

Fish from outside state safe, finds food safety

DC CORRESPONDENT
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The drive launched by the District Food Safety Authority to detect use of illegal substances for preserving fish brought from other states in the district has so far found that there is hardly any attempt to use forbidden substances for the purpose.

In the first phase the drive covered the Champakkara and Vypeen markets and the food safety squad swooped on the markets by 4 am and the inspection continued till 8 am on trucks that came from other states to the market.

District food safety officer Jacob Thomas said the samples were sent to the

lab of the Central Institute for Fisheries Technology (CIFT) lab in Kochi and the results were negative. "The samples have now been sent to the Regional Analytical Laboratory, Kakkanad, for detailed tests and we expect the result soon," he said.

"In the coming days we will undertake checking at Perumbavoor, Aluva and Thoppumpady markets and then will move to more remote parts. Surprise checks will be conducted periodically till the trawling ban gets over," Mr Thomas said.

"Since trawling ban is now on on our coast, the markets are depending on the fish varieties coming from outside the state," Mr Thomas said.

"Most vehicles carrying fish come from Andhra Pradesh. We could not detect use of ammonia or formalin to preserve the fish. We have also found that good quality ice is being used for preserving the fish varieties."

He said the quality of the fish brought also is found good.