

Experts call for Indian Standards to safeguard marine ecosystems and fisheries

The Indian Standard is a gazetted document, developed to specify the minimum requirements for ensuring uniform, reliable, and scientifically verified methods or practices through the engagement of experts and stakeholders across the country. In marine fisheries, it will help standardise how India monitors, conserves and manages its ocean resources, making policies and data more credible and globally comparable. Marine biodiversity is crucial to the stability of ecosystems, fisheries, and climate resilience. Yet, the absence of uniform protocols has led to fragmented data and weak enforcement, said CMFRI Director Grinson George while inaugurating the workshop.

Grinson George offered CMFRI's scientific expertise in developing frameworks in a range of areas, including fisheries stock assessment, coastal resource mapping, climate-resilience metrics, and ecosystem-based management. "CMFRI will take the lead in formulating scientific methodologies to be codified as Indian Standards in collaboration with BIS and other partner agencies. The institute can extend support in preparing training modules, certification programmes, and open-access repositories to promote nationwide adoption of the standards among scientists, policymakers, and coastal managers", CMFRI Director said.

Aligning with international benchmarks

Experts at the workshop emphasised that nationally recognised standards, developed in alignment with international benchmarks such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), would help India enhance both its conservation and trade competitiveness.

The BIS is committed to developing environmental standards and frameworks to improve the country's marine fisheries sector, said BIS Environment and Ecology Department Head Virendra Singh. The workshop also proposed the creation of an Indian Marine Sustainability Certification System under BIS as an inclusive, affordable, and context-specific alternative to foreign sustainability certifications.