



Cobia, *Rachycentron canadum*. (Photo: Stock File)

CMFRI intends to reboot mariculture



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[Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute](#) (CMFRI) has expressed its intention to focus on popularising mariculture activities in all the maritime states to meet the rising seafood demand.

To achieve this aim, the annual review meeting of All India Network Project on Mariculture (AINP-M), co-ordinated by CMFRI, has formulated an action plan for developing and popularising marine grow-out systems, farmer-friendly hatchery technologies for commercially important fishes and establishing a centre of excellence in mariculture research in the country, *The New Indian Express* informed.

AINP-M is a major research programme with a financial outlay of INR 420 million (USD 6.3 million) undertaken by CMFRI with the centres from all the maritime states to strengthen the mariculture initiatives in the country.

Apart from the three species-cobia, seabass and pompano- for which currently commercial level hatchery production is available in the country, CMFRI is in the process of developing technology for three more marine species.

In this regard, CMFRI Director Dr A Gopalakrishnan said due importance would be given to popularize the farming technologies developed by conducting demonstrations in the farmers' fields.

"At a time when capture fisheries production is undergoing through a stagnation period, the mariculture can be considered as the only option to meet the ever increasing demand for the marine food products," he said adding that open sea cage farming method developed by CMFRI is one of the best farming models which could be effectively popularized among the fishermen community in the country.

CMFRI Director stressed that the mariculture sector will address the ever increasing demand for quality seafood for human consumption and, to some extent, bridge the gap between demand and supply in marine fish production as the amount of wild caught fish has remained stagnant for the years and there is little scope for increasing the capture sector activity.