

CMFRI TO SET UP ACTION PLAN FOR COASTAL ECOSYSTEM

**DC CORRESPONDENT
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The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has been asked to draft management strategies for strengthening the resilience to achieve healthy and productive ocean ecosystems as part of formulating a national-level action plan for the sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems of the country.

NITI Aayog entrusted the CMFRI to prepare the draft in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund-India.

In a combined effort, the NITI Aayog, CMFRI and WWF-India will jointly organise a two-day brainstorming session of eminent marine biologists, environmentalists, technocrats, fisheries experts from across the country and senior officials of fisheries departments from all the maritime States and Union Territories on July 4 and 5 at CMFRI. The draft action plan will be finalised at the end of the meet on July 5.

"The conglomeration of experts from various sectors will identify the ways and means for the protection of ocean wealth at the meet and the draft action plan will be circulated among the stakeholders for feedback", said Dr A Gopalakrishnan, Director of CMFRI. "This will have a composite route map for boosting the contribution of marine and coastal ecosystems to the national and local GDP as an incentive for protection and sustainable management", he said.