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CMFRI symposium on oil sardine

Reasons for catch fluctuations to be analysed

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The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute will hold a national symposium on Tuesday to analyse reasons behind fluctuations in oil sardine availability in the southern Arabian Sea.

The symposium will try to identify the factors affecting the marine species along the southwest coast and will find ways and means to address the issue. Experts working in the areas of climate change, oceanography, fishery biology and socio-economics will engage in a panel discussion to set up a way for the future course of research on fluctuating trend in oil sardine catch on a multi-disciplinary platform, said a press release here on Sunday.

The meet aims to recognise micro-level ecological factors of the ocean that influence the biological cycle of oil sardine, said E.M. Abdussamad, Principal Scien-

tist. Recent investigations had indicated that climate change, especially El Nino-La Nina episodes, had a significant impact on the oil sardine.

Based on this, the CMFRI had issued an advisory that availability of sardine off Kerala coast this year would decrease drastically depending on the intensity of El Nino. The collapse in oil sardine catch being experienced now endorses the CMFRI findings.

However, micro-level analysis is required to identify how various oceanographic and climatic parameters affect the biology of the fish, he said. Increase in sea surface temperature, upwelling and fluctuations in ocean productivity are considered crucial factors affecting the life-cycle of oil sardines. Researchers from the National Institute of Oceanography, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Space Applications Centre of ISRO, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and Central Institute of Fisheries Technology will attend the meet.