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Newsletter of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute



## Marine Fisheries Census 2025: Smart Census, Smarter Fisheries

### INSIDE

|                                                            |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Dr S. Jones memorial award                                 | 5  |
| India's marine fisheries meet U.S. comparability standards | 7  |
| ICAR-CMFRI expands industry partnerships through MoUs      | 7  |
| New deep-sea 'Octopus squid' discovered                    | 9  |
| National stakeholders consultation on BBNJ agreement       | 20 |

The household enumeration phase of the Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 was formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Minority Affairs, Shri George Kurian, on 31 October 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi. Funded under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the census was executed with ICAR-CMFRI as the nodal agency and the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) as the operational partner. The fifth MFC marked a paradigm shift through the complete transition to a unified, geo-referenced, real-time digital platform. During the event, the Hon'ble Minister launched VyAS-BHARAT, the mobile application for household data collection and VyAS-SUTRA, the supervisory application for real-time monitoring. User manuals in regional languages for the VyAS-BHARAT application were

also released. The inauguration was followed by a national workshop that provided a platform for presentations on state-level preparedness, inter-agency coordination and interaction among participants to facilitate the smooth implementation of the census across the Coastal States and Union Territories. The household enumeration phase of MFC 2025 commenced on 3 November 2025 across 4,685 coastal habitations in nine Coastal States and four Union Territories with the deployment of 3,878 trained community enumerators. Management and oversight were streamlined through a team of 300 officials from ICAR-CMFRI, FSI and the State Fisheries Departments, who served as district, state, regional and National-Level Coordinators to ensure seamless inter-agency coordination. During the field phase, enumerators systematically visited





It gives me immense pleasure to present this issue, showcasing ICAR-CMFRI's sustained commitment to advancing marine fisheries research, fostering innovation, strengthening partnerships and supporting evidence-based policies for the sustainable development of India's marine fisheries sector. A major highlight is the successful implementation of the Marine Fisheries Census 2025, the country's first fully digital, geo-referenced census of marine fisher households, establishing a robust foundation for informed fisheries governance. Another significant milestone was ICAR-CMFRI's contribution to the marine mammal stock assessment project, which helped India achieve compliance with internationally recognised marine mammal protection standards. This issue also highlights MECOS4, which brought together scientists, policymakers, industry leaders and international experts to address marine ecosystem challenges. Equally encouraging are our outreach, capacity-building and livelihood initiatives benefiting coastal communities nationwide, reaffirming ICAR-CMFRI's commitment to a sustainable Blue Economy through science, innovation and collaboration.

With best wishes

**Grinson George**  
Director, ICAR-CMFRI

marine fisher households to record a comprehensive range of socio-economic and occupational indicators. All information was digitised on-site using the VyAS-BHARAT application, enabling real-time, geo-tagged data capture and instantaneous transmission to central servers. The enumeration was monitored in real time across all administrative tiers using the VyAS-SUTRA application

and a centralised web-based dashboard, ensuring transparency and data integrity. Collectively, the data gathered across the Maritime States and Union Territories constitute a spatially referenced national database of marine fisher households in India, serving as an indispensable structural framework for evidence-based fisheries governance.





# Capacity-building workshops for MFC 2025

In preparation for the Marine Fisheries Census 2025, ICAR-CMFRI organised an intensive series of training programmes during October 2025 to prepare State, District and Field-Level coordinators with the operational clarity and technical skills required for the nationwide enumeration scheduled

during November-December 2025. A training workshop for State-Level Coordinators (SLCs) was conducted at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, on 6–7 October 2025. The sessions provided orientation on the census design, workflow, coordination mechanisms and reporting hierarchy. Hands-on

demonstrations of the VyAS-BHARAT, VyAS-SUTRA and census web applications familiarised participants with data entry, schedule handling, navigation and reporting features, strengthening their preparedness for the nationwide enumeration.



A three-day training programme for District and Field-Level Coordinators of Kerala was conducted from 8–10 October 2025. The workshop included 52 participants and representatives from the Fishery Survey of India and served as a bridge between state-level planning and field implementation. It offered a comprehensive explanation of the census framework while familiarising participants with

technical aspects such as form filling, synchronisation of entries, troubleshooting and maintaining accuracy in reporting. To ensure uniform preparedness across the Coastal States, simultaneous regional training workshops were organised from 15–17 October 2025 at CMFRI Regional Centres and Stations. Workshops were held at Puri (for West Bengal and Odisha), Visakhapatnam

(Andhra Pradesh), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Mangalore (for Karnataka and Goa), Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Veraval (Gujarat). Each centre trained its respective district and field-level teams through detailed sessions on census methodology, app-based data collection, digital schedules and standardised reporting protocols, strengthening technical readiness for the nationwide household enumeration.





# International Symposium on Marine Ecosystems: Challenges and Opportunities (MECOS4)



The Marine Biological Association of India, in collaboration with ICAR-CMFRI, organised the Fourth International Symposium on Marine Ecosystems: Challenges and Opportunities (MECOS4) from 4 to 6 November 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi. The symposium was formally inaugurated by Dr S. Somnath, Vikram Sarabhai Distinguished Professor and former Chairman of ISRO, in the presence of Dr J. K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science) ICAR, New Delhi; Shri Dodda Venkata Swamy, IAS, Chairman, MPEDA, Kochi; Shri C. S. R. Ram, IFS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, GoI; Dr Bijay Kumar Behera, Chief Executive, NFDB, Hyderabad; Dr Chersdak Virapat, Regional Director for Asia, TIMES, Thailand and former Director General, NACA; Dr P. Krishnan, Director, BOBP-IGO, Chennai; Dr A. Gopalakrishnan, former Director, ICAR-CMFRI and Immediate Past President, MBI; Dr Grinson George, President, MBI and Director, ICAR-CMFRI; and over 600 delegates from India and abroad. The programme covered four major themes: Ecosystems and Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Fisheries and Mariculture, Climate and Environmental Resilience and Products, Value Chains and Livelihoods. It also included three special sessions on Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture in Amrit Kaal, Women Leaders in Marine Biology, Marine Mammals and Seabirds. Approximately 500 research papers were presented under these themes. The symposium also featured presentations by international experts, including Dr Lasse H. Pettersson, Norway and Dr Rohana Subasinghe, London. A meeting of the BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network (BIMReN) was held during the symposium to further strengthen regional cooperation in marine research and resource management. An Institute-Industry meet and a Seafood expo were also organised as part of the symposium with participation of 21 organisations. The meet facilitated



