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## **CMFRI Project gets 9 cr aid**

**Kochi:** The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has got ₹9 crore from the Union government to establish national broodbanks of two marine fishes namely cobia and pompano.

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) under the Ministry of agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved

CMFRI's proposal to enhance production of farmed cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) and pompano (*Trachinotus blochii*)

through the establishment of their broodbanks and supply of larvae to all coastal states for seed production. The broodbank will be set up at Mandapam and Vizhinjam regional centres

of the CMFRI and the regional hatcheries will be established in all maritime states. The broodbank will

have quarantine facility, broodstock holding tanks, recirculation aquaculture systems and photothermal control systems. The proposed facility will sustainably produce fertilised eggs

and newly hatched larvae from bio-secure broodstocks of cobia and pompano fed with suitable diets under controlled water quality

parameters and photoperiod. According to Dr A Gopalakrishnan, director of CMFRI the new project will

help solve the issue of scarcity of quality seeds of cobia and pompano which are among the most suitable

species for sea cage farming in Indian waters. "Since the present marine capture fisheries is unable to meet growing seafood demand,

we have to focus on increasing the marine fish production through mariculture activities. However, scarcity of quality seeds is a major impediment to the mariculture industry in the country.

The proposed broodbanks and regional hatchery facilities will cater to the requirements of quality seeds of cobia and pompano in all maritime states," he said.