



First National Symposium
on
**‘The Enigmatic
Indian Oil Sardine’**

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Indian Oil Sardine’**

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ICAR - CMFRI
Kochi, Kerala



Co - ordinator:
Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan
Director, CMFRI

Convener:
Dr. Prathibha Rohit
Head
Pelagic Fisheries Division



ICAR - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)
Post Box No. 1603, Ernakulam North P.O.,
Kochi-682 018, Kerala, India.
Phone: +91 484 2394357, 2394867, Fax: +91 484 2394909
E mail: director.cmfri@icar.gov.in Web: www.cmfri.org.in



ICAR - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
Post Box No. 1603, Ernakulam North P.O.,
Kochi-682 018, Kerala, India



The Indian Oil Sardine, *Sardinella longiceps* is the most abundant single marine fish species of the country. They enjoy a wide distribution and support fishery throughout their distributional range. It forms approximately 15% of the Indian marine fish landings. The Indian Oil Sardine has good commercial value both as a table fish due to its high nutritional qualities and as an important raw material for fishmeal industry of the country.

The Indian Oil Sardine is one of the most extensively studied species of the region and all aspects of its biology, fishery and stock status are regularly monitored and reported. However, the resource is highly susceptible to frequent and heavy fluctuations in abundance; the reasons for which still remains an enigma to the researchers, fishers and managers. Several postulates such as influence of anthropogenic interactions, biological and environmental changes etc. have been put forward by earlier workers as drivers of these periodic fluctuations observed in the abundance and fishery of this species. Recent investigations by the Pelagic Fisheries Division of ICAR - CMFRI has indicated that climate change, especially El Niño has a significant impact on the oil sardine abundance and fishery, especially along the southwest coast of India. It is in this backdrop the National Symposium is being organised. This would enable exchange of scientific information on the interactions of the species with the oceanographic parameters. Such exchange of information would lead to a better understanding of the fluctuations of valuable pelagic resource of India and enable more accurate long-term forecasting.



The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) was established by the Government of India on February 3, 1947 under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and later it joined the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) family in 1967. During the course of over 72 years, the Institute has emerged as a leading tropical marine fisheries research institute in the world.

Since its inception, the CMFRI has grown significantly in its size and stature and built up adequate research infrastructure in terms of equipments and staff. During the first half of the five decades of its existence, the CMFRI devoted its research attention towards the estimation of marine fisheries landings and effort, taxonomy of marine organisms and the bio-economic characteristics of the exploited stocks of finfish and shellfish.

The objective of the symposium is to set a way for the future course of research on a multi-disciplinary platform to

- i. develop good management practices for sustainable harvest of the Indian Oil Sardine from the Exclusive Economic Zone.
- ii. improve collaboration among research organizations involved in the marine fisheries and environment monitoring, enabling precise pelagic fishery forecast.