

# COASTAL CURRENTS

E-NEWSLETTER (QUARTERLY)



**COLLEGE OF FISHERIES SCIENCE**

**ST. DEVASAHAYAM INSTITUTE OF  
FISHERIES SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Midalam - 629 193. Kanniyakumari Dist.

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## *From the desk of Dean...*

It gives me immense pleasure to present this issue of Coastal Currents Dec.2025, which reflects the vibrant academic, research, and extension activities of the College of Fisheries Science, St. Devasahayam Institute of Fisheries Science & Technology. The past quarter has been marked by enthusiastic student participation, dedicated faculty involvement and meaningful engagements that effectively bridge classroom learning with real-world fisheries practices.

Our students have actively involved themselves in a wide range of field visits, outreach programmes, environmental initiatives, and co-curricular activities that strengthen their professional competence and social responsibility. The successful organizing of programmes such as the inauguration of the Scholarly Students Society, World Fisheries Day observance, Innovision-25 and Carols & Quills highlights the emphasis placed on holistic development and experiential learning on our campus.

I am particularly proud of the institution's academic milestones, notably the publication of 34 textbooks in Fisheries Science within a short span, with several more currently in the pipeline. These achievements underscore our strong academic culture and commitment to enriching teaching-learning resources. Further, the establishment of new facilities such as the ornamental aquaculture facility, live feed culture unit, mini feed mill and lined aquaculture ponds complex stands as a testament to our focus on hands-on training, skill development and sustainable fisheries education.

I congratulate our students, faculty members and on teaching staff for their collective efforts and commendable achievements. Let us continue to work together with dedication, innovation, and integrity to contribute meaningfully to fisheries education, research and societal development. We remain thankful to the Chairman Bishop and all concerned in the management for their continuous support being rendered.

**Kind regards,**

Prof. S. Felix

Dean & Sr.Advisor, DIFST

## Moments on Campus

### Inauguration of Scholarly Students Society (2025-26)



The Inauguration of the Scholarly Students Society (SSS) for the academic year 2025-26 was conducted successfully on 31st October at the college premises.

The event began with a warm and traditional welcome, where the dignitaries were received with paneer water and flowers, setting a gracious tone for the programme. The ceremony officially commenced with the Lighting of the Lamp, symbolizing knowledge, wisdom, and new beginnings. The programme was graced by the Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Gino Jose Mathew, who delivered an inspiring Chief Guest Address, motivating students to pursue academic excellence and holistic development. The Presidential Address was delivered by Prof. S. Felix, President of SSS and Dean, DIFST, highlighting the vision and objectives of the Scholarly Students Society.

This was followed by the Felicitation Address by Fr. Dr. Kildos, Secretary, DIFST, who encouraged students to actively engage in scholarly and co-curricular activities. The Welcome Address was given by Mr. N. Karthik, Vice-President of SSS and Assistant Professor, DIFST, who warmly welcomed the gathering and emphasized the importance of student-led academic societies.



The programme concluded with the Vote of Thanks proposed by Mr. Akash Arul A, General Secretary of SSS (III Year, DIFST), expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, faculty members, and students for their support and participation.

The event was further enriched with cultural performances by the DIFST students, adding vibrancy and enthusiasm to the occasion. The inauguration marked a promising beginning for the activities of the Scholarly Students Society for the academic year 2025–26.



## World Fisheries Day Innovation- 25'



On 21 November 2025, the institution witnessed two significant events that reflected students' commitment to environmental responsibility and creative expression.

World Fisheries Day was observed in the morning at Melmidalam Beach with a Beach Restoration programme organised jointly by the NSS & Eco-Club, SSS. The activity commenced at 7:00 am, with enthusiastic participation from students and volunteers. Plastic waste and other pollutants were removed from the shoreline, contributing to a cleaner coastal environment. The programme aimed to raise awareness about the importance of fisheries resources, marine biodiversity conservation, and the need to protect oceans for future generations. The event also helped students understand their role in maintaining a sustainable and pollution-free marine ecosystem.



Later in the day, Innovision-25' was conducted at DIFST at 5:00 pm by Coastal Currents. The event was organized around the theme "Stories from the Shorelines," encouraging students to creatively express the cultural, social, and environmental aspects of coastal life. Competitions such as Short Film, Reels Making, Poster Creation, Photography, and Meme Creation were held, providing a platform for students to showcase their talents and innovative ideas. The programmes received active participation and appreciation from students and faculty members.

