

National marine fisheries census in Nov, Dec

Our Bureau

Kochi

The fifth National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC 2025) will cover 1.2 million fisher households across coastal States and UTs.

The census, scheduled in November and December, will document the socio-economic conditions of marine fisher families and map fisheries infrastructure spanning the entire coastline of the country.

Enumerators selected from the local fishing community will reach every marine fisherman household for a 45-day massive exercise.

The MFC 2025 is funded and co-ordinated by the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

The ICAR-Central Marine



MAPPING COASTAL LIVES. The fifth National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC 2025) will cover 1.2 million fisher households across nine coastal States and UTs

Fisheries Research Institute is the nodal agency for the implementation of the census in mainland India — nine coastal States — and the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is entrusted with data collection from the UTs, including islands.

The census will gather demographic and livelihood data of fishing communities and infrastructure details,

including fishing vessels, gears, harbours, fish landing centres, processing units and cold storage facilities.

PARADIGM SHIFT

A high-level meeting chaired by Neetu Kumari Prasad, Joint Secretary of the Department of Fisheries, reviewed the progress, the prerequisites and anticipated timeline of the census.

The meeting emphasised the importance of co-operation and collaboration between State governments and implementing agencies to ensure the success of the upcoming census.

Prasad said MFC 2025 would see a paradigm shift through the adoption of modern digital tools, including mobile-based applications, geo-tagging and real-time data validation, adding that the census is crucial to enhance evidence-based fisheries governance, livelihood planning and sustainable marine resource management in India.

The census will provide vital information to shape policies on marine fisheries management, welfare schemes and infrastructure development, directly impacting millions dependent on marine livelihoods, said Grinson George, Director of CMFRI and National Co-ordinator of the MFC 2025.