

Marine fish catch online data collection launched in Andaman and Nicobar Islands



CHENNAI: The Andaman and Nicobar administration has launched online data collection of marine fish catch from fish landing centres in the archipelago with expertise from researchers at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi.

In a release, CMFRI said that this was the first time the marine fish catch data was collected from the archipelago with statistically supported software.

The move was the outcome of an MoU between the ICAR-CMFRI and the Department of the Fisheries of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

As part of the MoU, ICAR-CMFRI introduced its sampling methodology for the estimation and analysis of the catch data through Fish Catch Survey and Analysis (FCSA) software from landing centres of the islands by using electronic tablets. The institute also trained the enumerators, deployed by the Andaman administration, to collect the catch data using ICAR-CMFRI methodology.

Sudhakar, fisheries secretary to the administration, said introduction of CMFRI's methodology would help the islands generate a reliable database on the marine fish catch and fishing efforts which will help fix various developmental plans in the island's marine fisheries sector.

"ICAR-CMFRI's support will help estimate both resource-wise and fishing gear-wise fish landings," he said.

He sought ICAR-CMFRI's technical support in the development of deep-sea fishing, seaweed farming and cage fish farming in the Andaman Islands.

CMFRI director A Gopalakrishnan said ICAR-CMFRI was regularly collecting marine fish catch data from all the fish landing centres in the country using this software, which is recognised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN. "Though the data is collected for research purposes, CMFRI shares information with the government of India and the coastal states who have inked MoU with the institute", he said.

ICAR-CMFRI has already signed an MoU with Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, [Kerala](#) and Tamil Nadu in collecting marine fish catch data.

According to him, the Andaman Islands are highly prospective for the marine ornamental fishery, seaweed farming and cage fish farming.