More boats back, meet tomorrow on future precautions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

Three more fishing boats, which had left the Kochi shores before Cyclone Ockhi, safely returned to the Kochi harbour on Thursday, even as the fishing community here is set to discuss the future course of action at a workshop on Saturday.

The workshop will be addressed by scientists and researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation, Central Institute of Marine Science and Technology, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, National Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory, and Marine Products Export Development Authority.

The day-long workshop will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Grand Canyon in Fort Kochi. Inspector General of Police (Ernakulam Range) P. Vijayan will inaugurate the workshop.

The workshop assumes significance in the wake of mass destruction and loss of life caused by the cyclone. The workshop will also be a forum in which the future course of action will be discussed in detail.

Meanwhile, three boats returned with 36 fishermen on board. They had ventured out of Kochi before the cyclone warning was issued but were not actually caught in the heavy winds and high waves, said Charles George of Matsya Thozhilal Aliyka Vedi on Thursday.

The boats that returned on Thursday are Saint Francis Xavier, Madagascar, and Ocean Hunter, sources at the fisheries harbour said. The Public Relations Department (PRD) on Wednesday said 50 boats had set out from Kochi in search of boats and

**Warning issued**

A warning has been issued that high waves and heavy winds, attaining speeds of up to 45 km to 55 km per hour, will hit coastal Kerala and the Lakshadweep islands over the next 24 hours. Fishermen have been warned against venturing into the sea.