interactions among scientists, policymakers and industry stakeholders. The workshop on "Conservation of marine mammals in the EEZ of India: Prioritising future evidence needs" focused on cetacean diversity, acoustic monitoring, abundance estimation,

bycatch mitigation, stranding investigations and capacity building. The discussions emphasised the need for inter-institutional collaboration, enhanced data generation and long-term monitoring frameworks to strengthen marine mammal



conservation and management in Indian waters. MECOS4 concluded with a strong call for adopting ecosystem-based, multispecies management approaches to ensure the sustainable use of marine resources and strengthen India's blue economy framework. Key recommendations included women empowerment,

support for start-ups, climate resilience, public-private partnerships in mariculture, development of robust cold chain and traceability systems, incorporation of environmental and socio-economic indicators into national fisheries management frameworks, strengthened research and policy collaborations and regional

collaboration and institutional partnerships to establish centres of excellence for research, innovation and policy support. The valedictory session was presided over by Dr A. Biju Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, KUFOS, highlighting the key outcomes of MECOS4 and future directions.



## Seafood expo: MECOS4



The Seafood expo at MECOS4 attracted large crowds, with octopus delicacies such as octopus momo and octopus roast emerging as popular attractions. A variety of dishes prepared from mussels, prawns, squid and fish were also served, drawing an enthusiastic response from delegates and the public.

## Dr S. Jones memorial award



The Marine Biological Association of India conferred the prestigious Fourth Dr S. Jones memorial award upon renowned marine scientist Dr G. Gopakumar in recognition of his outstanding contributions to mariculture and marine fisheries over four decades. The award, comprising a citation and a cash prize, was presented during the inaugural ceremony of MECOS4. Dr G. Gopakumar, former Principal

Scientist and Head of the Mariculture Division at ICAR-CMFRI, is widely recognised for his contributions to advancing India's mariculture sector. His work in the captive breeding of cobia and silver pompano paved the way for the widespread adoption of cage fish farming, significantly contributing to the empowerment of coastal communities and the growth of sustainable livelihoods.



# Hon'ble MoS Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel visits Mandapam RC

Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, GoI, visited the Mandapam RC on 29 December 2025. During the visit, he interacted with scientists and reviewed the Institute's research, development and extension activities. The Minister appreciated CMFRI's contributions to marine fisheries and mariculture and emphasised the need to strengthen sustainable fishing practices, mariculture, seaweed cultivation and livelihood diversification. He also highlighted the importance of translating scientific research into socio-economic benefits for fishing communities through collaborative efforts among research institutions, line departments and stakeholders.



## Rashtriya Kisan Diwas



ICAR-CMFRI celebrated National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) on 22–23 December 2025 across its Headquarters, Regional Centres and

Stations through farmer-oriented programmes. The celebrations honoured farmers and fishers through interactive meetings, technology

demonstrations and dissemination of sustainable fisheries and mariculture practices.

# India's marine fisheries meet U.S. comparability standards

In October 2025, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), USA, confirmed that India's seafood products meet U.S. standards for marine mammal protection, thereby granting export clearance to U.S. markets. This approval represented a significant milestone and reinforced India's commitment to sustainable fisheries management and responsible seafood exports in line with international conservation standards. As part of the marine mammal stock assessment project, ICAR-CMFRI, in collaboration with other national research institutes, contributed to the preparation and submission of the comparability finding application report required for approval by the NMFS, USA. This process was undertaken to demonstrate India's compliance with U.S. regulations on the protection of marine mammals in commercial fisheries supplying seafood for export.

Ratheesh Kumar R. ◆



## Marine Mammal Protection Act Import Provisions Comparability Finding Application Final Report

### India

#### Summary

Based on India's initial application, its responses to the clarification questions, and the information described below, NMFS has determined that all of India's exempt and export fisheries are comparable in effectiveness to the U.S. regulatory program.

India prohibits the intentional killing or serious injury of marine mammals. It requires permits or licenses for commercial fishing operations and that vessel operators report all incidental injuries and mortalities of marine mammals in fishing operations. India conducted its own marine mammal visual surveys to determine abundance estimates and bycatch limits, and conducted a fishermen survey to ascertain bycatch estimates by gear type. India has a few section 16 U.S.C. § 1387(f)(3) species in its waters, but none that are interacting with the export fisheries and are considered at a high risk of extinction. India has bycatch mitigation in place for all of its export fisheries except its trap/pot fisheries (Fishery IDs 7084 and 7085). In 2021, India was also engaged in a mitigation research program.

India is a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC); Convention for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); and Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). The Indian fleet is not currently engaged in fishing in the areas of competence under CCAMLR and SIOFA and no fish or fish product exports are harvested by India from such areas.

India has worked in recent years to increase its knowledge about marine mammal abundance and bycatch. As India's export fisheries include gears with a high-risk of interaction with marine mammals, the effectiveness of the bycatch regulatory program, including data collection and mitigation, will become increasingly important.

