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Meet to study dip in oil sardine production

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Kochi: Experts from research institutes across the country will meet at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi on Tuesday to analyze the reasons behind the fluctuation of oil sardine in the southern Arabian sea.

The national-level symposium will try to identify the factors affecting this marine species along the southwest coast and will find ways and means to address the decrease in their production. Experts working in the areas of climate change, oceanography, fishery biology and socio-economics will engage in a panel discussion to set a way for the future course of research on fluctuating trend of oil sardine on a multi-disciplinary platform.

The one-day meet aims to recognise micro-level ecological factors of the ocean that influence the biological cycle of oil sardine, said E M Abdussamad, principal scientist, CMFRI. "A recent investigation of the CMFRI had indicated that climate change, especially El Nino-La Nina episodes, has a significant impact on oil sardine. Based on this, CMFRI had issued an advisory that the availability of sardine from Kerala coasts this year would decrease drastically depending on the intensity of El



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The symposium at CMFRI will try to identify the factors affecting this marine species along the southwest coast

Nino. The collapse experiencing today endorses the CMFRI findings. However, micro-level analysis is required to identify how oceanographic and climatic parameters affect the biology of the fish," he said.

Apart from El Nino, oceanographic phenomena such as increase in the sea surface temperature, upwelling and fluctuations in ocean productivity are considered crucial factors affecting the life-cycle of oil sardine. A multi-disciplinary approach is essential to analyse these aspects to generate a refined view on this enigmatic fish species, he said.

The sardine resource is highly susceptible to frequent and heavy fluctuations, but specific causative agents for this remain an enigma to the researchers, fishers and managers, he said.