The winners of the various competitions were honoured and awarded by the President of the Scholarly Students Society, Prof. S. Felix (Dean, DIFST), recognising their creativity and efforts.



Together, these events highlighted the importance of environmental awareness, creativity, and student involvement, making the day memorable and meaningful for the college community.

## Carols & Quills

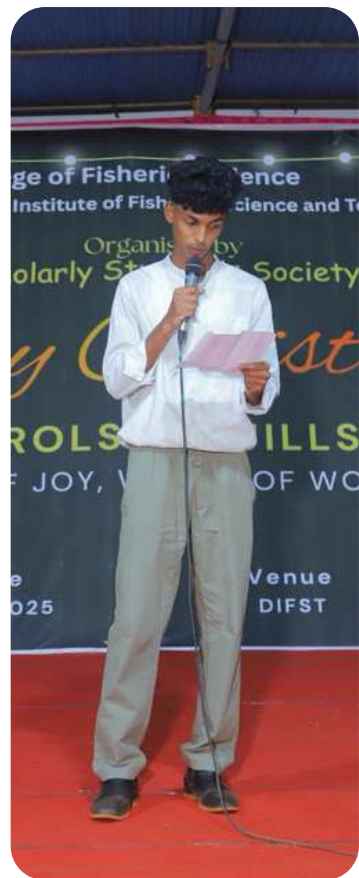
### A Joyful Christmas Celebration



Carols and Quills, a Christmas celebration, was held on 18 December 2025 at DIFST, organized jointly by the Literary Association and Music Club. The programme aimed to celebrate the spirit of Christmas and spread messages of love, peace, and togetherness among students. The chief guests Mrs. Pushpa R. Lavezzo and Fr. Anto Vinoth Kumar were warmly welcomed by the college management. The programme began with the presidential address by Prof. S. Felix, who explained the purpose of celebrating Christmas and its values. This was followed by felicitation addresses by Dr. Fr. Kildos, Secretary, and Fr. Amalraj, Bursar, who highlighted the true meaning of Christmas. The chief guest address by Fr. Anto Vinoth Kumar was highly motivating for the students, and Ms. Pushpa R. Lavezzo's brief speech enriched the students' knowledge. Student involvement played a major role in the success of the event. Prior to the celebration, competitions such as the Christmas Stall and Crib Making were conducted, and the winners were awarded certificates.



The programme included a welcome address by Literary Association Secretary M. Madhan, a skit on "Christmas in 2050," carol singing, flash mob, dance performances, and Christmas friend gift distribution. The vote of thanks was delivered by General Secretary Akash Arul A, followed by a Christmas message from Music Club Secretary S. S. Priyanka. The celebration created a joyful and festive atmosphere across the campus.



## Field Trips

### FRESHMAN

2025-26 BATCH

#### Government Fish Seed Farm, Pechiparai



B.F.Sc 1<sup>st</sup> Year students undertook a field visit on 19/11/2025 to the Pechiparai Government Fish Seed Rearing Farm, Chittar Fish Seed Farm, and the Horticulture Research Institute, Pechiparai. The visit provided practical exposure to pond construction, fish seed rearing, water quality management, stocking practices, and aquaculture economics, along with insights into cage culture and freshwater fish diversity. The programme effectively linked classroom learning with field-level aquaculture and extension practices.

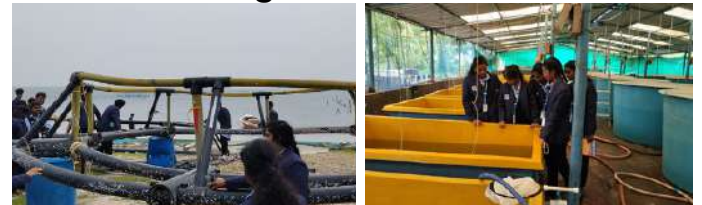


## CMFRI, Mandapam

### • Aquaculture



B.F.Sc 1<sup>st</sup> Year students of DIFST visited CMFRI, Mandapam, on 11/12/2025–12/12/2025. The visit provided exposure to marine fish hatchery operations, seaweed cultivation, and sustainable aquaculture practices, with interactions with scientists enhancing understanding of research-based fisheries management.



