



THE NEW
**INDIAN
EXPRESS**

13 January 2020

**DROP IN SARDINE STOCKS HITS
TRADITIONAL FISHERMEN HARD**

KOCHI: In 2018, the state achieved a 12 percent increase in fish production than the preceding year. However, a steady decline in overall sardine stocks over the past five years has adversely affected the livelihood of the coastal community in the state. A study by researchers of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) here has revealed that the income of traditional fishermen has been reduced to a fraction of what they earned earlier. "The livelihood of small-scale fisherfolk who use outboard engine country boats and ring seine nets for fishing was affected owing to a 50 per cent decline in fishing efforts after 2014," according to CMFRI senior scientist N Aswathy while presenting a report at the international symposium on marine ecosystems here on Friday.

GOING DOWNHILL

	2014	2018
Net returns of country boats	₹12,000	₹2,500
Sardine catch	2.5L tn	1.26L tn
Price of sardine (per kg)	₹47	₹120
Total value of sardine catch	₹1,219 cr	₹925 cr
Annual average decline in sardine catch	19.82%	