

11 December 2017

CMFRI VESSEL JOINS SEARCH, RESCUE OPS

Kochi: The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) joined the rescue operation for fishermen missing in sea following cyclone Ockhi. CMFRI's research vessel 'Pompano' joined the rescue team on Sunday at 7.15 am, said P U Zacharia, principal scientist, CMFRI. The contingent in the vessel comprises nine crew members, two fishermen from Pozhiyoor in Thiruvananthapuram and two rescue men from Fisheries Department, he said. "The vessel has joined the search and rescue operations off Alappuzha with five to six days of food and relief materials," Zacharia said. On why CMFRI joined the rescue operations nearly 10 days after the cyclone struck, Zacharia said CMFRI lacks a disaster management unit and 'Pompano' is a research vessel, not fit for intensive rescue efforts. "Fisheries Minister (J Mercykutty Amma) asked for our help in the rescue activities now. Since the sea is normal and many fishermen are still missing, we are joining the search and rescue efforts," he said.