

CMFRI takes steps to curb juvenile fishing

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute is taking steps to implement the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) restrictions to prevent juvenile fishing.

The Institute would soon convene a joint meeting of all the coastal states to implement MLS restrictions in all the maritime states uniformly to curb juvenile fishing, said CMFRI Director A Goplakrishnan.

He also said that overcapacity is a major issue in fishing sector. Overcapacity of fishing boats, exploitation of juvenile fishes, climate change and poor condition of the fish stock are some of the major reasons for decline in the availability of marine fishery resources.

He was speaking at a function to mark the launch of 21-day Summer School aimed at training young researchers on advanced methods of fish stock assessment.

The living natural resource like marine fish has capacity to rebuild. If not monitored and properly managed, over exploitation will lead to stock depletion and some may become extinct. Harvest of this resource needs to be maintained at sustainable level through monitoring and control, he added.

Earlier inaugurating the function, S Karthikeyan, Kerala Fisheries Director said that policies in fisheries sector is greatly influenced by the fish stock assessment studies. The Fisheries Department will collaborate with the CMFRI to promote cage fish farming and to explore prospects of deep sea fishing and identifying potential fishing zone.