



# CMFRI NEWSLETTER

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## Dr.V.N. Pillai takes over as Director



Dr.V.N.Pillai took over as Director of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin on 14 May. Dr. Pillai, Goldmedalist from Kerala University for his postgraduation in Oceanography in the year 1961, was awarded Ph.D. in Fisheries Oceanography in the year 1982 by the Cochin University of Science and Technology. He served the R & D organisations of the Ministry of Defence, National Institute of Oceanography under CSIR, the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training, and the Integrated Fisheries Project under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in various capacities before he was inducted, into the Agricultural Research Service under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the year 1985. His contributions to the Fishery

Oceanography of the Southeastern Arabian Sea during his deputation to the erstwhile FAO/UNDP Pelagic Fishery Project are highly commendable. He had undergone training in fisheries oceanography in the MAFF Fisheries Laboratory, Lowestoft, England. His contributions on the application of remote sensing data in marine fisheries undertaken through collaborative programmes, with the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad and Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad were well appreciated. Dr. Pillai coordinated the scientific programmes of the largest Fisheries Oceanographic Research Vessel SAGAR SAMPADA owned by the Department of Ocean Development, Government of India during the period 1985-'90. He served the CMFRI in various capacities since 1985 and was elevated to the position of Officer-in-Charge, Calicut Research Centre of CMFRI in 1990 and Head of the Fishery Environment Management Division

of the Institute in 1996. His vast experience through participation on research cruises undertaken by various Indian and foreign research vessels has made him one among the top fishery oceanographers in the country.

With a total of more than 70 publications to his credit both in International and National journals of repute, Dr. Pillai is a consultant in the disciplines of ecology and ecosystem management of the collaborative ICLARM project on "Sustainable management of coastal fish stocks in Asia" with funding from Asian Development Bank and representation from 8 member countries including India. Dr. Pillai had travelled widely around the globe.

His post doctoral research contributions since 1982 in the field of fisheries oceanography have been compiled and submitted to the Cochin University of Science & Technology for the award of D.Sc. in Fisheries Oceanography.