



THE HINDU

13 April 2025

# 5th national marine fisheries census to be held from November to December

**The Hindu Bureau**

VISAKHAPATNAM

The 5th national marine fisheries census (MFC25) will be conducted from November to December. The massive survey will cover 1.2 million fishermen households across coastal States, including Andhra Pradesh.

The census will document socio-economic conditions of marine fishermen families and map fisheries infrastructure spanning the entire coastline of the country. Enumerators selected from local fishing community will reach every marine fisherman household for a

45-day massive exercise.

The department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is funding and coordinating the programme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) is the nodal agency for the implementation of the census in mainland, while Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is entrusted with the data collection from the Union Territories including islands.

"In a preparatory step, a high-level meeting chaired by Neetu Kumari Prasad, joint secretary, department

of Fisheries, reviewed the progress, the prerequisites and anticipated timeline of the census. 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," said CMFRI Visakhapatnam head and principal scientist Joe K. Kizhakudan.

The MFC2025 would see a paradigm shift through the adoption of modern digital tools, including mobile-based applications, geo-tagging, and real-time data validation. "This will

significantly enhance efficiency, accuracy, and professionalism in data collection", he said, adding that the census is crucial to enhance evidence-based fisheries governance, livelihood planning, and sustainable marine resource management.

"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 Coordinator of the MFC 2025.