

K'taka in favour of extended fishing ban period

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: Karnataka fisheries department director Dinesh Kumar Kaller said that the Karnataka govt is ready to extend the fishing ban period from 61 days to 90 days, provided all states on the west coast agree to the proposal.

The ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying, department of fisheries of the Union govt has constituted a technical committee to review the duration of the fishing ban period and to suggest further measures to strengthen the conservation and management aspects. A report will be submitted by Dec-Jan.

Dr Grinson George, director, CMFRI, Kochi, is the chairperson of the committee and includes the fisheries development commissioner, department of fisheries, New Delhi, director of fisheries, govt of Karnataka, and five other members. Dr George told reporters on Saturday, that the committee will consult all stakeholders on the duration of the fishing ban across the country and arrive at a consensus before submitting the report. "Extending the ban duration will help fishermen in conserving marine resources," he added.

Ministry of Fisheries has constituted a committee to review the fishing ban period and suggest measures to strengthen the conservation and management aspects

"We are consulting stakeholders and fisheries departments regarding the number of days for a uniform ban period across the country. Gujarat has agreed to increase the number of ban days. Karnataka has also expressed its consent. However, there are differing opinions in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In some states, there are concerns of both traditional and mechanised fishing sectors, which is being looked into. We will assess the matter from technical, scientific, and social angles to arrive at practical solutions," he explained.

Currently, a 61-day fishing ban is in place, but the months in which the ban is implemented vary depending on monsoon in each state. Fishermen are demanding a uniform number of ban across the country and are willing to increase the ban duration, he said.