### • FRM



A visit to the CMFRI Museum was conducted on 11.12.2025 as part of the Taxonomy of Commercially Important Fish & Shellfish course. Students documented museum specimens in groups, enhancing their understanding of species identification, classification, and marine biodiversity,



**Loga Shrimp Farm,  
Murungavilai**



B.F.Sc 1<sup>st</sup> Year students visited Loga Shrimp Farm on 14/10/2025. The visit offered hands-on exposure to pond construction and preparation, liming, fertilisation, seed stocking, feeding practices, and water quality and disease management. Students also gained insights into the economics and management aspects of commercial shrimp farming, enhancing their understanding of sustainable shrimp culture practices.



## Ornamental Fish Seed Rearing Farm, Puthalam



Students visited the Puthalam Ornamental Fish Farm and interacted with a women entrepreneur actively involved in ornamental fish farming. During the visit, students identified more than 40 varieties of ornamental fishes, including Guppy, Molly, Platy, Fighter Fish, and Goldfish. They gained practical knowledge on breeding techniques, aquarium management, and identification of aquatic weeds. The visit provided valuable exposure to ornamental fish culture and highlighted the role of entrepreneurship in the aquaculture sector.

## Fish Landing Center, Thengaipattinam



Students undertook an educational field visit to Thengaipattinam Harbour on 20/11/2025. During the visit, students observed a wide range of commercially important elasmobranchs and teleost fishes, gaining firsthand exposure to species identification and fish landing practices. Interaction with fishers helped students understand species diversity, economic importance, and marketing aspects. The visit significantly enhanced practical learning and knowledge of marine fisheries resources.



## Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Parakkai



At the Parakkai Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, students learned the identification of live bearers and egg layers, breeding protocols, loach breeding in indoor tanks, live feed culture, aquatic weed identification, and murrel identification. The visit provided hands-on learning on sustainable and small-scale aquaculture practices.



## Wild Freshwater Fish Collection, Kothayar



A field visit was conducted on 19/11/2025 to the Kothayar River, located within the Pechiparai Dam catchment area, to provide students with practical exposure to freshwater ecosystems. The visit aimed to help students understand riverine biodiversity and the ecological importance of freshwater habitats. During the visit, students actively collected and identified wild freshwater fish species using basic sampling methods. They closely observed habitat diversity, water conditions, and adaptive traits of fishes in their natural environment. The activity helped students understand how environmental factors influence fish distribution and diversity in river ecosystems.



# SOPHOMORE

2024-25 BATCH

## NEET Fish Farm, Kaliyakkavilai



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Year B.F.Sc students visited NEET Fish Farm, Kaliyakkavilai, on 8/10/2025. The farm is a well-known ornamental fish breeding and supply centre, maintaining species such as Betta, Guppy, Platy, Swordtail, Oscar, Cichlids, Shrimps, and Crayfish. The visit provided students with practical exposure to sustainable aquaculture practices, biosecurity measures, and quality fish breeding techniques. NEET Fish Farm also functions as a training centre, supporting entrepreneurship and best practices in ornamental fish culture.



## Luke Export and seafood processing plant, Kaliyakkavilai



A field visit to Luke Export and Seafood Processing Plant, Kaliyakkavilai, was conducted on 9/12/2025 as part of the Freezing Technology course. Students observed the processing flow, operational standards, quality control tests, and critical control points, gaining practical insight into real-time seafood processing practices. The visit enhanced their understanding of industrial processing and food safety measures.



## JPR Tube ice plant, Muttom



A field visit to the JPR Tube Ice Plant was conducted on 28/10/2025 for students of the Freezing Technology course. Students observed fishing harbour activities, fish landing and handling practices, and the role of hygiene and cold chain management. The functioning and importance of the tube ice plant in maintaining fish quality were clearly explained, enhancing practical knowledge of post-harvest fisheries operations.

## Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Thirupathisaram

Students visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) on 12/11/2025 as part of the Extension, Education and Communication Management course. The visit provided exposure to extension activities, farmer-oriented programmes, and communication strategies. Interaction with KVK personnel offered valuable insights into rural development



## CMFRI, Vizhinjam



On 28/11/2025, students visited the CMFRI Regional Centre, Vizhinjam, guided by Dr. Radhi Bhuvaneshwari, and gained insights into the centre's research activities. The visit included the Sagarika Marine Aquarium, algae culture, marine ornamental fish breeding, RAS, live feed production, mussel and marine hatchery complexes. Highlights included the breeding of Lemon Damsel, culture of silver pompano and giant trevally, and copepod production. The programme provided valuable hands-on exposure to advanced marine research and hatchery practices.



