

CMFRI to carry out marine fishing village validation



Mangaluru: As a preparatory step for the Fifth Marine Fisheries Census (MFC-2025), the department of fisheries (DoF), ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying, govt of India, launched a nationwide validation and georeferencing of marine fishing villages through ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries

Research Institute (CMFRI). The Mangalore Regional Centre of ICAR-CMFRI will carry out the process for the coastal districts of Karnataka.

This census is undertaken under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), with CMFRI serving as the nodal agency for implementation across India. The exercise aims to establish an accurate and updated frame of marine fishing villages across India's coastline and island territories, laying the foundation for household-level enumeration scheduled later in the year. Over the next two weeks, 108 officials from CMFRI and the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) will visit every marine fishing village to verify its status, delineate boundaries, and compile an updated village frame.

a custom-built mobile application developed by CMFRI to enable real-time, geo-referenced data collection. This foundational activity precedes the comprehensive household enumeration scheduled for Nov-Dec 2025, which will cover approximately 1.2 million fisher households across 3,500 villages in 13 coastal states and UTs.

"An accurate and updated frame of marine fishing villages is essential to ensure the success of the household-level enumeration," said Neetu Kumari Prasad, joint secretary, department of fisheries. In collaboration with state fisheries departments and local administrative bodies, census teams will assess each village's dependence on marine fishing and allied activities, estimate the number of marine fisher households, and geotag village boundaries.

The data will feed into a GIS-enabled MFC dashboard, supported by a robust online backup system and a two-tier supervision framework at district and state levels to ensure data integrity. "The census will generate granular data on socio-economic conditions, livelihood dependencies, and infrastructure gaps, enabling the govt to design targeted interventions for sustainable development of marine fishing communities," added Neetu Kumari Prasad.

Grinson George, director of CMFRI, noted that the teams will also identify and shortlist local community members to be trained as enumerators for the household phase.