Source : U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Marine Fisheries Service.

## ICAR-CMFRI expands industry partnerships through MoUs

| No. | Name of the technology                                                                                                              | Commercialised date | Name of the industry partner                                            | Amount of licensing fee                                |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Artificial reefs module designing & 3D printing technology                                                                          | 3 November 2025     | Tvasta Manufacturing Solutions Pvt. Ltd.                                | MoU for 3 years @ Rs. 25,000/- License fee             |
| 2   | Technology transfer of Black Soldier Fly larvae-based biowaste valorisation technology                                              | 3 November 2025     | Agripoint G3 Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Kerala, India                      | MoU for 5 years @ Rs. 1,18,000/- License fee           |
| 3   | Large-scale seed production of Indian pompano ( <i>Trachinotus mookalee</i> )                                                       | 3 November 2025     | Leela Prakash Hatchery, Andhra Pradesh                                  | MoU for 3 years @ Rs. 1,50,000/- + 18% GST License fee |
| 4   | Nutraceutical product Cadalmin™ Immuneboost extract (Ibe)                                                                           | 4 November 2025     | SNAP Natural and Alginate Products Private Limited, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu | MoU for 5 years @ Rs. 10.0 lakh License fee            |
| 5   | Foster cooperation in research, capacity building, policy advocacy, training, sustainable aquaculture and ocean resource management | 4 November 2025     | Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai                 | MoU for 5 years (Academic collaboration)               |
| 6   | Expanding ecosystem approach to fisheries management in India                                                                       | 4 November 2025     | Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)      | MoU for 5 years (Academic collaboration)               |
| 7   | Technical services in seaweed cultivation in east coast                                                                             | November 2025       | DHAN Foundation, Madurai, Tamil Nadu                                    | MoU for 3 years                                        |



# Seaweed farming initiative in Puducherry



The maiden seaweed farming initiative in the Union Territory of Puducherry, under the guidance of the ICAR-CMFRI, has yielded a successful harvest. Launched at Pannithittu on 30 September 2025 by Dr D. Manikandan, IAS, Secretary, Department of Fisheries

and Fishermen Welfare and Secretary to the Lt. Governor of Puducherry. The project involved six local fisherwomen farming *Kappaphycus alvarezii* under the project "Farming of commercially important marine finfishes in sea cages integrated

with seaweeds at Puducherry". Over seven weeks, the crop registered a 3.5-fold increase in biomass. The harvest was witnessed by the Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Puducherry, Thiru K. Lakshminarayanan and Thiru Lakshmikandan, MLA.

## ICAR-CMFRI intervention improves short-neck clam stock in the Ashtamudi Lake

A year after ICAR-CMFRI launched a stock enhancement programme in Kerala's Ashtamudi Lake, early signs of recovery in the short-neck clam (*Paphia malabarica*) population were observed through spatfall and a marginal increase in standing stock. Under the PMMSY Blue Growth Project, three million hatchery-produced clam seed from the Vizhinjam RC were ranched in December 2024. Monitoring studies



recorded about 80% survival, with ranched clams attaining a marketable size of 34 mm within seven months. Resource-mapping surveys by Shellfish Fisheries Division, Kochi, confirmed widespread natural spatfall and healthy multi-cohort populations. ICAR-CMFRI

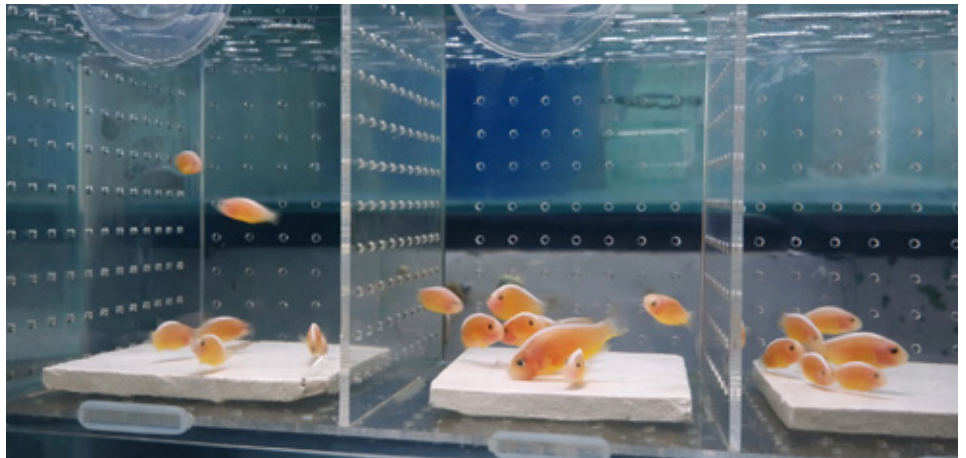
recommended continuation of the fishery closure (December–February) to ensure the survival of juvenile clams in the Clam Council Meeting held at Kollam Collectorate.

M. K. Anil, Geetha Sasikumar and P. Gomathi ♦



## Captive breeding and larval rearing of the skunk clownfish

ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, successfully achieved captive breeding and larval rearing of the skunk clownfish, *Amphiprion akallopisos*, under controlled hatchery conditions, marking an important step towards sustainable marine ornamental fish production in India. Broodstock pairs maintained under controlled conditions were fed with fish eggs and commercial marine pellet feed. The breeding pairs exhibited territorial behaviour and regular spawning was observed at intervals of 9–15 days, producing 200–500 eggs per spawning on earthen pot substrates. Both parents actively cared for the eggs through cleaning and fanning during incubation. The eggs measured 1.8–2.0 mm in length. Hatching was observed after seven days of incubation, recording about 98% hatching success under



controlled conditions. Newly hatched larvae measuring 3–4 mm in length were reared using live-feed-based larval feeding protocols under controlled water quality conditions. Larval rearing achieved around 95% survival up to the juvenile stage. Juveniles attained a total

length of  $2.7 \pm 2$  cm within 60 days and reached marketable size within five to six months.

