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Seamount research drive launched

Kochi: Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) launched a research initiative to explore fishery resources associated with seamounts in Arabian Sea, with a special focus on cephalopods such as squids, cuttlefish and octopus. The two-year project, funded by the ministry of earth sciences at Rs 4.9 crore, aims to document the diversity, ecology, distribution and biology of cephalopods centred around seamount regions in eastern Arabian Sea.

The project will also develop artificial intelligence (AI) based tools for automated identification of squid, cuttlefish and octopus species, which is expected to significantly strengthen scientific understanding of deep-sea biodiversity. Seamounts are elevated topographic features that are more than 100m above the ocean floor.

“The findings are expected to generate valuable insights into the ecology and diversity of deep-sea cephalopods, which will help develop strategies for the conservation of seamount-associated fishery resources,” said Geetha Sasi-kumar, principal investigator of the project. TNN