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Climate crisis in marine systems to be the focus of MECOS-3

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Kochi: Marine researcher Petri Suuronen from the Blue Bio-economy Natural Resources Institute, Finland, and author of widely-discussed research paper on how to modify trawling without harming the ocean ecosystem, will inaugurate the third international symposium on marine ecosystems – challenges and opportunities (MECOS-3) in Kochi on Tuesday.

The meet will bring eminent marine scientists, oceanographers, fishery researchers and marine biotechnologists from across the globe to the Kochi-headquartered Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

Organised by Marine Biological Association of India (MBAI), MECOS-3 will set a platform for discussion on a wide range of topics, including impact of climate crisis in marine ecosystems and unusual warming of the Arabian Sea.

The symposium aims to review the concerns involved in marine ecosystem and formulating strategies for better and sustainable utilisation of marine wealth by enhancing the livelihood options, said Sunil Mohamed, principal scientist, CMFRI and convenor of MECOS-3.

“Healthy oceans, coasts and related ecosystems are crucial for economic growth and food production. However, numerous issues such as depletion of resources, marine pollution, extreme weather conditions and rising sea surface temperature among many others are posing threat to the sustainable utilization of marine resources,” he said, adding that the symposium would come up with a roadmap to deal with these issues. Guidelines and proposals for proper management of marine fisheries would also be included in the roadmap, that could become a guidance for policymakers for the next three years, he added.

The four-day meet assumes significance in the backdrop of recent trend of continuous cyclonic storms and other climatic phenomenon in the Arabian Sea.