

CMFRI proposes act to regulate fishing beyond territorial waters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has proposed a set of comprehensive policy suggestions, including the introduction of central legislation (Marine Fishery Act) for the regulation of fishing in areas beyond territorial waters to ensure a much-needed framework for sustainable practices. The proposals were presented by CMFRI director A Gopalakrishnan during the discussion on certification and sustainability in the marine sector at the high-level national workshop organized by Niti Aayog at CMFRI on Friday.

Private investments must



Establishing an institutional mechanism to oversee deep-sea fishing was also proposed

be made competitive and subject to regulations to safeguard livelihoods of small-scale fishers and entrepreneurs in the post-harvest sector, he said.

“The government has to institutionalize a regular

mechanism for the stock assessment of marine resources as resource health status is going to be crucial in World Trade Organization subsidy negotiations and other national and international discourse,” Gopalakrishnan said.

Establishing an institutional mechanism for overseeing deep-sea fishing was also recommended.

He also underscored the importance of estimating the potential and exploring the possibility of utilizing mesopelagic resources as source for fish meal, citing a rough potential of 1.6 million tonnes of these resources per year.

Implementation of AI-

mediated automated mechanisms for landing estimation, tracking of fishing vessels through vessel monitoring systems, and analytics of sub-stock-level information also found a place in the proposal.

To protect the interest of fisherfolk, strengthening of accident insurance, fishing vessel insurance, and coastal immovable asset insurance are required through technological and policy interventions, he said.

J K Jena, deputy director general of ICAR who moderated the discussion, said India needs to achieve sustainable production from coastal waters and enhanced production from offshore waters.