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## Sea ranching carried out to enhance shrimp productivity

**MADURAI:** In a bid to replenish the natural stock and to enhance shrimp productivity, a sea ranching programme was carried out at Thonithurai in Mandapam, Ramanathapuram district on Sunday. A team from Mandapam Regional Centre of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) launched the programme, during which a total of 1.2 million shrimp seeds of PL-15 (27-day-old) were sea-ranched, sources said.

The sea ranching of hatchery-produced green tiger shrimp, *Penaeus semisulcatus* seeds, is being carried out at regular intervals in the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Bay. It would be helpful for conservation and also in maintaining a sustainable shrimp stock in the wild. Moreover, it would also help improve the livelihood of the fishermen in this region. During the last two years (2017-19), a total of 7.025 million *P. semisulcatus* shrimp seeds of 'PL 10-35' were released in this coast-



The sea ranching activity being carried out at Thonithurai village off Mandapam coast in Ramanathapuram district on Sunday

al region.

During the current financial year (2019-20), a total of about 2.025 million shrimp seeds of 'PL 20-35' size were sea-ranched so far. A total of 1.2 million shrimp seeds of PL-15 (27-day-old) were sea-ranched at Thonithurai, Mandapam, the sources added.

The Director ICAR-CMFRI, A. Gopalakrishnan, from Kochi, Kerala, was the Chief Guest of the sea-ranching programme. The shrimp seeds were released in the presence

of the members of the Institute Management Committee-ICAR-CMFRI K. Muralidharan, K. A. Saira Banu, former Commissioner of Fisheries, Kerala; P. Muralidharan, Principal Scientist and Head, Kriшти Vigyan Kendra, CPCRI, Kayamkulam, Kerala; K. Raghunathan, Administrative Officer, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi; R. Jayakumar, Scientist (in-charge); V. Prabhavathi, Deputy Director of Fisheries (Regional), Ramanathapuram, and others.

Photo: Sathya