Rema Madhu, Madhu K., Srisanthoshram R. K., Abhijith V. T., Veena G., Aswin S. R., Binoy Bhaskaran and Joe V. ♦

## New deep-sea 'Octopus squid' discovered



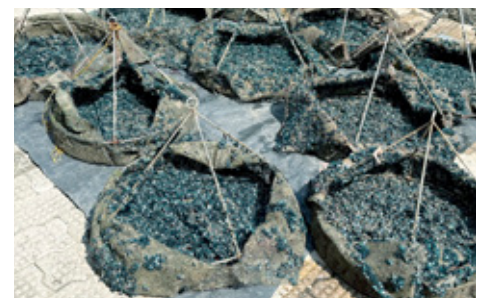
Researchers at ICAR-CMFRI have discovered a new species of deep-sea squid, *Taningia silasii* (Indian octopus squid) in the Arabian Sea. The specimen was collected at a depth of nearly 390 m, off Kollam,



Kerala. The species was named in honour of the former Director of ICAR-CMFRI, Dr E. G. Silas, a pioneer of cephalopod research in India.

Geetha Sasikumar and Sajikumar K. K. ♦

## Hatchery-based mussel seed supply



Under the PMMSY project, 0.3 million green mussel spat were successfully produced at the Vizhinjam RC in December 2025 and supplied to mussel farmers in Maharashtra. This achievement strengthened hatchery-based seed supply for sustainable mussel farming.

M. K. Anil, P. Gomathi, Ajina S. M., P. M. Krishnapriya and O. Shalini ♦



## Pearlspot farming in Tallur



Cage farming of pearlspot, *Etroplus suratensis*, locally known as Kalase, was carried out by six SC families in Tallur, Karnataka, under the SCSP programme. About 1,500 fingerlings were stocked in two floating cages (6 × 3 × 2 m). The fish attained individual weights of 150–250 g within a 10-month rearing period. The initiative demonstrated the commercial potential of pearlspot, which commands a market price of Rs. 350–400 per kg due to its high demand in Kerala and Goa.

Mangalore RC ♦

## Mariculture training

The Mandapam RC organised an awareness-cum-training programme on “Mariculture technologies for diversified livelihood” on 16 December 2025 for 20 participants from Ramanathapuram District. It covered exposure to seaweed and sea cage farming, HDPE cage preparation, feeding, disease and jellyfish sting management.

Mandapam RC ♦



## Training on responsible fishing



The Puri FC organised a training programme on “Responsible fishing, hygienic handling and value addition” during 3-5 December 2025 for SC fishers of Odisha. It provided practical exposure to responsible fishing, hygienic fish handling, cold chain management, dry fish production, value-added products, by-product utilisation and market linkages.

Swatipriyanka Sen Dash, Rajesh Kumar Pradhan, Gyanaranjan Dash and Joe K. Kizhakudan ♦



# BSF-based bioconversion units distributed to fish farmers

ICAR-CMFRI distributed Black Soldier Fly (BSF) larvae-based bioconversion units to trained fish farmers under the SCSP/TSP schemes. The units were handed over by Dr J. K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science) ICAR, New Delhi. Beneficiaries



received training on BSF rearing and the use of BSF larvae as a sustainable aquafeed ingredient. The technology enables the conversion of organic waste into protein-rich feed and

organic manure, promoting cost-effective and sustainable aquaculture practices.

Sanal Ebenezeer, Madhu K. and Rema Madhu ♦

## Training on blue economy: Opportunities for coastal fisherfolk



The Puri FC organised two training programmes on "Blue economy opportunities for coastal fisherfolk" during December 2025 under the SCSP (8–10 December) and TSP (16–18 December) for SC and ST fishers of Odisha. The programmes focused on sustainable livelihood and aquaculture practices. Participants also received practical exposure through demonstrations on modern mariculture techniques in Puri District.

Puri FC ♦

## Harvest of cage-farmed Asian seabass

Wild-collected Asian seabass (*Lates calcarifer*) juveniles, stocked in a coastal cage at 10 fish/m<sup>3</sup> in October 2024, were harvested at Etipagaru Pallipalem village, Andhra Pradesh, on

30 December 2025. Around 528 kg of fish was harvested and sold at Rs.330 per kg.

Visakhapatnam RC ♦



## Training in farm-made feed preparation

A farm-made feed containing 38% crude protein and 8% lipid was formulated for snubnose pompano, *Trachinotus blochii*, at the Tuticorin RS. The slow-sinking pellets (6 × 8 mm) were produced at the experimental feed mill facility with the participation of Koduva group members under the SCSP, for farming activities.

D. Linga Prabu, L. Loveson Edward, M. Kavitha, K. R. Veera Venthan, V. Vidhya, L. Sivalingam and S. Ramkumar ♦



## Hands-on training in mussel farming

ICAR-CMFRI conducted hands-on training in mussel farming for SC beneficiaries at Ashtamudi Lake, Kollam, during 23–24 December 2025. The training covered mussel seed collection, cleaning and seeding, construction of bamboo racks in shallow waters and suspension of seeded ropes.

Geetha Sasikumar, Sajikumar K. K. and Jestin Joy K. ♦



## Asian seabass harvest

Under the TSP, six cages were installed at Senjiamman Nagar, Pazhaverkadu Coastal village, Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu benefiting the Irular community. The fish attaining marketable size were harvested on 26 October 2025, yielding 606 kg and generating Rs.3.06 lakh, which was handed over to the beneficiary group leader. Eight sea cages were installed at Kottaiakadu Village, Chengalpattu, for four SC beneficiary groups. The cage-reared Asian seabass were harvested on 31 October and 6 November 2025, yielding 2.039 t, generating Rs. 7.80 lakh.