## PENULTIMATE

2023-24 BATCH

## Stock Assessment Exposure, Thengaipattinam



On 13.11.2025, students visited Thengaipattinam Fishing Harbour to gain practical experience in fish stock assessment, focusing on species such as sailfish, marlin, dolphin fish, and other major commercial fishes. Students worked in groups for systematic data collection and stock analysis, linking theoretical knowledge with real-time fisheries practices.



## Boat Structure Exposure, Thengaipattinam



A Boat Structure Exposure programme was conducted on 13/11/2025 at Thengaipattinam Fishing Harbour to enhance students' practical understanding of fishing craft and gear technology. Students observed the structure and operational features of trawlers, purse seiners, and longliners, gaining exposure to modern fishing vessels.



### Boat Structure Exposure



A Boat Construction Exposure programme was conducted on 19/12/2025. At Muttom, students observed the steel boat construction process and learned about structural design, materials, and construction techniques. The visit continued at Chinna Muttom, where students witnessed the construction of FRP-cum-wooden boats and traditional wooden boats. The exposure provided practical understanding of both traditional and modern boat construction methods, enhancing students' experiential learning.



## Campus Development

### Establishment of Ornamental Fish Unit at DIFST

An ornamental fish unit with 20 tanks has been established at DIFST as a model facility for production, training, and demonstration. The unit supports skill development and entrepreneurship with low investment and space requirements, promotes biodiversity conservation through captive breeding, and provides hands-on training in ornamental fish culture practices.



### Live Feed Unit at DIFST

A 10 unit live feed production system has been established at DIFST to support sustainable ornamental fish culture. The unit supplies essential live feeds such as infusoria, rotifers, Moina, Daphnia, and blood worms, which are crucial for breeding, larval rearing, and healthy fish growth. The in-house system improves larval survival, growth, and overall health, while requiring low investment, simple infrastructure, and minimal space. It also serves as a training and demonstration facility, enhancing production efficiency and reducing dependence on commercial feeds.



### Mini Feed Mill at DIFST

A mini feed mill has been established at DIFST to support the sustainable and cost-effective production of high-quality ornamental fish feeds. The facility produces fresh, nutritionally balanced, and species-specific feeds for different life stages, including larvae, juveniles, and broodstock, ensuring better growth and health of cultured fishes. The feed mill reduces dependence on commercial feeds, lowers production costs, and enables the use of locally available raw materials with flexible feed formulations. It also functions as a training and demonstration centre, providing hands-on experience in feed formulation, processing, and quality management. Overall, the facility strengthens self-reliance, economic sustainability, and skill development in ornamental fish farming.



### Lined Pond Facility at DIFST

A lined pond facility with dimensions 50'x18'x6' has been developed at DIFST to support controlled and sustainable ornamental fish culture. The ponds are fitted with impermeable liners to prevent seepage, maintain stable water quality,

and reduce the risk of soil-borne contamination, providing a healthy environment for fish growth and breeding. The system allows efficient management of water, feed, and stocking density, resulting in improved survival, growth, and overall fish health. It also enables easy harvesting, maintenance, and water quality monitoring, making it suitable for different scales of production. In addition, the facility serves as a training and demonstration platform for students and stakeholders, supporting skill development, research, and sustainable ornamental fish farming practices at DIFST.



### Campus Greening Initiative

In collaboration with the Department of Forests, the Eco Club and NSS organised a campus greening programme on 29/10/2025. The initiative focused on planting and nurturing saplings to increase green cover and promote environmental awareness among students. The programme witnessed active participation from student volunteers. The activities were monitored by Ms. Thamizhanthi and Mr. Mathivanan, and the students were motivated by Prof. S. Felix. The programme encouraged students to take responsibility for environmental protection and strengthened their commitment towards sustainable campus development.



## Research and Extension

### Training Programme on Ready-to-Eat Fish Products

The Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, Nagercoil @ Colachel, organized a training programme on Ready-to-Eat Fish and Fishery Products from 06 October to 21 October 2025, with support from the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation. The programme aimed to enhance entrepreneurial skills among fisherwomen, youth, and other stakeholders in value-added fish products. St. Devasahayam Institute of Fisheries Science and Technology (DIFST), Midalam, was requested to depute expert faculty to handle technical sessions and practical demonstrations. The training focused on modern processing techniques, packaging, preservation methods, and food safety standards. The programme is expected to strengthen livelihood opportunities and encourage innovative fish product development in the region.



