

Blue-finned Mahseer

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In news- The Blue-finned Mahseer has been moved to the **'least concern'** status from 'endangered' of the IUCN red list. The golden mahseer is still in danger of going extinct.

About the fish-

- Mahseer fish belongs to the **genus Tor** of **family Cyprinidae (carps)**.
- It thrives in **clear rivers and lakes of India and southeastern Asia**, and among the largest of Indian river fishes.
- They are commercially important **game fish**, as well as highly esteemed **food fish**.
- They are potential candidate species for **aquaculture**.
- It is **very sensitive to dissolved oxygen levels, water temperature** and sudden climatic changes, hence an **important indicator of freshwater ecosystems**.
- They are **omnivorous**, eating not only algae, crustaceans, insects, frogs, and other fish, but also fruits that fall from trees overhead.
- The first species from this group were **scientifically described by Francis Buchanan-Hamilton in 1822**.
- The **following sub species** of Mahseer are generally recognized by scientists in India:
 - **"Golden Mahseer" or Tor Putitora** found in the Himalayan streams and rivers.
 - **"Blue Fin / Deccan Mahseer" or Tor Khudree** found in rivers of the Deccan Plateau.
 - **"Red Finned Mahseer" or Tor Tor** found in the rivers of central India.
 - **"Chocolate Mahseer" or Neolissochilus hexagonolepis**, found in the Indian Himalayan region.
 - **"Humpback Mahseer " or Tor remadevii** found in the Cauvery River and its tributaries, largest of all the

subspecies.