Chennai RS ♦



## Awareness programme on government schemes

The Veraval RS organised an awareness programme for the Siddi tribal community on 9 November 2025 on ongoing government schemes. The programme created awareness on Government of India schemes related to education, health, livelihood, skill development and socio-economic upliftment, including TSP, PM-JANMAN, Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, PM Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana and Mission Indradhanush. Special emphasis was given to the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

Vinaya Kumar Vase, Rajan Kumar, Shikha Rahangdale and P. S. Swathi Lekshmi ♦





# Livelihood support to marginal fishers



Under the SCSP programme, fishing materials, including three FRP canoes, one outboard engine, one floating cage, 34 cast nets, 16 gillnets, 12 crab nets, 65 iceboxes, 20 weighing balances, eight fish crates, two hook-



and-line sets and 100 plastic pots were distributed to 80 beneficiaries by Mangalore RC. Four beneficiary groups in Kottaiyadu, Tamil Nadu, received FRP catamarans for open-sea cage farming. At Digha, four groups



received 20 crates and two solar lights, while three groups were provided with materials for constructing crab-fattening rafts, along with technical guidance on sustainable aquaculture.

## Trainings & Awareness Programmes

### Elasmobranch conservation



The Digha RS conducted a programme on protected elasmobranch conservation on 21 November 2025 for 13 students and two faculty members from Brahmananda Keshab Chandra College, Kolkata. The programme covered their ecological importance, major threats and legal provisions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Digha RS ♦

### Outreach programme for fishers

Mandapam RC in association with Bank of Baroda, organised an outreach programme for 400 fishers and stakeholders on 14 October 2025. The programme highlighted banking

services, fisheries credit, welfare schemes, financial inclusion and sustainable fishing practices.

Mandapam RC ♦





## Fish seed production training



A training programme on “Marine ornamental fish seed production and management” was organised at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep, from 16 to 18 December 2025 under the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) funded project. A total of 25 participants from Kavaratti, Kiltan and Androth Islands received hands-on training on broodstock management, breeding, larval rearing, live feed culture, hatchery operations, aquarium tank fabrication and water quality management.

P. N. Ananth, Anikuttan K. K., Ambarish P. Gop and Abdul Azeez P. ♦

## Awareness programme on protected marine species

ICAR-CMFRI, in collaboration with the State Fisheries Department, conducted an awareness programme on endangered marine species at Tuticorin on 21 November (World Fisheries Day) and 11 December 2025 for fishers, traders, fisheries staff and the public. The programmes highlighted the identification, ecological importance



and legal protection of endangered elasmobranchs and molluscs under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and CITES, while promoting responsible fishing and trade practices.

Identification guides and awareness materials were also distributed.

M. Kavitha, V. Vidhya and L. Loveson Edward ♦

## Stakeholder awareness workshop



ICAR-CMFRI organised a stakeholder awareness workshop at Munambam Fisheries Harbour, Kerala, on 23 October 2025 under the project “Developing an Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF) for marine fisheries management in Kerala and Lakshadweep”. The programme was attended by 60 participants, including fishers, fisheries officials and Matsyafed representatives.

T. M. Najmudeen ♦



# Scientific feed management training

ICAR-CMFRI and Skretting India Pvt. Ltd., jointly organised a training programme on scientific feed management using pellet feeds for members of the AquaRise Fish Farmers Producer Organisation, Gothuruthu, Ernakulam on 16 October 2025.

Saju George ♦



# Mussel farming training

Training programmes on mussel farming were conducted for clam fishers at Sakthikulangara North on 22 December 2025 and for a women's group at St. Sebastian Island, Thekkumbhagom, Kollam,

on 23 December 2025 to support their livelihoods. The participants received hands-on exposure to site selection, farm installation, seed handling and rope seeding. Farm maintenance and the importance of condition index for

identifying the appropriate harvest period were also covered.

Geetha Sasikumar, Sajikumar K. K. and Jestin Joy K. ♦



# Conservation awareness drive

On 26 December 2025, the Mumbai RS organised an intertidal clean-up and conservation awareness drive for students at Bandra. The programme focused on the impacts of plastic pollution and ALDFG on intertidal biodiversity and mangrove ecosystems.

Mumbai RS ♦





## Mantle detachment in gastropod



*Harpulina lapponica*, a carnivorous marine gastropod of the family Harpidae, was collected from the wild and maintained at the hatchery of Tuticorin RC for breeding purposes. On the following day, two individuals detached their mantles from their shells. Both animals survived for up to 24 hours, while the detached mantle tissue remained viable for up to 6 hours.

M. Kavitha, L. Muthukumar, D. Linga Prabu, L. Loveson Edward, K. R. Veera Venthan and V. Vidhya ◆

## Rare encounter of a pod of pilot whales



During a marine mammal survey conducted by ICAR-CMFRI in the waters of Lakshadweep in December 2025, the team captured aerial footage of a pod of short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) near Suheli Par, along the transect between Agatti and Suheli islands. The pod consisted of seven individuals that moved in synchrony with rhythmic diving cycles.

Ratheesh Kumar R. ◆

## Whale shark stranding

Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) strandings were recorded at Talasari Beach, Odisha, on 4 December 2025 and at Midalam, Kanniyakumari, on 9 December 2025, highlighting the

need for enhanced monitoring and conservation of marine megafauna. The Talasari specimen measured about 35ft while the 6.65 m female at Midalam succumbed despite rescue efforts. The

incidents also emphasised the need for awareness on safe release methods.