### Study on Brown Mussel Fishing and Marketing Practices



Information has been collected from the Melmidalam fishing community on this year's mussel collection and marketing practices. Data collection will be continued regularly and integrated with last year's records. Based on the combined two-year dataset, a research paper will be prepared to analyze trends in mussel harvesting and marketing. In addition, a study is being undertaken along the Ammanthantheri coast of the Arabian Sea, adjacent to the college, focusing on brown mussel (*Perna indica*) fishing. This activity is a seasonal livelihood practice of coastal communities, carried out from November to January. The study aims to document fishing practices and understand their socio-economic importance.



### Whale Shark Stranding Documented Along Ammanthantheri Coast

A whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) was found stranded on 19 December 2025 along the Ammanthantheri coast of Kanyakumari District.

The field team promptly visited the site, documented the incident, and conducted morphometric length measurements of the specimen. Additional biological and environmental details were also recorded for further assessment and reporting.



## Half-Century Analysis Highlights Changes in Fisheries Diversity and Fishing Practices



A group of Penultimate Batch BSc students successfully completed their research project titled "Shifts in Fish Species Diversity and Fishing Methods in Kanniyakumari District's Fishing Harbours: A Half-Century Analysis." The study was carried out under the guidance of the Department of Fisheries Resource Management, exploring long-term trends in fish diversity and fishing practices across the district. A team of six students actively conducted field visits, interactions with fishermen, and harbour-based documentation to understand historical and present fishery shifts. The comprehensive project report was submitted to the Dean, Dr. Antherias Suga Felix, and was highly appreciated for its quality and relevance to regional fisheries sustainability.

## Six-Month Study Highlights Dynamics of Kanniyakumari's Marine Resources



The Department of Fisheries Resource Management successfully carried out a six-month research project titled "Kanniyakumari's Marine Wealth: An Analysis of Resource Dynamics & Management." The study involved extensive field surveys across major coastal stretches, documenting fishery resources, landing trends, gear usage, and coastal livelihood practices. The findings highlight the richness of marine biodiversity in Kanniyakumari and the evolving dynamics of fisheries, emphasizing the need for sustainable management measures. The compiled report marks a valuable contribution towards regional coastal resource understanding and future policy planning.



## Students Talents

### IUCN Awareness Creations

#### Drawing

#### First Prize

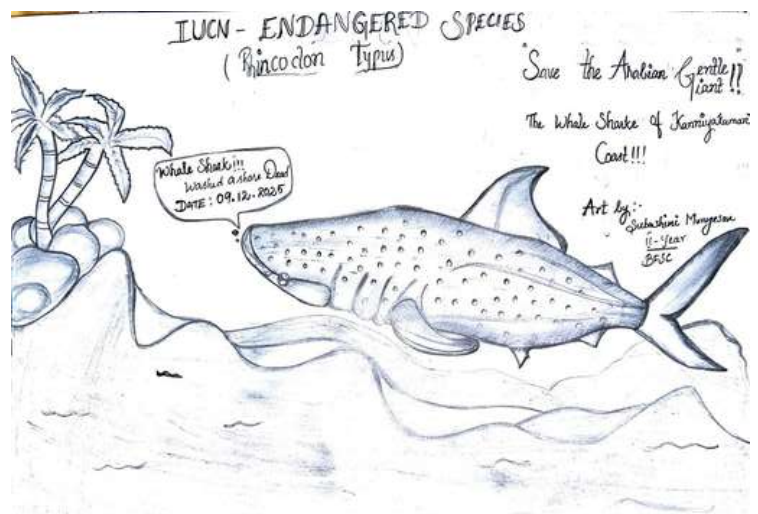


This evocative artwork beautifully bridges the past and present of marine life, highlighting human interaction with the oceans. Through a compelling blend of color and line art, the drawing reflects sustainability, conservation, and the responsibility of safeguarding aquatic ecosystems for the future.

F. Rose Ruby  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year B.F.Sc

#### Second Prize

This detailed sketch captures the elegance and strength of marine fauna with scientific precision and artistic sensitivity. The artwork reflects keen observation and a deep appreciation for aquatic biodiversity, bringing attention to the beauty and importance of ocean life.



