

Ocean Portal TO Net More Fish

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The first multilingual ocean portal from the Indian National Centre of Ocean Information Services(INCOIS) is expected to be fully operational by March 2003. The online solution, which is expected to be operational in nine Indian Languages, especially languages popular in coastal areas, was developed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

INCOIS had signed an agreement with TCS for providing this solution recently. The portal facilitates the user community to visualise and download a variety of ocean information and advisory services. Data warehousing, data mining and Web GIS (Geographic Information Systems) are integral to this solution and will soon be WAP-enabled, according to INCOIS director Dr K Radhakrishna.

With this portal, INCOIS has proposed to develop potential fishing zones (PFZs) for all maritime states. Touchscreen kiosks will also be provided with database on fish density areas for commercial fisheries and even small-time players, he said. INCOIS has invested about Rs 25 crore to be used over a period of five years for ocean-related research and development, he added.

The data for the INCOIS warehouse will flow from a network of ocean observing systems including Argo profiling floats, buoys and various national institutions engaged in marine data collection. The data will be sent to designated agencies and also translated into local languages. The fishing associations can avail these data for free, Dr Radhakrishna said.

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