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Earrings made of fish otoliths a big draw

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Kochi: Earrings made of fish otoliths exhibited at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on its foundation day drew attention of large number of people on Tuesday. Visitors thronged to have a close watch of the ornaments in

FOUNDATION DAY OF CMFRI

different sizes and designs. Though majority of the fish have otoliths, only that of around 10 species are suitable for making ornaments.

“Researchers regularly use otoliths as taxonomic tool for identification and estimating fish age. The ornamental prospect of otoliths was recognized only by chance on course of regular research,” said principal scientist at CMFRI E M Abdussamad.



Visitors at the CMFRI museum in Kochi on Tuesday

Students and the public turned up in large numbers to witness the marine diversity as CMFRI opened its doors for public to mark its 73rd foundation day.

“Even though ornaments made of fish otolith are not available in India, they are used as lucky stones in some countries like Italy, Brazil and Egypt. A repository of otoliths comprising around

1,000 fish in Indian coasts is available at CMFRI,” Abdussamad said. “Making of otolith ornaments would become an additional livelihood for fisherwomen, he added.

National marine biodiversity museum, laboratories, marine research aquarium and hatcheries were major attractions at the exhibition that displayed a ringside view of marine aquatic life.