

**14 June 2017**

# Fishermen hoping for a rich catch

*(Continued from P1)*

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ACCORDING to an estimate prepared by the institute based on the 2005-2007 data, the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) of sardines along the Kerala coast is 2.3 lakh tonnes. But, in 2012, the sardine catch rose to 3.9 lakh tonnes, well above the MSY. In the subsequent years, the sardine harvest declined to 2.1 lakh tonnes in 2013 - a dip of 46 per cent - and 1.6

lakhs tonnes in 2014 - a decline of 61 per cent. In 2015, the harvest dipped to 68,431 tonnes, a record slide of 82 per cent.

This year, in the first phase of the monsoon, the state received a cumulative rainfall of 224.4 mm against a normal of 231.2 mm, registering a meagre deficit of 2.94 per cent. Considering the larger interest of its marine wealth, the state should enforce the 61-day trawling ban by the Centre on all fishing vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone from 12 to 200 nautical miles, said marine scientists.