

Fish price declined in Kerala despite soaring demand, says CMFRI study



KOCHI: In a major study on fish trade in Kerala, the [Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute](#) (CMFRI) has found that the fish prices in [Kerala](#) registered a fall in 2016 despite a soaring demand for fish. Exposing the dire condition of Kerala's fisheries sector, the study also shows 40 per cent of existing total fish demand in the [State](#) is met through the arrivals of fish from neighbouring states which reveals that the gap between demand and the supply of domestic fish in Kerala is getting wider day by day.

The study, which was carried out by Dr Shyam S Salim, Principal Scientist and his team at the Socio Economic Evaluation and Technology Transfer Division of CMFRI, points out that arrival of fish from the neighbouring states is the major factor which keeps fish price steady in Kerala preventing from a sharp hike compared to other commodities.

According to the study, the fish prices registered a fall of 15 to 20% in 2016 which is higher than the increase in landings. The study assumes significance in the context that fish price rose 35 per cent in 2015 compared to 2014. A drastic decline was recorded in the price of mackerel (30.6%).

Even the species such as sardine, mackerel, anchovies, barracuda and threadfin breams which are the favourite varieties among the fish consumers in the State experienced a price fall of 20.7%.

The study highlights the fact that even if the domestic supply is less compared to the demand, the price does not rise abruptly or proportionally. This is mainly due to the arrivals of fish from other states which meet the demand-supply gap.