



Ramanathapuram emerges second in fish production

Production stands at 1.46 lakh tonnes during 2018 after Kanniyakumari district

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RAMANATHAPURAM

This district has emerged second topper in the State in annual fish production recording 1.46 lakh tonnes during 2018 after Kanniyakumari.

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) after a meeting with stake holders at the CMFRI Mandapam regional centre near here on Tuesday, released the district wise 'marine fish landing data' for the year 2018.

The Fisheries Resources Assessment Division (FRAD) of CMFRI had collected random sampling data in liaison with fishermen across the state and finalised the provisional figure, officials said. The fisheries department collected data by employing the 'multi stage cluster sampling' method and the figures varied.



Pamban fishermen mending nets as they get ready for fishing on June 15 after the end of banning period. *L. BALACHANDAR

While the Fisheries department officials claimed Ramanathapuram topped the State, the CMFRI officials said Kanniyakumari topped with total production of 1.99 lakh tonnes. The figure would be revalidated and finalised after second round of meeting with stake holders next month.

Nagapattinam was the third highest fish production district (91,186 tonnes), fol-

lowed by Thoothukudi (70,965 tonnes), Cuddalore (62,525 tonnes) and Chennai (55,707 tonnes).

Having recorded high production of 1.90 lakh tonnes during 2017, Ramanathapuram witnessed a decline in the production during 2018 as there had been miscalculation in the landing data of 'oil sardine.' FRAD assessed the data as 11,076 tonnes while fishermen claimed it

was 35,000 tonnes.

Ramanathapuram contributed 29 to 32% of the State's total marine fish production of 7.02 lakh tonnes though a large section of fishermen in Rameswaram faced trouble in the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy while fishing in the Palk Bay. Trawlers contributed 60% of total production in the district.

While Cuttlefish (Cephalopods), prawns, Pomfrets, crabs and fishes belonging to the family of Percidae were exported, the protein rich Sardines and Anchovies were sold in the local markets. Fish production for the year 2018 was estimated at 3.49 million tonnes at the all India level, CMFRI officials said. Gujarat topped the country with total production of 7.8 lakh tonnes, followed by Tamil Nadu (7.02 lakh tonnes) and Kerala (6.43 lakh tonnes).