

## CMFRI WORKSHOP CALLS FOR MEASURES TO CURB JUVENILE FISHING

**A** workshop held at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on Tuesday has called for strict measures to curb juvenile fishing as it causes severe loss to the marine fisheries sector. Speaking at the meet, fishery experts warned that juvenile fishing practice would result in economic loss and resource depletion as well. The workshop was held with the participation of the representatives of various fishermen organisations aimed at creating awareness of the latest development in marine fisheries of the state.

Citing CMFRI's study, Dr. T. M. Najmudeen, Principal Scientist pointed out that 31 percent of the threadfin breams (Kilimeen) caught from the Kerala coast last year were juveniles. "This alone has incurred a loss of Rs. 74 crores to the sector", he said, adding that implementation of the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) had a significant impact in the sector. Charles George, President of Matsyathozhilali Aikya Vedi who presided over the function said that fishermen across the state were in deep crisis owing to steep hikes in fuel prices and dwindling catch of commercially important fishes, especially the Indian oil sardine. "In order to support



the fishermen families, special famine packages or subsidies should be provided to them", he said. Fishermen should stay away from juvenile fishing as it would only add to deepen their crisis in a way that the practice might badly affect the sustainability of the resources, Mr. George added.

The workshop also called for uniform implementation of the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) regulations across the coastal states of the country. The marine fisheries sector is also plagued by climate change, pollution and plastic litter among other reasons, the workshop observed.