

# Fisheries Stir against Govt's Move

**Express News Service**

**Kochi:** The Fisheries Coordination Committee has decided to launch an agitation against the Central Government's move to prepare the Marine Fisheries Policy without taking the fisher organisations into confidence.

A meeting of the Committee held here on Thursday alleged that the expert panel formed under the chairmanship of ICAR director general Dr S Ayyappan did not have representation from coastal states and fisher organisations.

It also demanded that the terms of reference of the panel be revised so as to include the real problems being faced by the sector and the fisherfolk whose livelihood is linked to it.

As a token protest, the Committee will hold a sit-in in front of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute here on January 12.

In addition, the meeting demanded the Cochin Port Trust (CPT) to revoke its decision to hike licence fee for the jetties and fish landing centres under it.

"The CPT has challenged the right to livelihood of the fisher-

folk in Vypeen by proposing a ban on the fish landing centres there," pointed out the Committee. The meeting was presided over by Kumbalam Rajappan, while Fisheries Coordination Committee state general secretary V V Saseendran presented a report.

District Convener Charles George explained the future course of action with regard to the agitation. K J Antony, A K Sasi, K K Thampi, Joseph Xavier Kalappurakkal, P O Antony, K K Pushkaran, M N Sivadasan, V K Unnikrishnan, P V Vilson and P K Aravindan also spoke.