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CMFRI launches this year's maiden sea ranching

10 lakh seeds of green tiger shrimp species released

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Seeking to enhance shrimp production and promote the livelihood of the fishing community in the region, Mandapam regional centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has released 10 lakh seeds of 'Penaeus semisulcatus' – green tiger shrimp species under the sea ranching programme.

The institute, which had released 50 lakh seeds in the last two years, including 30 lakh during 2018-19, launched this year's (2019-20) maiden sea ranching programme by releasing the

seeds at Mandapam Thonithurai in the Palk Bay on Saturday. The 20 to 35-day-old post-larvae seeds would be ready for harvest in five months, scientists said.

The seeds were released in the presence of K.K. Joshi, Principal Scientist and Head, Marine Biodiversity Division, CMFRI, Kochi, who was the chief guest of the programme, and R. Jayakumar, Scientist-in-charge of Mandapam regional centre of CMFRI.

Scientists M. Sankar and B. Johnson coordinated the programme. Leaders of fishermen associations, officials from State fisheries depart-

ment and CMFRI staff were present.

Despite funding problems, the institute had achieved the 30 lakh target fixed for the year 2018-19 and decided to seek funds from the government for continuing the programme during this year, Mr. Jayakumar said.

There was no specific fund allocation for the programme and the institute has sought funds under the Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods (FIMSUL), a World Bank-supported Tamil Nadu government scheme to continue the programme, he said.