

CMFRI EXTENDS SUPPORT TO ANDAMAN FOR DATA COLLECTION OF MARINE FISH CATCH

The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has extended support to Andaman and Nicobar Islands to launch online data collection of marine fish catch from 74 fish landing centres/ points in the archipelago. The data collection was formally launched on 19th October 2022, following a Memorandum of Understanding between the CMFRI and the Department of the Fisheries of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

As part of the MoU, 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 CMFRI methodology. This is the first time the marine fish catch data is collected from the archipelago with statistically supported software.

While inaugurating the initiative, G Sudhakar, IAS, Fisheries Secretary to the Administration said that introduction of CMFRI's methodology would help the islands to generate a reliable database on marine fish catch and fishing efforts which will help fix various developmental plans in the island's marine fisheries



Trained enumerators collecting marine fish catch data in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the trial run prior to the launch of the initiative

sector. "CMFRI's support will help estimate both resource-wise and fishing gear-wise fish landings", he said. He also sought CMFRI's technical support in the development of deep-sea fishing, seaweed farming and cage fish farming in the Andaman Islands.

CMFRI Director Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan said that CMFRI has been 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 the information with the government of India and the coastal states who have inked MoU with the institute", he said. CMFRI already signed MoU with Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu in collecting marine fish catch data. Dr. Gopalakrishnan added that the Andaman Islands are highly prospective for the marine ornamental fishery, seaweed farming and cage fish farming.