

REPORT ON THE  
CO-OPERATIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE SEAWEED  
RESOURCES ALONG THE TAMIL NADU COAST

PHASE - I

Jointly conducted by  
THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, GOVT. OF TAMIL NADU  
THE CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
THE CENTRAL SALT AND MARINE CHEMICALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

PREPARED BY  
CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

REPORT OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SUMMARY OF THE  
SEAWEED RESOURCES ALONG THE TAMIL NADU COAST

Kilakkarai to Athankarai (Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay), Rameswaram and The Gulf of Mannar Islands.

Jointly conducted by

1. The Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Tamil Nadu
2. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.
3. The Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute.

(Prepared by)

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE.  
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

Report on the First Phase of the Survey of the Resources  
Along the Tamil Nadu Coast

As a sequel to the recommendation made by Group 9 - Fisheries, of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for fostering inter-organisational co-operation in research, a programme was initiated between the Department of Fisheries, Tamil Nadu, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute to conduct a survey of seaweed resources of Tamil Nadu.

The Survey was started on 20th April, 1971. The following persons participated in the survey.

CMFRI

1. Dr. M. Umamaheswararao, Asst. Fisheries Scientist
2. Shri P.S. Kuriyakose, Research Assistant
3. " Kaliaperumal, "
4. " S. Kalimuthu, J.S.A.
5. " Narayanaswamy, " } Three persons
6. " Dhanaraj, Laboratory-cum-field Asst. } on field work
7. " Md. Mohideen, Fieldman } at each trip

State Fisheries

1. Shri S.T. Chari/Shri B.Krishnamurthy,  
Dy. Director
2. " M. Paramasivam, Research Asst. } Four persons
3. " Dhanavelu, Bearer } excluding the
4. " Loss Man, Driver } crew on field
5. " Chusan, " } work at
6. " Anthony Pitchai " } each trip
7. " Susimanikam, " }
8. " Anthony, Boat crew }

9. Shri Shanmugam, Boat crew
10. " Karim "
11. " Thangavelu "

CSMCRRI

1. Dr. V. Krishnamurthy, Asst. Director 1
2. " K. Subbaramaiah, Scientist 'C' 1 Six
3. Shri M.R.P. Nair, J.S.:A: 1 persons
4. " M. Sakthivel, P.C. 1 on field
5. " S.M.N. Jainulabdeen, Lab. bearer 1 work at
6. " M.Anthony Rayappan, " 1 each trip
7. " A.M. Abdul Majeed "
8. " M. Nandagopal "

The Statistical analysis was carried out by Shri A.K. Kesavan Nair of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.

Area covered:

Each Section was divided into 3 km zones serially numbered in Map 1 and stations were fixed in each zone. At each station 3 transects at intervals of 100 metres were established and seaweed samples were collected along each transect at different depths - intertidal, 0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 and 4.0 metres.

Methods of Survey

Each section was divided into 3 km zones (serially numbered in Map I) and stations were fixed in each zone. At each station 3 transects at intervals of 100 metres were established and seaweed samples were collected along each transect at different depths - intertidal, 0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 and 4.0 metres. The distance between the sampling points on the transects and the base line near the shore were calculated by taking bearings with the help of a sextant. The bearings taken and the total length of the coastline measured were used in estimating

and mapping the area surveyed. Each 3 km zone was sampled 2 times following the above method at 1 km. distance. Seaweed samples were collected from 1 square metre area by diving and for this purpose a metal quadrat of one square metre was used. Data on the nature of the substratum and area covered by seaweeds and seagrasses within the quadrat were recorded. Samples collected from the quadrat were sorted, identified and fresh weight of individual species were noted. Names of algae found in trace amounts were also noted. 3 sets of herbaria were prepared for all the seaweeds and seagrasses occurring different/depths of the central transect and / at also for the new species in other transects which had not come across in the central transect. Unidentified algae were fixed in 5% formalin for later identification in the laboratory.

Hydrobiological data were collected usually at 4.0 metres depth in the central transect of the sampling stations or at the maximum depth available at the particular station. Water samples from surface and bottom were collected by using Nansen water sampler. Data on temperature, pH and time of collection were recorded while collecting water samples. Plankton samples and bottom sediments were collected and bottom fauna were separated from the sediment. In the laboratory water samples were analysed for dissolved oxygen, salinity and nutrients. Mud samples were analysed for dissolved minerals and trace elements. The bottom fauna were identified to the generic level. Plankton samples were analysed both qualitatively and quantitatively.

A total of 83 species of Algae belonging to 50 genera from Gulf of Mannar shoreline and 131 species belonging to 75 genera from Gulf of Mannar Islands and 92 species belonging to 54 genera from the Palk Bay shoreline were identified.

