



Jellyfish blooms could be a boon too

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Kochi: Jellyfish blooms, which are a menace to fishermen looking for good marine catches, can be converted into a potential source of income for the community. However, it should be done through sustainable management practices, quality control, acceptance in the domestic market, and adaptation of jellyfish to fishing and environmental changes are crucial for the long-term viability of this industry, said experts at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

“Sustainability remains a core focus and a cautious and well-informed approach is required to their exploitation. An ecosystem-based manage-



JELLYFISH

ment strategy is vital for understanding the interactions between jellyfish and their environment and for developing effective management strategies,” said CMFRI director A Gopalakrishnan.

Speaking at a special session on ‘Jellyfish Fisheries and Trade: Status, Trends and Impacts on Livelihood’ at the ongoing symposium on Jellyfish Blooms organized by Ke-

erala University, he said that given the increased fishing effort in the coastal waters along with the adverse impact of climate change, exploring the prospects of jellyfish fishery could be a highly promising alternative.

The country has registered a landing of 11,756 tonnes (wet weight) of jellyfish in 2021, showing the re-emerging trend of this fishery in the Indian coast. “Since 2005, the jellyfish fishery has re-emerged as a well-networked enterprise and has grown significantly. The main species contributing to the fishery now include *Rhopilema hispidum* and *Castostylus perezii* in the northwest, *Crambionella annandeli* in the northeast, and *C. orsini* in the southwest,” he said.

“However, there is a lack of consumer tradition and awareness regarding their consumption in the country. Addressing this gap requires promotional initiatives to shift public perception and acceptance of jellyfish as a novel food item,” he added. Gopalakrishnan said it is imperative to understand the causes behind these blooms, minimising their negative impacts, and harnessing their potential in a sustainable manner.

Presenting the processing technologies and the trend of jellyfish export, Bindu J, head, fish processing division of Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, said that India exported jellyfish products worth Rs 13.12 crore during 2022-23.