

## CMFRI to provide technical support for strengthening sustainable harvest of selected trawl fishery of Kerala



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Kochi: In order to boost seafood export from India, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi will provide technical backstopping for strengthening the sustainable harvest of 11 selected shrimp and cephalopod trawl fishery resources of Kerala, following a request from the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).

The institute will carry out a consultancy research 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-penaid shrimp, squid, cuttlefish, octopus, ribbon fish and two species of threadfin breams.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on Monday by Dr A Gopalakrishnan, Director of CMFRI and AJ Tharakan of the SEAI. The consultancy project aims to achieve a slew of objectives, including 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 Dr A Gopalakrishnan, Director of CMFRI. 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 the strengthening of the existing database on the bycatch.