Magnitude of available resources

In the present survey an area of 1944 hectares in the Gulf of Mannar shoreline, 9883 hectares in the Gulf of Mannar Islands and 2860 hectares in the Palk Bay shore line were covered. The estimated species-wise production of seaweeds for both surveys are given in Tables 1-6. The depthwise areas surveyed are given in Table 7. The standing crop of Agarophytes, Alginophytes, edible seaweeds and other algae observed in both surveys are presented in Table 8. The density of distribution of the total algae was on the average ca 1 tonne per hectare with slight variations as shown below:

Production per hectare in Kg

Region	First Survey	Second Survey
Gulf of Mannar shoreline	843	738
Gulf of Mannar Islands	1,925	666
Palk Bay shore line	736	881

Of this the Agarophytes formed about 10% of the total in the Gulf of Mannar shore line, about 9% in the Gulf of Mannar islands and about 4% in the Palk Bay region. The Alginophytes formed the dominant component constituting about 42% in Gulf of Mannar shore line, almost 51% in the Gulf of Mannar islands and about 34% in the Palk Bay shoreline (mean values of the two surveys).

The most productive depth zones were between 0 to 1.25 metres (with a production per hectare of approximately 237 kg) for the agarophytes and between 0 to 3 metres (with an approximate production per hectare of 556 kg) for alginophytes.

The area with 1 metre depth affords the maximum standing crop for exploitation. The total yield from the areas surveyed comprising 14,687 hectares will be about 5,727 tonnes of Alginophytes and about 1,034 tonnes of Agarophytes.

Table 1.

ESTIMATED SPECIES-WISE PRODUCTION OF SEAWEEDS (IN KG) ALONG THE COAST OF MANNAR

COAST LINE		FIRST SURVEY		Depth in metre		Total	
Intertidal		0.5-0.25		0.25-0.75		0.75-1.25	
<u>RED ALGAE</u>							
<u>Agarophytes</u>							
Gelidiella acerosa	--	--	4820	670	4259	--	9749
Gracilaria edulis	--	--	--	--	--	--	97550
Gracilaria corticata	--	--	507	--	--	--	507
Other Gracilaria spp.	11139	32988	59116	--	37247	--	140490
Hypnea spp.	--	185	1523	--	23945	--	25653
Total	11139	33173	65966	670	4259	158742	273949
<u>OTHER RED ALGAE</u>							
Desmia	--	--	9134	--	--	887	887
Ampelioa fragilissima	--	1848	--	1509	11181	7094	59125
Halymenia	--	--	--	--	--	--	4726
Spyridia	--	--	647	--	--	3781	4428
Chondria	--	--	9240	--	--	--	35862
Acanthophera	--	--	1663	--	--	--	1663
Leurencia	521	--	--	--	--	--	521
Total	521	13398	9134	1509	37803	7981	36866
<u>BROWN ALGAE</u>							
<u>Alginophytes</u>							
Sargassum spp.	119	49251	32222	5030	5324	5320	97266
Turbinaaria spp.	--	--	74466	97914	--	7095	180399
Padiha spp.	409	2218	4821	--	--	--	7448
Total	528	52393	111509	102944	5324	12415	285113

-2-

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8)

OTHER BROWN ALGAE

Dictyota	185	--	--	533	--	--	718
Denaria	--	--	--	--	--	1891	1891
Total	--	185	--	533	--	1891	2609

GREEN ALGAE

<u>Eatable</u>	3231	--	--	--	--	--	3234
Enteromorpha spp.	1175	16910	22708	--	--	--	40793
Ulva spp.	22	185	58185	17269	533	2662	67364
Caulerpa spp.							
Total	1197	20329	60893	17269	533	2662	8508
<u>OTHER GREEN ALGAE</u>							
Chaetomorpha	89	--	--	--	--	--	89
Halimeda gracilis	2409	4990	76115	35544	--	585305	704363
Halimeda macroloba	--	--	19750	5030	2662	46115	140712
Total	2498	4990	95905	40574	2662	631420	67115
<u>BLUE GREEN ALGAE</u>							845164
Lyngbya	--	739	--	--	--	12289	13028

