

Participatory councils will play crucial role in fisheries mgmt: Experts

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Kochi: Participatory management councils will play a crucial role in revamping the fisheries management system in the state, according to experts. Marine scientists said that the proposed management councils will ensure involvement of all the stakeholders, including fishermen in management and policy formation in the sector.

Sunil Mohamed, principal scientist, CMFRI said the councils would open a platform for discussions to take decisions on an issue in democratic way. "This participatory management will address the requirements for sustainability, equity and efficiency in fisheries and coastal resources management. The participatory management council will function as a 3-tier system at village, district and state level. The council will have representations of fishermen, government officials, boat owners, boat builders, fish traders, NGOs, scientists, etc.

"Through the implementation of these councils, fishermen would be empowered to become active members of the fisheries management team, balancing rights and responsibilities, and working in partnership rather than antagonistically with the government." said Mohamed.