Puri FC and Tuticorin RS ◆





# Call for standardised marine conservation protocols



A national workshop titled “Advancing marine biodiversity and ecosystem conservation through standardisation: Bridging science, policy and practice” was jointly organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and ICAR-CMFRI on 7 October 2025

at Kochi. Experts highlighted the need for standardised protocols for sustainable fisheries and ecosystem conservation. The workshop proposed an Indian Marine Sustainability Certification System aligned with global frameworks such as Convention

on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Divya Viswambharan ♦

## Silver pompano seed distribution at mariculture facility, Narakkal



Under the All-India Network Project on Mariculture (AINP-M), 500 hatchery-produced silver pompano (*Trachinotus blochii*) seed (2-inches) reared at the Narakkal mariculture facility from yolk sac larvae sourced from the Vizhinjam

RC were distributed to cage farmers in Ernakulam and Kollam districts.

Anuraj A., Rajesh N., Suresh Babu P. P. and Bobby Ignatius ♦

## Impact of awareness campaigns

ICAR-CMFRI's conservation campaigns under the Kerala Fishery Management Plan motivated the 52-member fishing crew of the ring-seine unit Carmel to voluntarily release a large shoal of juvenile oil sardine accidentally caught off Kollam on 7 October 2025.

T. M. Najmudeen ♦

## Olive ridley turtle stranding



A dead adult olive ridley turtle, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, measuring 65 cm curved carapace length and 62 cm curved carapace width was washed ashore at Periyasampuram village along the Thoothukudi Coast on 18 November 2025.

Tuticorin RS ♦

## Survey of seaweed farmers

Veraval RS conducted a socio-economic field survey to assess the status and impacts of seaweed farming in the Kutch and Okha regions of Gujarat. A total of 112 farmers were engaged in seaweed cultivation, with *Kappaphycus alvarezii* being the predominant species in the region. Farmers reported 1.14 times higher yields with the monoline method than with the net-tube method.

Veraval RS ♦



## Mangrove planting drive



A mangrove planting drive was organised by the MBEM Division, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, in collaboration with Travel Corporation India Ltd., at Manjanakkad, Narakkal Panchayat in Ernakulam district, on 3 December 2025. A total of 300 *Rhizophora mucronata* saplings were planted along the bunds bordering aquaculture farms to strengthen the local mangrove ecosystem.

Shelton Padua ♦

## Strengthening MLS compliance

Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries and Ports, Government of Maharashtra, Shri Nitesh Rane, reviewed the implementation of Minimum Legal Size (MLS) and conservation measures for Indian silver pomfret during October 2025 and released awareness materials to promote sustainable fisheries management.

Mumbai RS ♦



## State-level stakeholders consultation workshop



The Visakhapatnam RC organised the State-level small-scale fisheries stakeholders consultation workshop on 9 October 2025, funded by the NFDB and supported by FISHCON. The workshop brought together over 85 delegates, including more than 65

small-scale fishers from 12 coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, along with scientists and fisheries officials. Twenty traditional fishermen were honoured as "Blue Warriors (Neele Yodhulu)". The programme discussed challenges and opportunities in the small-scale

fisheries sector in alignment with FAO's voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), MFC 2025 and PMMSY schemes.

Visakhapatnam RC ♦



# Rescue of an entangled loggerhead turtle from the Lakshadweep waters



The survey team rescued a loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) found entangled in a floating ghost net while travelling from Minicoy to Kalpeni



during a marine mammal survey conducted on 17 December 2025. The net was carefully removed and the turtle, which had lost its left forelimb

due to prolonged entanglement, was released back into the sea.

Ratheesh Kumar R. ◆

## Mobula ray colour morph

A juvenile female *Mobula birostris* with a dark ventral colour morph was landed at Cochin Fishing Harbour on 20 November 2025. Measuring 112 cm in disc width and weighing 63 kg, it was reportedly caught off Mumbai by a multiday trawler.

Remya L., Pakkri Muthu S., Ragesh N. ◆



## Sawfish conservation awareness

On International Sawfish Day (17 October 2025) the Mumbai RS organised a community-centred conservation initiative at Khanderi

Island linking science, culture and stewardship. Marine science students and CMFRI scientists documented culturally significant sawfish rostra

at the Vetal Temple, highlighting the ecological importance, cultural heritage and conservation needs of this critically threatened species.





# National stakeholder consultation on BBNJ agreement



The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), in collaboration with ICAR-CMFRI, conducted a National stakeholder consultation on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement at Kochi on 12 December 2025. The event featured addresses by experts from marine, legal and

research organisations, highlighting the importance of implementing the agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. Breakout sessions focused on the treaty's four pillars: marine genetic resources, environmental impact assessments,

capacity building and area-based management tools. The consultation concluded with a strategic roadmap emphasising cooperation, capacity building and India's leadership in marine conservation and protection of the global commons.

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IMPLEMENTATION

### Internship programme



An internship programme was organised at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, from 15 to 31 December 2025 for six students of Post Graduate Diploma in Translation, Journalism and Computing (PGDT) and M.A. Hindi by the Official

Language section, providing exposure to Hindi implementation, fisheries glossary, official correspondence, Official Language policy, Hindi typing and CMFRI publications.

### Official Language inspection

Dr Vichitrassen Gupta, Deputy Director, Regional Implementation Office (Eastern Region), Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, inspected the Official Language activities of the ICAR-CMFRI Digha RS on 14 October 2025.

### TOLIC meeting

OLIC of Madras RS, attended the meeting and discussion of Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) on 21 November 2025 held at CSIR-SERC Campus, Taramani.



