

Harmful algal blooms in Arabian Sea increasing, warn experts

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Kochi, Feb 21: Underlining that climate change poses a serious threat to the fisheries and aquaculture in the country, marine scientists have warned of increasing frequency and intensity of the harmful algal blooms (HAB) in the Arabian Sea.

Roughly a three-fold increase in HAB was reported during the period from 2000 to 2020, the experts said at an One Health Aquaculture India workshop being organised by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) of the UK government's Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs and the ICAR-Central

Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) here.

The HAB are a leading cause of aquatic food-borne health risk to fish consumers and fish mortality that can potentially affect mariculture activities in particular and fisheries in general.

Presenting the status of HAB in Indian waters, Dr Grinson George, Senior Programme Specialist of the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka said issuing early advisories are essential in helping to shift the fish or plan early harvest in the mariculture.

"Increased frequency and intensity of the HAB badly affect mariculture activities such as cage fish farming as it leads to fish kill," said George.