

Fishers oppose big vessels near coast

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram:

The joint committee of seven fishermen associations has raised concerns about Union govt's plan to allow large fishing boats to conduct fishing in offshore and coastal waters using strong lights. They want the Union govt to halt the move and take further steps after discussing with fishermen's organisations.

The committee said that the vessels capable of catching a large quantity of fish would impact the livelihood of local fishermen. "The entry of large boats that can attract coastal fish, especially in a crowded fishing scene, will harm the livelihood of fishermen who usually use only boats that are up to

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24m in length," the committee said in a statement.

"The large-scale fishing vessels are going to be allowed under the guise of cooperative organisations. These vessels, using lights ranging from 1 lakh to 3 lakh watts, attract fish even from coastal waters and capture them in large quantities in a short time. According to govt estimates, there are 3,14,767 vessels operating in our seas. In addition to the excess of vessels, there is a significant decline in fish production," the statement said.