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Now, real time data on oceanic parameters to be available

By [Himanshu Nitnaware](#), TNN | Jan 7, 2013, 04:27 AM IST

AURANGABAD: A wave rider buoy will be deployed off [Ratnagiri coast](#) in the Konkan region of Maharashtra aimed at disseminating [real time data on oceanic parameters](#) on Monday.

The Centre for Coastal and Marine Biodiversity (CCMB) located in Ratnagiri is operated by the [Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University](#) (BAMU). "The CCMB would deploy the buoy. This would help the coastal and scientific community by providing data," said Uday Mane, professor at Marine Biology in the university.

The project will help to educate fishermen and coastal community to use satellite dissemination data on potential fishing zones and ocean state forecast through electronic display boards installed in Sindhudurg, Ratangiri and Raigad districts.

Mane said, "With the oceanic parameters obtained through various methods such as satellite mapping, spectral analysis, pockets in the ocean can be identified to find the chlorophyll growth, dense vegetation under the ocean where fishes get attracted the most. Accordingly, fishermen can move in those regions for fishing."

Earlier the information about longitude, latitude, depth and distance from the coast where fishes would be found maximum was provided every three days to the fishermen, however, with the new systems in place the information is updated daily.

"This saved a lot of time and effort of the fishermen as they could identify the potential fishing zones before they entered the ocean. This gave boost to business oriented activity," Mane said. The project has also helped to provide useful data during storms like Fayan that was experienced in the coast in 2006 as well as the Tsunami.

Mane said that the electronic display boards will benefit the fishermen in marine fishing. Since the forecast is generated through numerical models with development of new technologies, proper real time validations have to be carried out to improve use of the forecast data. The fishermen in the surrounding region have also been trained to operate the system.

The INCOIS has been deploying various instruments on selected coastal regions for observations of oceanic parameters.

The buoy was earlier deployed in 2010 for the same purpose which will be replaced to enhance its future scope of ocean monitoring products customising it according to the requirements of the users.

"The aim is to enhance measurements of oceanic parameters for assimilation in to operational models to produce the realistic forecasting system. It will provide accurate information every three minutes and will cover around 65 kilometres of radius," Mane said.

New parameters such as temperature, wave current and tidal behaviour will also be obtained from the new instrument which will also inform about the possible error in the data.

Mane said that the project operated by the university has helped the coastal community and the government to identify different types of shells, human population, growth of mangroves and its impact on the natural resources and the new species that have been discovered.

The commercial activities in the region have threatened the biodiversity in the region which is of grave concern and needs to be addressed, said Mane.

The project is funded by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India on Potential Fishing Zone - Ocean State Forecast (PFZ-OSF).

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