

■ Tracking to help ready a database for fishing communities

Tags on tuna to help study ocean life

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The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is coming out with an ear stud for fishes. The aim is to plumb the depths of its aquatic life and share it with beneficiaries.

The Hyderabad-based organisation seeks to use the fish tag, named PSAT (pop-up satellite archival tag data), to track the gill-bearing creature's movements with the help of GPS and satellite facilities so as to learn more about its habitat and ready a database for communities like fishermen.

The modest-looking gadget is currently on display at



Fish tag being displayed at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services stall.

the INCOIS stall of the World Oceanic Science Congress (WOSC) in the city.

As of now, the tag is tailor-

made for tuna fish. It is attached to the gill of the fish after it is netted. The instrument poses no difficulty for its wearer. The PSAT will trace the paths of the fish over a three-month period, plumb its depths and gauge the temperatures. After 90 days, the tag will on itself free from the gill and surface on the seas from where it would transmit information via satellite to the INCOIS monitoring system.

Calls for startup incubators: India's marine education programme should offer incentives such as incubation facilities for startups and greater industry-academia linkages to attract skilled and talented young people to the sector,

Prof. B. Madhusoodana Kurup, Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), said on Saturday.

In a talk on developing human resources for the marine sector at the WOSC, Prof. Kurup said industry link-ups were necessary to ensure better employment opportunities for students taking up marine and fisheries courses.

"Establishment of an industry incubation centre and industry-university advisory board, and tie ups with private sector for R&D and technology transfer should be seriously considered for the overall development of human resources in this field," he said.