Subhashini Murugesan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year B.F.Sc

# Poem

## First Prize

என் மெளனம் உன் கடைசி  
எச்சரிக்கை

நான் விலங்கு இல்லை. நான்  
உன் முன்னோர்காரின் நிழல்  
என்று தெரிகிறதா?

ஒரு காலம் காடே என் வீடு இன்று  
ஒரு வரியில் அபாயம்" என்று என்  
பெயர் என் குரல் மனித மொழி  
இல்லை ஆனால் என் மெளனம்.

உலகையே குலைக்கும் வலி  
கடலில் நான் மெதுவாய்  
மிதந்தேன் தன் வலைகள் என்  
கனவுகளை மூச்சு முடக்கின

வானில் நான் சுதந்திரம்  
கண்டுடன் உன் துப்பாக்கி என்  
சிறகுகளை கிறுத்தின "IUCN"  
பட்டியலில் என் பெயர்  
சேரும்போதெல்லாம் உன்மனசு  
ஏன் ஒருமுறை கூட  
துடிக்கவில்லை Endangered' என்ற  
சொல் என் முடிவு இல்லை  
இது உன் இனத்திற்கான கடைசி  
எச்சரிக்கை

நான் மறைந்தால் நீ தனிமை  
அடைவாய் ஏனெனில் இயற்கை  
இன்றி மனிதம் இல்லை இன்றே  
காப்பாய் என்றால் நான்  
வாழ்வேன் நான் வாழ்ந்தால் உன்  
எதிர்கால சந்ததியும் வாழும்  
சிவப்பு பட்டியலில் என்னை  
மட்டும் பார்க்காதே அதில்  
பிரதிபலிப்பது உன் எதிர்காலம்.

P. Bijoni  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year B.F.Sc

Marine Shark Whales Gentle  
Giant of Kanniyakumari Coast.....

In the blue where three seas  
meet,

a quiet gaint learns to glide  
Spotted like stars,

ancient as the tides

No roar, no fight

only Patience in its eyes.

the whale Shark Swims

Where the Arabian sea  
breathes life...

Nets grow heavier,

waters grow loud,

Yet this gentle gaint

asks only to be allowed-

to Swim, to live,

to keep the oceans whole.

Save the whale Shark,

Save the sea's Soul.

Subhashini Murugesan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year B.F.Sc

## Awareness Poster Creation



**B. Riyansi**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year B.F.Sc

### Slogan

நீ அசைக்கும் துடுப்பென நினைத்தாயோ !!!

என் செதில்களிலும் ஈரம் உண்டு என்பதை மறந்தாயோ !!!

**Raksha A M**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year B.F.Sc

### Photography & Visual Effects



This visual presentation captures the calm and functional beauty of the DIFST Aquaponic, highlighting sustainable aquaculture practices in a natural setting. The photographs creatively reflect the learning environment that supports student research and ecological awareness.

**Sana Fathima & Subhashini Murugesan**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year B.F.Sc

## Publications

### Institution Achieves a Milestone in Academic Publishing



The academic community proudly celebrates the publication of yet another textbook, marking an impressive total of 34 textbooks published within just four semesters. This significant achievement highlights the institution's continuous efforts to strengthen academic resources and promote quality education through scholarly contributions. The consistent publication of textbooks reflects the dedication, expertise, and collaborative efforts of the faculty members, who actively contribute to curriculum enrichment and student learning. The Dean lauded and appreciated the remarkable progress achieved by the institution, acknowledging the hard work and commitment of the academic community. With 9–10 additional textbooks currently under development, the institution's academic momentum remains strong. These upcoming publications are expected to further enhance teaching–learning processes and reinforce the institution's reputation for academic excellence and research-oriented growth.

## Articles From the DIFST

S. No.	Title of the Article	Journal/ Magazine/ Newspaper
1	Utilisation of unconventional feed ingredients in Aquaculture	Aqua spectrum
2	Role of binder in fish feed formulation	Aqua international
3	Advancing fish breeding through Marker Assisted Selection	Aqua international
4	மீன் வளர்ப்பில் தாவரம் சார்ந்த தீவனம் முருங்கை இலைகளின் முக்கியத்துவம்	Kalnadai Kathir
5	Inland Fisheries Resource of Kanniyakumari District	Aqua International

## Promise of the Blue

In every net, let there be care.  
 In every catch, let there be balance.  
 In every tide, let there be hope for sustainable seas and future lives.