

DEEP-SEA FISHING BOATS

'Centre has given preference to Tamil Nadu'

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TAMIL NADU is providing a subsidy of ₹16 lakh for each boat and has arranged soft loans to the tune of ₹30 lakh per boat to empower the fishermen. Around 350 fishermen in four coastal districts of Tamil Nadu have registered under the scheme expressing willingness to replace their trawler boats with the new deep-sea boats.

"The Centre has given preference to Tamil Nadu in view of the stand off between the fishermen of that state and Sri Lanka over the exploitation of marine resources in the Palk Bay. It'll be extended to all coastal states in near future," said CIFT principal scientist Leela Edwin.

Longlining is a passive fishing technique that involves use of long mainlines and branchlines with baited hooks. As bottom trawling destroys the marine ecosystem, many countries have banned it. India too has decided to regulate fishing practices.

The Cochin Shipyard has completed sea trial of two boats and four boats are ready for delivery. While there are no standard specifications for

Specifications of tuna liner and gillnet fishing vessel

Length	22.70 m
Beam	6.4 m
Depth	3 m
Draught	1.8 m
Speed	8 Knots
Crew	8

Navigation and communication

GPS, AIS, VHF-with DSC, Eco sounder, Magnetic compass, Necessary navigational lights.

boats built by local boat builders, the new design will set the standard for deep-sea fishing boats. The hull and deck are made of steel, which makes them strong and seaworthy. It is 100 per cent watertight and has bunkers for eight crew members. Ergonomically designed, the boats have hydraulic steering wheels, customised winches and bio toilets. The diesel-powered boats can achieve eight knots speed and are ideal for three-week long fishing expeditions. It has an insulated stainless steel fish hold and refrigerated sea water system.