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ABSTRACTS



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Coastal fishers' perception on climate change causes and effects: a PARS methodology framework

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The effects of climate change have multidimensional impacts on environment, fishery, social, economic and development drivers. The perception of the primary stakeholders plays a major role in proactive participation in disaster management, adaptation and mitigation plans. The development of the conceptual framework involved identification of the coastal districts and villages based on the different environment, fishery and socio-economic parameters. The present paper focused on PARS (Parameter, Attribute, Resilient Indicator and Score) methodology, a conceptual framework developed for assessing the climate change vulnerability of coastal livelihoods. The methodology which provides prioritisation and ranking of the different impacts is as perceived by the fishers. The assessment of coastal vulnerability was done for 1600 fisher households in three coastal villages in Alappuzha district of Kerala. The fishers' perception on climate change effects across fishing village's vulnerability assessment revealed that fishery was the most impacted parameter, followed by economic and environmental impacts. Social impact is the least impacted parameter, as perceived by the fishers. The study indicated that the long term effects of climate change aren't realized much among the fisher households. Fishers perceive that the fishery and economic parameters are of importance in the climate change adaptation and mitigation plan. The level of awareness is minimal which indicates that the fishers

couldn't correlate environmental changes consequent to climate change to their livelihood. The fishers were more concerned about loss in fishing days due to erratic monsoon. The paper suggests the immediate need to improve on the awareness of the primary stakeholders' knowledge to climate change by involving them in the disaster preparedness, management and mitigation planning and implementation process.

Keywords: Climate change impacts, coastal vulnerability, fishers' perception, PARS methodology