
Dr. Hashim Manjebrayakath



Dr. Hashim Manjebrayakath is working as Scientist-D in the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, Kochi and his thrust area of research is Marine Biodiversity and Ecology. He is specialized in deep sea & the distant water fishery and also the coralline ecosystems. His research domain includes various ecosystems extending from the tropics to Southern Ocean and to Arctic fjords in the north pole.

Dr. Hashim's major contribution to the Marine Living Resources Programme (MLRP) includes the development of benchmark information on the deep sea demersal habitat off the Indian peninsula including the Andaman and Nicobar Island chain. He has been instrumental in exploring the ecological roles of these bottom fauna through emerging methods viz; eco-morphological as well as otolith analyses. Through these, he and his team have succeeded in identifying ecologically significant regions in the deep sea systems of India. During the course of action, several species new to science and new records have been added to the national biodiversity records. In addition to this, Dr. Hashim has been leading the team for the exploration of mesopelagic fishes, especially the Myctophids in the Northern Arabian Sea and the Central Indian Ocean, which strengthened the available information about the fishes in regard to the biology, morphology and regional stock. His contribution in the field of coralline ecosystem includes developing benchmark information on the reef associated fauna for Agatti Island, Lakshadweep. He is a certified Advanced Open Water Diver, and led the first biological expedition to the Angria Bank submerged plateau during December 2019 in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society-India. He is having more than 50 publications to his credit.

He spent more than 500 days at sea for his research works. Other than the scientific expeditions in the tropical ecosystems, Dr. Hashim had participated in Southern Ocean Expedition to study the 'Role of Antarctic krill in the biogeochemical cycle of the Indian Ocean sector of Southern Ocean' and he has been a member of the India Arctic Expedition during 2015 and 2016 to take up studies on 'Food web dynamics associated with the Arctic fjords'. Also, being a part of the MoES-NOAA technical collaboration, he has participated in the Acoustic Trawl Biomass estimation cruise of NOAA, USA in the California waters in 2019.

Dr. Hashim is active in the CCAMLR related activities and represented the country to the Working group meetings on 'Ecosystem Monitoring and Management' (Argentina) and UN 'Capacity building' (South Africa). He has also represented India in the workshop on *Taxonomic methods and standardisation of macrofauna in the CCFZ*, in South Korea.

Dr. Hashim is awarded "Certificate of Merit" in the field of Ocean Science and Technology for the year, 2020.