(2) It shall come into force at one.

2. In the Sindh Fisheries Ordinance, 1980, hereinafter referred to as the said Ordinance, in section 2- **Amendment of section 2 of Sindh Ordinance No.III of 1980.**
- (i) after clause (a), the following new clause shall be inserted:-

“(a-i) “adjacent province’s waters” means the maritime territorial waters of any province other than Sindh;

(a-ii) “continental shelf”, means and includes the seabed and subsoil which extends beyond a country’s land territory under the sea to the outer edge of the continental margin and is considered as a natural prolongation of the landmass into the ocean.”

- (ii) after clause (b), the flowing new clause shall be inserted:-

“(b-i) “exclusive economic zone” means the sea zone ding up to 200 nautical miles from a country’s baseline, usually the low-water line along the coast;”;

- (iii) after clause (j), the following new clauses shall be inserted:-

“(j-i) “illegal fishing trawling” means a fishing method where large, weighted nets (ban nets) are dragged across the seabed or through the water column of the territorial waters of Sindh and Balochistan to capture fish and shrimp;

(j-ii) “jurisdiction” means the legal authority of a State (Sindh) to make and enforce the laws, regulate its activities and exercise its control within the defined maritime zone (territorial waters of Sindh up to 12 nautical miles), and shall exercise powers and regulate

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its activities in relation to the licensing, prohibited fishing method species protection, protected areas or zones, within territorial waters of Sindh;”;

(iv) after clause (mm), the following new clause shall be inserted:-

“(mmm) “nautical mile” is a unit of measurement used in maritime and aviation contexts for distance over water or in the air and is a standard unit in navigation and international law of the sea (UNCLOS), which is used to measure territorial waters (e.g., 12 NM limit), exclusive economic zones (200 NM) and distances at sea;

(mmmm) “on-the-spot penalty” means a financial penalty imposed by the Director Fisheries or his authorized officer or official invested with the powers of fisheries Inspector or Assistant Warden Fisheries or Fisheries. Inspector for the offences specified in the Second Schedule to this Ordinance;”;

(v) after clause (r), the following new clauses shall be added:-

“(s) “sovereignty” means sovereign rights of the Fisheries Department Government of Sindh, for resource use which include regulates fishing, marine scientific research, explores, exploit, conserve, and manage natural fisheries resources (living and non-living organisms) in territorial waters of Sindh up to 12 nautical miles;

(t) “territorial waters” means the maritime zone extending up to 12 nautical miles from the baseline of the coast of Sindh as per applicable national and international law;

(u) “United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982)” which is usually called as the “Constitution of the Oceans” is an international treaty that established a legal framework for the use and governance of the world’s seas and oceans and was adopted in 1982 in Montego Bay Jamaica and entered into force in 1994;

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(v) “Zone” in the context of the UNCLOS, 1982 refers to the different maritime areas established from a Country’s baseline (coastline), each with specific rights and responsibilities.”

3. In the said Ordinance, in section 3, in sub-section (1), the full stop at the end shall be replaced by a colon and thereafter the following proviso shall be added:- **Amendment of section 3 of Sindh Ordinance No.III of 1980.**

“Provided that the provincial fishing and trade licenses shall actively be used within the provincial territories of the Sindh.”.

4. In the said Ordinance, after section 10, the following new section shall be inserted:- **Insertion of new section 10-A in Sindh Ordinance No.III of 1980.**

“10-A. Illegal Fishing Trawling. When trawling is conducted in violation of this Ordinance or rules made thereunder, such as-

- (i) using banned nets (e.g., “Seine net” locally known as Kutra”, “Set bad net” locally known as “Bulla” or Bullo” and “Trawl net” locally known as “Gujja” Gujjo or Gujj (without prescribed fine-mesh nets);
- (ii) fishing in prohibited areas (breeding/nursery grounds, creek areas, protected zones);
- (iii) operating without licenses or permits;
- (iv) crossing into another provinces or country’s waters without authorization (e.g., Sindh-based trawlers fishing illegally in Balochistan);
- (v) fishing during the seasonal fishing bans (1st July to 30th June of every year), the violator shall be liable to such punishment as specified in the Second Schedule to this Ordinance.”.

5. In the said Ordinance, after section 7, the following new sections shall be inserted:- **Insertion of new section 7-A and 7-B in Sindh Ordinance No.III of 1980.**

“7-A. Prohibition on fishing in adjacent province’s waters. (1) No person using a fishing boat or craft or vessel whether registered or otherwise in the Province of Sindh shall engage in fishing within the territorial waters of an adjacent Province without a valid license, permit or authorization issued by the competent authority of that Province.”.

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(1) Notwithstanding the existence of an agreement, any boat owner or fishing boat operator of a Sindh-registered or unregistered fishing craft, boat, vessel or launch found fishing in the waters of an adjacent province in violation of that province's laws shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this Ordinance and shall be punishable under section 21.

7-B. Inter-Provincial Coordination. Government may formally engage with the Balochistan Government to create a joint task force or intelligence-sharing mechanism to identify offending vessels.”.

6. In the said Ordinance, after section 16, the following new section shall be inserted:-

Insertion of new section 16-A in Sindh Ordinance No.III of 1980.

“16-A. Power to act against vessels fishing illegally in adjacent provinces. (1) Where a fishing craft, whether registered in Province of Sindh or not, is found fishing or is suspected to have been fishing in the territorial waters of an adjacent province without the license, permit, special order or authorization of the Sindh Province, the Director Fisheries Sindh or any person authorized by him may, upon receipt of a verified complaint or evidence from the Government of Balochistan or any competent authority including Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) such as Intelligence Agencies of Pakistan, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA), Pakistan Coast Guard (PCG), Pakistan Navy (Marine) (PN), to stop, board and inspect such vessel within the territorial waters of the Province of Sindh.

