

CMFRI, SEAI in pact for sustaining trawl bycatch

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) will provide technical support to strengthen the sustainable harvest of 11 selected shrimp and cephalopod trawl fishery resources of Kerala.

According to the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by CMFRI director A Gopalakrishnan with A J Tharakan of Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) on Monday, CMFRI will provide consultancy to help achieve the fisheries management target levels for these species caught by trawlers in Kerala.

CMFRI will conduct a re-

search project aimed at assessing the stock health and fishery performance of kiddi (karikadi) shrimp, flower tail (poovalan) shrimp, red ring deep sea shrimp, nylon shrimp, deep sea non-penaeid shrimp, squid, cuttlefish, octopus, ribbon fish and two species of threadfin breems.

The SEAI has signed an MoU with the Marine stewardship certification (MSC) for certification of these species to compete in the international seafood export market. The consultancy project aims to look at setting fisheries management target levels for these species, reporting on the incidental occurrence of sawfish, guitarfish and juvenile

sharks in the trawl fishery of Kerala and providing indicative management actions.

“With seafood consumers globally shifting towards making informed, healthy and sustainable choices, it becomes critical that seafood originates from sustainable fisheries,” said A Gopalakrishnan. Improved management programmes would enable the marine fisheries sector to gain increased access to seafood markets worldwide, he added.

The project will focus on the application of appropriate models tailored to the life-history patterns of the selected species and strengthening of the existing database on the bycatch.