3. Scope and objectives of the study

Fish plays an important role in the development of the national economy. As for as India concerned, there is an increase in the population rate, when compare to food production rate. Due to the overpopulation the problem will arise in the term of protein deficient and malnutrition. Fishes are an excellent source of protein, that provides all the essential amino acids which human health needs.

The marine environment with wide variety of physico-chemical and biological parameters, when the concentration of these parameters exceeds beyond the marked acceptable limits, may stress the fish leading to disease outbreaks. Due to increased the water temperature results enhance the breeding of vector organism and increase the growth rate of pathogenic population and also accelerate the transmission rates by causing proliferation of infective stages. The natural fish populations have been found to have tumours in almost all tissue systems. The tumour is a common disease in which cells are aggressive, invasive and sometimes metastatic. Tumours are caused by both viruses and non-infectious (chemicals) carcinogens.

Studies on tumour in India are meagre. Only few reports are available around the world and most of the tumour in fisher unknown etiology. Hence, the aim of the present study, focused on tumour in marine food fishes and the pathology with the following objectives.
The specific objectives of the present study are

4. To investigate the occurrence of tumours in fishes and their gross-morphology, distribution (positioning) on the body, radiography, prevalence, intensity and length and weight relationship of normal and tumour affected fishes.

5. To study the histopathology and histochemistry of tumour lesions.

6. To study the tumour immunology and aetiology of tumour lesions using transmission electron microscope.