# Hindi competition



Hindi dictation competition was conducted for the staff on 31 December 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, with the objective of encouraging the use of Hindi in official work and improving the officials' listening, comprehension and writing skills in Hindi. The active participation of the staff members reflected their interest and enthusiasm towards promoting the progressive use of Hindi in the Institute.

## IN-HOUSE PROGRAMMES

# ICAR-CMFRI observes Swachhta Pakhwada through cleanliness and awareness initiatives



Regional Centres and Stations of ICAR-CMFRI observed Swachhta Pakhwada 2025 through cleanliness drives, coastal clean-ups, plantations, workshops and awareness programmes on waste management, recycling and plastic pollution, promoting community participation.

The activities included Swachhta Pledge, street plays, signature campaigns and awareness drives on sanitation, responsible waste disposal, water conservation and single-use plastics. Marine litter was removed from beaches, while greening campaigns and plastic

waste shramdaan programmes promoted environmental responsibility. Fishermen, students, local residents and staff actively participated in the initiatives, reinforcing ICAR-CMFRI's commitment to cleanliness, sustainability and community engagement.



# Jan Jathiiya Varsha Gaurav Pakhwad



The Madras, Mumbai and Veraval Regional Stations organised outreach programmes for tribal communities as part of Jan Jathiiya Varsha Gaurav Pakhwad 2025, on digital inclusion, entrepreneurship, mariculture,

government welfare schemes, education and sustainable fisheries. The programmes also highlighted tribal heritage, environmental stewardship, livelihood opportunities and community empowerment, with

active participation from women, students and community members, to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

## Women's wellness



The Women's Cell of ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, organised an awareness session on "Freedom with menstrual cups" with Ms. Niya Joseph on 8 October. On 15 October, Dr Valsaladevi K., Ayurvedic physician, delivered



an awareness talk on "Women's health: Navigating the stages from menstruation to menopause and beyond", emphasising the balance between body, mind and spirit for women's health and well-being.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



The Karwar RS secured the first prize for the excellent implementation of the Official Language during 2024–25 from the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC), Karwar, on 27 November 2025.



## MACP-Scheme

| Name & Place of posting                              | Pay Matrix         | Effective Date |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> MACP, Pay matrix Level-02            |                    |                |
| Shri Thobias P. Antony<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi          | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 16.09.2025     |
| Smt. Sruthy S.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi                  | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 11.09.2025     |
| Shri Sujith R.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi                  | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 17.09.2025     |
| Shri Augustine Sipson N. A.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi     | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 21.09.2025     |
| Smt. Remya E. A.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi                | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 14.09.2025     |
| Shri Akhildev S.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi                | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 14.09.2025     |
| Smt. Rinku Joseph<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi               | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 09.09.2025     |
| Smt. Unniresmi C. U.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi            | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 08.09.2025     |
| Smt. Jinimol K. P.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi              | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 15.09.2025     |
| Smt. Reshma K. S.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi               | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 17.09.2025     |
| Shri Ratheesh<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi                   | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 10.09.2025     |
| Smt. Divya K. A.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi                | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 16.09.2025     |
| Shri Vysakhan P.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi                | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 17.09.2025     |
| Smt. Deepa R.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi                   | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 09.09.2025     |
| Smt. Binitha Babu<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi               | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 14.09.2025     |
| Smt. Anaswara K. B.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi             | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 11.09.2025     |
| Shri Sabin P. Babu<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi              | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 10.09.2025     |
| Shri Vipinkumar K. K.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi           | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 19.09.2025     |
| Smt. Athira T. G.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi               | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 18.09.2025     |
| Smt. Preethy Udayabhanu<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi         | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 18.09.2025     |
| Smt. Hima P. H.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi                 | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 15.09.2025     |
| Smt. Shajala Banu P. M.<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi         | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 25.09.2025     |
| Shri Seeram Harish<br>Visakhapatnam RC, ICAR-CMFRI   | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 08.09.2025     |
| Shri Siram Nookaraju<br>Visakhapatnam RC, ICAR-CMFRI | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 07.09.2025     |

|                                                            |                    |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Shri Potala Bhaskara Rao<br>Visakhapatnam RC, ICAR-CMFRI   | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 14.09.2025 |
| Shri Palli Kalidasu<br>Visakhapatnam RC, ICAR-CMFRI        | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 21.09.2025 |
| Shri Venkateswarlu Vuyyala<br>Visakhapatnam RC, ICAR-CMFRI | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 26.09.2025 |
| Shri P. Venkatesh<br>Visakhapatnam RC, ICAR-CMFRI          | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 26.09.2025 |
| Shri A. Mohamed Kaleem<br>Mandapam RC, ICAR-CMFRI          | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 08.09.2025 |
| Smt. M. Afrin Rani<br>Mandapam RC, ICAR-CMFRI              | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 08.09.2025 |
| Smt. S. Sabiya Begum<br>Mandapam RC, ICAR-CMFRI            | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 08.09.2025 |
| Shri Ravikumar T. T.<br>Mandapam RC, ICAR-CMFRI            | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 11.09.2025 |
| Shri B. Saravanakumar<br>Mandapam RC, ICAR-CMFRI           | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 16.09.2025 |
| Shri S. Joseph Jegan<br>Mandapam RC, ICAR-CMFRI            | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 21.09.2025 |
| Shri R. Rajkumar<br>Mandapam RC, ICAR-CMFRI                | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 18.09.2025 |
| Shri Nagaraj Somayya<br>Karwar RS, ICAR-CMFRI              | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 09.09.2025 |
| Ms. Pooja Mahabaleshwar Gajinkar<br>Karwar RS, ICAR-CMFRI  | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 10.09.2025 |
| Shri Ravichandra Angadi<br>Karwar RS, ICAR-CMFRI           | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 24.09.2025 |
| Shri Suraj Surendra Kalgutkar<br>Karwar RS, ICAR-CMFRI     | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 10.09.2025 |
| Ms. Veena Ulhas Kamble<br>Karwar RS, ICAR-CMFRI            | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 16.09.2025 |
| Shri J. Ramachandran<br>Madras RS, ICAR-CMFRI              | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 08.09.2025 |
| Shri R. Yuvaraj<br>Madras RS, ICAR-CMFRI                   | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 16.10.2025 |
| Shri T. Balaraman<br>Madras RS, ICAR-CMFRI                 | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 14.09.2025 |
| Shri Raja Sekar R.<br>Madras RS, ICAR-CMFRI                | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 23.09.2025 |
| Shri K. Prabhakaran<br>Madras RS, ICAR-CMFRI               | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 23.09.2025 |
| Smt. Sreelakshmi S.<br>Vizhinjam RC, ICAR-CMFRI            | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 14.09.2025 |
| Smt. Krishnapriya P. M.<br>Vizhinjam RC, ICAR-CMFRI        | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 14.09.2025 |



