



THE TIMES OF INDIA

08 may 2020

Now, online info on fishing zones near hotspots

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has launched an online geographic information system-based database which indicates the proximity of fish landing centres to Covid-19 hotspots in Kerala.

The database offers information on the entire 156 fish landing centres in the state in various colour codes in accordance with their geographical proximity to the hotspots identified by the government.

The landing centres have been categorised in different groups based on their distance with the hotspots.

The first category, which requires priority in taking precautionary measures, includes fish landing centres within 3km of the hotspot. The landing centres which are 3-5km away from the hotspots fall in the second category, whereas the third category includes landing centres which are at a distance of 5-10km from the hotspots.

A team of CMFRI scientists, including J Jayasankar, Shelton Padua, C Ramachandran and MA Pradeep developed the online infographics using data from the health department.

According to the current status of Covid hotspots in Kerala, 17 fish landing centres fall in the first category. These landing centres are in Thiruvananthapuram (2), Ernakulum (3), Kozhikode (2),

The database prepared by CMFRI offers information on the entire 156 fish landing centres in the state in various colour codes in accordance with their geographical proximity to the hotspots identified by the government

Kannur (4) and Kasaragod (6).

The GIS database can be seen on the CMFRI website (www.cmfri.org.in) and will be updated in tune with the changes in the disease transmission pattern and would become helpful to identify the category of a particular fish landing centre, said A Gopalakrishnan, director, CMFRI.

"The initiative will help authorities and policy makers to monitor daily activities and take steps for regulatory or safety measures in marine fisheries sector in the backdrop of the Covid-19," said Gopalakrishnan.

He said the database will become a useful tool to implement safety measures for each landing centres according to their category.

"Works are in progress to incorporate details of the fish landing centres in other maritime states too with the geographic information system based database," he added.