FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. S. Suresh Kumar

Professor of Biological Oceanography

PhD **(Cochin University of Science and Technology)**

Aquatic Ecology

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S. Suresh Kumar, Professor of Biological Oceanography is serving as the Dean of the Faculty of Ocean Science and Technology and Director of Research at Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), Cochin, India, has over 25 years of experience in teaching and Aquatic Ecology. Holding Master's and Doctoral degrees in Marine Biology from Cochin University of Science and Technology and a Master's degree in Bioinformatics from Bharathiar University, his research spans critical areas in marine science, particularly along the West Coast of India and coral reefs of Lakshadweep. His work focuses on understanding biodiversity, primary productivity, oceanographic processes, and the impacts of climate change in the region. Additionally, he serves on academic bodies across universities in Kerala and acts as an external PhD adjudicator at several Indian universities.

Dr. Kumar's research emphasizes biodiversity documentation, consumer community structures, and physicochemical factors that influence productivity in upwelling zones along the Southwest coast of India. He also investigates coral reef ecosystems in the Lakshadweep Archipelago, exploring the biodiversity, habitat selectivity, and ecological interactions within these vital marine habitats. His research contributions include studies on inland coastal ecosystems, microalgae, aquatic macrophytes, and fish communities. With over 60 scientific publications and numerous presentations at national and international conferences, Dr. Kumar is a leader in his field.

In 2005, Dr. Kumar's group initiated long-term research on coral reefs in the Lakshadweep Archipelago, contributing to global conservation efforts. He and his team submitted over 200 COX1 gene sequences of fishes to NCBI, discovered five new fish species, and reported 18 species new to Indian waters. As Principal Investigator, he has led three externally funded research projects and completed 12 major projects. He has supervised seven PhD students and guided over 40 master's students.

Currently, Dr. Kumar focuses on biodiversity inventories, climate change impact assessments, and real-time coastal monitoring systems for the South-Eastern Arabian Sea. His expertise extends internationally, serving as a consultant for Red Sea aquatic ecosystem studies at Jizan University, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Kumar's work is instrumental in advancing marine science and promoting sustainable resource management.

Teaching:

- ❖ OST PhD 101 Research Methodology
- ❖ OST PhD 102 Research and Publication Ethics
- ❖ OST PhD 205 Marine Ecology
- ❖ OST PhD 305 Coral Reef Ecology

Research Areas:

- Aquatic Ecology
- Coral Reef Biodiversity and Ecology
- Molecular Ecology

Key Management Roles:

- Dean, Faculty of Ocean Science and Technology
- Director of Research, KUFOS

Publications:

- **Publications:**

Refereed Journal	63
Popular articles	7
Proceedings of the Seminars/ conferences-	19
Books	2
Edited Book	1
Book Chapters	3
Presentations	35
Invited Talks	23

Sequence Submission in NCBI **238 COX1- sequences of fishes**

https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=nfsTjHwAAAAJ&hl=en
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sureshkumar-S"
Web of Science: https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/rid/AAE-5146-2019
Web of Science Researcher ID: AAE-5146-2019
ORCiD: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5609-4024

Awards & Achievements:

- Selected as Vice- president of the Society of Fisheries Technologists, India
- Serving as a member of academic bodies of five universities in Kerala
- Serving as a member of the Impartiality Committee, Export Inspection Agency,
- Best paper awards in three seminars
- Member of Seven professional bodies in Fisheries and Ocean Studies
- Described five species of fishes from the Indian region.

Ongoing Projects:

- Observation of ocean state and pelagic fishery off the Kerala coast for the validation of PFZ and satellite data. Funded by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Systems (Ministry of Earth Science) (2022-2026) Outlay: Rs. 113.00 Lakhs **(As PI)**
- Molecular taxonomic approach for the development of digital catalogue of the coral reef biota of Lakshadweep to enable conservation measures. Sanctioned by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India under Core Research Grant (2021-2024) Rs. 32.06 Lakhs (**As PI**)
- Climate-related fishery challenges and its socio-economic impacts at community/ State and Regional levels. Plymouth University, UK- KUFOS Collaboration. 26.00 Lakhs **(As Indian Coordinator)**
- Breeding and nutritional evaluation of sea urchins of the Indian coast. -Ministry of Environment and Forests- Govt. of India: Outlay Rs. 60.20Lakhs **(As Co-PI)**

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