TABLE 2.  
ESTIMATED SPECIESWISE PRODUCTION OF SEAWEEDS (IN KG) ALONG THE GULF OF MANNAR COASTLINE  
SECOND SURVEY

	Depth in metres	0-0-0.25	0.25-0.75	0.75-1.25	1.25-1.75	1.75-2.0	2.0-2.5	2.5-3.0	3.0-4.0	Total
<u>RED ALGAE</u>										
<u>Agarophytes</u>										
Gelidiella acerosa	155	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	155
Gracilaria edulis	--	160	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	160
Gracilaria corticata	6026	32755	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	38781
Hypnea spp.	193	5526	--	291	--	--	3277	--	--	9287
Total	6374	38441	--	291	--	3277	3277	3277	3277	48383
<u>OTHER RED ALGAE</u>										
Gelidiosis	180	160	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	340
Gelidium spp.	19	560	--	--	--	692	--	--	--	1271
Amphiroa fragilissima	142	--	--	--	16612	104527	819	--	--	122100
Amphiroa spp.	--	1121	--	8428	--	--	--	--	--	9549
Cheilosporum	309	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	309
Jania app.	780	2322	6266	1162	923	7686	--	--	--	19139
Grateloupia	515	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	515
Champia	393	961	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1354
Centroceras clavulatum	64	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	64
Leveillea	64	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	64
Acanthophera	2617	28029	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30646
Taurencia	3351	1281	--	--	--	461	--	--	--	5093
Other filamentous red algae	--	--	--	--	923	--	--	--	--	923
Total	8434	34434	6266	9560	19611	112213	819	819	819	191367
<u>BROWN ALGAE</u>										
All inophytes	8508	133178	71905	236491	189072	--	--	--	--	889515
Sargassum spp.	--	--	27487	--	--	--	--	--	--	27487
Turbinaria spp.	--	25226	9015	9880	7383	46884	--	--	--	98491
Total	8611	158404	108407	260241	243874	255956	--	--	--	1015493

-2-

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<u>OTHER BROWN ALGAE</u>								
Dictyota sp?	26	641	110	582	82138	--	--	83497
Stoechospermum	103	1762	1099	5812	416	--	--	9237
Pocockiella variegata	--	81	--	--	2307	--	--	2388
Total	129	2484	1209	6394	84906	--	--	95122
<u>GREEN ALGAE</u>								
<u>EDIBLE</u>								
Caulerpa sp.	39	240	--	291	2763	3074	--	6412
<u>OTHER GREEN ALGAE</u>								
Chaetomorpha	--	721	--	--	--	--	--	721
Cladophora	77	--	--	--	--	6917	--	6994
Valoniopsis	--	4004	--	--	--	--	--	4004
Microdictyon	--	--	--	--	3692	13066	--	16758
Udotea flabellum	--	--	--	2325	3592	10760	19622	36399
Halimeda macroloba	6	641	1539	--	3922	7686	--	13794
Total	83	5366	1539	2325	11306	38429	19622	78670

TABLE 3.

ESTIMATED SPECIES-WISE PRODUCTION OF SEAWEEDS (IN KG) ALONG GULF OF MANNAR ISLANDS

FIRST SURVEY

<u>RED ALGAE</u>	<u>Intertidal</u>	<u>0.0-0.25</u>	<u>0.25-0.75</u>	<u>Deg<th>5in</th></u>	5in	<u>25-75</u>	<u>75-100</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>rhophytes</u>								
<u>Red Algae</u>								
<i>Selidiella acerosa</i>	43	2525	34797	--	--	--	37365	
<i>Gracilaria edulis</i>	--	30305	127588	8180	26550	18789	211411	
<i>Gracilaria corticata</i>	--	--	1365	--	6263	--	7628	
Other <i>Gracilaria</i> spp.	--	72817	42502	43968	1154	37577	197818	
<i>Jonesia</i> spp.	7	35356	110531	37833	93505	43839	321071	
Total	50	141003	316583	89981	121209	106467	775293	
<u>OTHER RED ALGAE</u>								
<i>Hancroccus hornemannii</i>	--	--	1365	--	25396	43839	1365	
<i>Lamproiroa fragilissima</i>	--	--	47760	8180	--	--	125175	
<i>Lamphiro</i> spp.	--	--	2047	--	--	--	2047	
<i>Mania</i>	--	51771	--	--	--	--	51771	
<i>Palymenia</i> spp.	--	--	--	2045	--	--	2045	
<i>Patateleupia</i> spp.	--	--	--	--	6263	--	6263	
<i>Pargardiella</i>	--	9260	--	--	125255	--	125255	
<i>Champlia</i>	--	1684	1365	682	6135	--	16077	
<i>Centroceros</i> spp.	--	--	--	4094	--	--	3049	
<i>Vanvooratia spectabilis</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	4094	
<i>Roschera glomerulata</i>	--	12627	--	8187	--	--	8187	
<i>Acanthophora</i>	--	842	14328	3411	--	--	16038	
<i>Laurencia</i>	--	76184	83239	15338	42712	--	73220	
Total	--	--	31698	68108	175357	--	434536	
<u>BROWN ALGAE</u>								
<u>Alginophytes</u>								
<i>Sargassum</i> spp.	--	180992	4593176	128836	1212083	284956	6400043	
<i>Turbinaria</i> spp.	--	--	204688	--	--	--	204688	
<i>Padina</i> spp.	503	61453	105754	31698	62335	12526	274269	
Total	503	242445	4903618	160534	1274418	297482	6879000	