|                                                          |                    |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Smt. Shalini O.<br>Vizhinjam RC, ICAR-CMFRI              | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 17.09.2025 |
| Shri V. Anand<br>Vizhinjam RC, ICAR-CMFRI                | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 22.09.2025 |
| Shri Akhil A. R.<br>Vizhinjam RC, ICAR-CMFRI             | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 21.09.2025 |
| Shri Chorvadi Kamlesh Kalidas<br>Veraval RS, ICAR-CMFRI  | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 11.09.2025 |
| Shri Bhint Mitesh Harajal<br>Veraval RS, ICAR-CMFRI      | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 10.09.2025 |
| Shri Mushagra Rajit Hasam<br>Veraval RS, ICAR-CMFRI      | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 15.09.2025 |
| Shri Thakar Milan Rajnikant<br>Veraval RS, ICAR-CMFRI    | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 18.09.2025 |
| Shri Gadhiya Noormamad Alibhai<br>Veraval RS, ICAR-CMFRI | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 07.10.2025 |
| Shri Midhun Kumar P. H.<br>KVK, Narakkal, ICAR-CMFRI     | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 08.09.2025 |
| Shri Ashish C. S. Chaturvedi<br>Mumbai RS, ICAR-CMFRI    | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 10.09.2025 |
| Shri Vaibhav Jayant Gharat<br>Mumbai RS, ICAR-CMFRI      | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 23.09.2025 |
| Smt. Nishida P.<br>Calicut RS, ICAR-CMFRI                | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 10.09.2025 |
| Shri Anirudh K.<br>Calicut RS, ICAR-CMFRI                | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 16.09.2025 |
| Shri Abdul Hakeem M. M.<br>Calicut RS, ICAR-CMFRI        | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 21.09.2025 |
| Shri Anoop K. G.<br>Calicut RS, ICAR-CMFRI               | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 17.09.2025 |
| Shri Shrinath B.<br>Mangalore RC, ICAR-CMFRI             | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 09.09.2025 |
| Shri Naveen Raju K. G. Naik<br>Mangalore RC, ICAR-CMFRI  | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 24.09.2025 |
| Smt. Pushpa K.<br>Mangalore RC, ICAR-CMFRI               | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 16.09.2025 |
| Shri Dharmaraju L. B.<br>Mangalore RC, ICAR-CMFRI        | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 23.09.2025 |
| Ms. Sathyavathi<br>Mangalore RC, ICAR-CMFRI              | Rs.19,900-63,200/- | 14.09.2025 |

|                                              |                    |            |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> MACP, Pay Matrix<br>Level-04 |                    |            |
| Smt. S. Usha<br>ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi            | Rs.25,500-81,100/- | 03.02.2025 |
| Shri Rajendran V.<br>Calicut RS, ICAR-CMFRI  | Rs.25,500-81,100/- | 16.06.2025 |

## Relieving

| Name & Designation     | From                | To                             | Effective Date |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Shri Dinesh<br>AF & AO | ICAR-CMFRI<br>Kochi | ICAR-Headquarters<br>New Delhi | 17.10.2025     |

## Transfer

| Name & Designation           | From                           | To                         | Effective Date |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Smt. Sobha K. S.<br>AF & AO  | ICAR-Headquarters<br>New Delhi | ICAR-CMFRI<br>Kochi        | 03.11.2025     |
| Dr. Gladston Y.<br>Scientist | ICAR-CMFRI,<br>Kochi           | Vizhinjam RC<br>ICAR-CMFRI | 15.10.2025     |
| Dr. Ajina S. M.<br>Scientist | ICAR-CMFRI,<br>Kochi           | Vizhinjam RC<br>ICAR-CMFRI | 15.10.2025     |

## Retirements on Superannuation

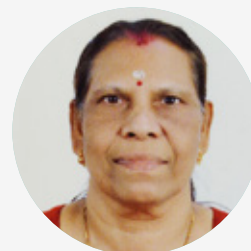


**Shri K. G. Jayaprasad**

Multi Tasking Staff

30.11.2025

ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi



**Smt. S. Usha**

Multi Tasking Staff

30.11.2025

ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi



## ICAR-CMFRI

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute is a premier research institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and focusses on research and training in marine fisheries and mariculture.

Cadalmin is the quarterly newsletter of ICAR-CMFRI. This publication gives an insight into the major events of the institute, besides highlighting the salient research findings for the benefit of various stakeholders in the marine fisheries sector.

E-mail: [director.cmfri@icar.org.in](mailto:director.cmfri@icar.org.in) | [www.cmfri.org.in](http://www.cmfri.org.in)