(2) Upon being satisfied that an offence under sub-section (1) has been committed, the Director Fisheries, Sindh Fisheries Department may, without favoritism, take any action under the relevant provisions of this Ordinance, that offence might have took place in the adjacent province, liable for the following actions within the territory of the Province of Sindh:-

- (i) the owner or operator or crew of the boat shall be issued a show-cause notice and shall be required to appear before the Director or any person authorized by him within three working days;
- (ii) based on the inquiry, if the violation is established, the Director or person authorized by him, may-

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- (a) suspend or cancel the license and registration of the vessel or crew if it is registered in the Province of Sindh; and
- (b) impose a penalty for the boat or crew as defined in the Second Schedule or initiate legal proceedings under the relevant section of the Ordinance;
- (c) seize the fish caught, and the fishing gear used in such fishing; and
- (d) arrest without warrant, the boat owner or operator and crew of such vessel.

7. In the said Ordinance, in section 21-

- (i) in sub-section (1), for the word “fifty”, the words “one hundred” shall be substituted;
- (ii) in sub-section (1-A), for the word “ten”, the words “one hundred thousand” shall be substituted;
- (iii) in sub-section (2), for the words “punished with fine”, the words punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months and fine which may extend to rupees twenty thousand in respect of fish dealer license, and fifty thousand but shall not be less than twenty thousand in respect of fish processing plant, and rupees fifty thousand in respect operating a fishing craft without license, or with both;
- (iv) after sub-section (2), the following new sub-section shall be inserted:-

Amendment of section 27 of Sindh Ordinance No.III of 1980

“(2-A) Whoever contravenes the provisions of section 14, shall be punished with fine which may extend to rupees twenty-five thousand.”.

8. In the said Ordinance, after section 21, the following new section shall be inserted:-

Insertion of new section 21-A in Sindh Ordinance No.III of 1980.

“21-A. Power to impose on-the-spot penalty of fine. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Ordinance, Government may, by notification in the official gazette authorize the Inspectors of Fisheries to impose on-the-spot penalty of fine for the offences specified in the Second Schedule.

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(2) The penalty shall be imposed by issuing an official penalty notice (challan) to the offender, detailing the offence, the amount of the penalty and the time and place for its payment.

(3) The amount of the on-the-spot penalty of fine shall be such as specified in the Second Schedule.

(4) Upon immediate payment of the penalty, the offender shall be discharged, and no further proceedings shall be taken against him in respect of that offence.

(5) If the offender fails to pay the on-the-spot penalty, the Inspector shall proceed under section 16 and lodge a complaint before the court under section 19 for formal prosecution.”.

9. In the said Ordinance, for Second Schedule, the following shall be substituted :-

**Substitution of
Second Schedule of
Sindh Ordinance
No.III of 1980.**

SECOND SCHEDULE

(see section 21-A & 26)

MAXIMUM AMOUNT ACCEPTABLE BY WAY OF COMPOSITION FOR CERTAIN OFFENCES

S.No.	Description of Offences	Maximum amount, which may be accepted as composition.
1.	Use of Ban nets.	One hundred thousand Pak rupees plus coat of fish caught.
2.	Manufacturing/ selling/ purchasing/processing/ fishing/ transportation and lying and any place beg nets with cod-end and other nets in nay shape less than 25 mm (stretched) for shrimp and 55 mm (stretched)for fish as prohibited under rule 25-A of the Sindh Fisheries Rules 1980.	One hundred thousand rupees.
3.	Violation of mesh size regulations for gill net (less than prescribed size) in all creeks (Nar) and off shore territorial waters and of Sindh.	Fifty thousand rupees.
4.	Fishing in a declared sanctuary without a special permit in prohibited areas (breeding/nursery grounds, creek areas, protected zones).	Fifty thousand rupees.
5.	Fishing without license	Fifty thousand Pak rupees
6.	Failure to produce license, permit, or registration on demand by an Inspector under section 14.	Twenty-Five thousand

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7.	Obstructing or refusing to allow an inspection under section 15	Twenty thousand rupees
8.	Fishing with any gear or method other than permitted under the rules.	Twenty thousand rupees
9.	Killing, capturing, or possessing fish of a size less than the prescribed legal size as defined in the First Schedule.	One hundred thousand rupees plus cost of fish caught.
10.	Violation of seasonal fishing bans (1 st July to 30 th June of every year)	One hundred thousand rupees plus cost of fish caught.
11.	Illegal Fishing Trawling in Balochstan Waters, whether a fishing boat is registered or unregistered under Sindh Fisheries Department.	One hundred thousand rupees plus cost of fish caught.
12.	A fisherman or vessel/boat/launch/doonda/hora/fiberglass boat and steel hull boat may legally operate one or two permitted gears at the same time.	Twenty thousand rupees
13.	Violation where a licensed fisherman/vessel owner employs unlicensed crew or helpers to operate nets and engage in fishing, which threatens the licensing system.	Thirty thousand rupees
14.	Buy, sell, trade, barter, display, advertise, transport, or else deal in any fish or any fish products in a market, shop, or roadside stall without holding a valid Fish Dealer License issued under section 9(2).	Twenty thousand rupees plus cost of fish being traded illegally confiscated and auctioned immediately, and the sale proceeds are held as seized property (section 16(3)).
15.	Establish, operate or manage any fish processing plant, factory or yard without obtaining a valid license issued under section 11.	Fifty thousand rupees
16.	Discharging untreated, harmful factory effluent or sewage into any waters by contravening the provisions of section 8	One hundred thousand rupees