



# Jellyfish fisheries a potential income source: CMFRI

**The Hindu Bureau**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Jellyfish fisheries offer a potential source of income for fishermen, but sustainable management is crucial for its long-term viability, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), has said.

“Jellyfish play a pivotal role in marine ecosystems and hold increasing significance in the global seafood market, providing a potential source of additional income. Sustainability remains a core focus and a cautious and well-informed approach is required,” A. Gopalakrishnan, Director, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), has said.

He was speaking at a special session on ‘Jellyfish Fisheries and Trade: Status, Trends and Impacts on Livelihood’ at the seventh International Jellyfish Blooms Symposium (JBS7) organised by the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, and CMFRI.

## Promising alternative

An ecosystem-based management strategy is vital to understanding the interactions between jellyfish and their environment and for developing effective management strategies, he added. Given the increased fishing effort in the coastal waters along with the adverse impact of climate change, exploring the prospects of jellyfish fishery could be a promising



There is a lack of consumer awareness on consumption of jellyfish and the gap should be addressed, say experts.

alternative. India registered a landing of 11,756 tonnes (wet weight) of jellyfish in 2021, showing the re-emerging trend of this fishery on the Indian coast, he said. However, there is a lack of consumer awareness regarding their consumption in the country. Addressing this gap requires promotional initiatives, Dr. Gopalakrishnan said.

## Export figures

Presenting the trend of jellyfish export, Bindu J., Head, Fish Processing Division, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), said India exported jellyfish products worth ₹13.12 crore during 2022-23. China was the destination for much of these exports. Jellyfish are consumed in China, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Thailand as part of traditional cuisines. “China continues to be the world’s biggest producer and consumer of jellyfish, contributing over 60% of all landings worldwide,” she said.