

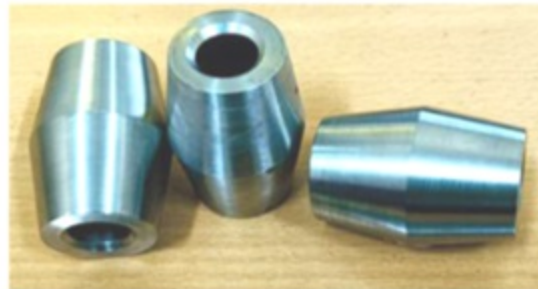
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ICAR-CIFT develops eco-friendly alternative to lead sinkers in fishing nets

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ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology has made a significant breakthrough in developing environmentally friendly alternatives to toxic lead-based sinkers used in fishing nets. Initial experiments using materials such as stainless steel have shown promising results, paving the way for a sustainable solution to replace lead in fishing operations.

Lead, a toxic and persistent pollutant, poses a grave threat to marine ecosystems and human health. Its continued use in fishing sinkers has led to mounting concerns globally, with some countries already banning lead-based sinkers and baits to mitigate environmental risks. Recognizing this issue, CIFT has submitted its findings and recommendations to the Ministry of Fisheries, seeking approval to implement these alternatives on a national scale.



This initiative aligns India's fishing practices with global environmental standards while safeguarding the country's seafood export market, stated Dr. M.P. Remesan, Head of the Fishing Technology Division at ICAR- CIFT.

Fishing nets such as purse seines often require over 1,000 kilograms of lead, while trawls use up to 70 kilograms. Fishermen report that prolonged use of these sinkers results in significant wear and tear within 6 months. This contamination can potentially affect marine life.