



‘18% less carbon emitted per kg of fish caught by India’

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Kochi: Carbon emission per one kilogram of fish caught in India’s marine fisheries is 17.7% less than the global average, a study has found according to India’s statement on climate-resilient fisheries before the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In terms of climate change, India falls in the medium-to-high category considering the overall impact by 2050.

Presenting India’s statement at the first session of the sub-committee on fisheries management under the committee on fisheries (COFI) of the FAO, the Indian delegation led by fisheries ministry former joint secretary J Bala-ji suggested that FAO may plan to schedule capacity building exercises in mitigating emissions of greenhouse gases in capture fisheries and aquaculture; spatial plan-

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ning; cross-sectoral planning; adaptive fisheries management; strengthening resilience; safety at sea; rehabilitate ecosystems; and stronger farming structures.

A delegation from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) was part of the Indian team at the session, which was organised virtually from FAO, Rome.

“A big step towards climate resilient fisheries is harnessing the carbon sequestration potential of seaweeds to mitigate climate change impacts. Enhancing natural habitats for improving seaweed resources and expan-

ding seaweed culture systems and enhancing mangrove ecosystems may help lay the path for better carbon sequestration”, India’s statement said.

Principal scientist and head of fishery resources assessment, economics and extension division of CMFRI J Jayashankar presented the statement and highlighted India’s proactive stance on tackling the climate crisis in the fisheries sector.

Finfish fisheries division head Shoba Joe Kizhakudan said promoting more marine protected areas to match the requirements of the sustainable development goals and the initiatives like artificial reefs at suitable locations along the coastal stretch of the country add to India’s efforts to bring biodiversity to centre stage by keeping livelihoods of traditional fishermen unaffected.