

Marine Fisheries Census from Nov

Census will contribute to data-driven fisheries governance and effective livelihood planning

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THE Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying will conduct the fifth National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC 2025) from November to December this year, aiming to cover around 1.2 million marine fisher households across all coastal states and union territories.

The census, conducted under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), will be coordinated by the Department of Fisheries.

The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) will oversee implementation in nine coastal states, while the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) will handle



operations in union territories.

Enumerators selected from local marine fishing communities will conduct the 45-day household-level survey, collecting demographic data, liveli-

hood information, and details of fishing infrastructure such as vessels, gear types, landing centres, harbours, processing units, and cold storage facilities.

On Friday, a virtual meeting

chaired by Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries) Neetu Kumari Prasad reviewed the schedule, requirements, and coordination efforts for census.

Departments assured support in finalising village lists and providing manpower. Prasad stated that MFC 2025 will utilise mobile-based data collection, geo-tagging, and real-time validation to ensure accuracy. "This census will contribute to data-driven fisheries governance and effective livelihood planning," she said.

Principal Scientist and Head of CMFRI Vizag Dr Joe K Kizhakudan said the census will provide vital information on fishing communities and infrastructure, aiding sustainable resource management.