	-2-	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<u>WATER BROWN ALGAE</u>									
Acetotyota	--	--	2047	3067	8080	3131	--	16325	
Acetochlorospermum	--	--	--	4090	1154	--	--	5244	
Acetothoglossum asperum	--	--	--	--	--	50102	--	5C102	
Acockiellia variegata	--	421	1365	5112	1154	--	--	8052	
Total	--	421	3412	12269	10388	53233	--	79723	
<u>GREEN ALGAE</u>									
Algae	--	4630	--	--	--	--	--	4630	
Chloromorpha spp.	--	5051	50489	17383	5772	31314	--	110009	
Cerata spp.	--	2526	258591	223930	39248	--	--	524295	
Caulerpa spp.	--	6314	62771	14315	1154	31314	--	115868	
Codium	--	18521	371851	255628	46174	62628	--	754302	
Total	28	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
<u>CHLOROPHYLL GREEN ALGAE</u>									
Chlorophyta	--	421	2729	10225	1154	--	--	14529	
Chlorophora	--	2946	--	--	--	--	--	2946	
Chloronopsis	--	421	--	1023	1154	--	--	2598	
Chlorosphaeria	--	842	8187	--	--	--	--	9029	
Chlorovillea	--	--	682	--	--	--	--	143425	
Cladophora flabellum	--	66504	441442	161557	30013	112730	--	731666	
Cladimeda gracilis	--	842	10917	59306	49638	12525	--	280217	
Cladimeda macroloba	--	71976	463957	232111	15007	194145	--	--	
Total	28	--	--	--	96966	319400	--	1184438	
<u>TRUE GREEN ALGAE</u>									
Chlorophyta	14	842	17057	--	--	--	--	17913	

TABLE 4  
ESTIMATED SPECIES-WISE PRODUCTION OF SEAWEEDS (IN KG) ALONG GULF OF MANNAR ISLANDS.

		SECOND SURVEY			
		Depth in metre		Depth in metre	
Intertidal	0.0-0.25	0.25-0.75	0.75-1.25	1.25-1.75	1.75-3.0
ALGAE					Total
<u>ZYGOPHYTES</u>					
<i>Lidiella acerosa</i>	71	15153	6823	2309	24285
<i>Scilaria edulis</i>	--	126274	77781	--	204126
<i>Scilaria certicata</i>	--	--	--	--	50102
<i>Mer Gracilaria</i> spp.	--	92791	--	50501	118997
<i>Conea</i> spp.	85	33673	293384	27704	406994
Total	156	175100	470779	52148	804504
<u>TER RED ALGAE</u>					
<i>Axaura oblongata</i>	--	--	--	5773	8904
<i>Endrococeus harnemannii</i>	--	3548	6135	--	9683
<i>Sohiroa fragilissima</i>	18520	1366	10225	12525	56488
<i>Sohiroa</i> spp.	--	--	13852	--	110833
<i>Champia</i>	14	--	110819	--	4175
<i>Gridria</i>	85	--	4090	--	170
<i>Hypothallum</i>	170	--	--	--	2045
<i>Anthophora</i>	.5	--	--	--	75159
<i>Alrenicia</i>	127	34094	40938	--	4674
Total	396	53877	49263	22495	15656
<u>OWN ALGAE</u>					
<u>ZYGOPHYTES</u>					
<i>Egassum</i> sp.)	1062	263068	230613	55216	576175
<i>Arbinaria</i> spp.	71	167523	4094	4617	--
<i>Armonophyes</i>	--	15995	2729	--	--
<i>Sistophyllum</i>	--	33673	--	--	--
<i>Didina</i> spp.	170	63137	45714	4090	8081
Total	1303	543396	283150	59306	576175

-2-

MOTHER BROWN AT GAE

OPEN SOURCE

<u>Edible</u>						
Meteromorpha spp.	37882	--	--	--	--	37938
Silva spp.	74922	192406	40900	11544	75153	394925
aulerpa spp.	147319	88697	40900	218173	109598	604687
Codium spp.	39566	40937	--	--	--	36503
Total	299689	322040	81900	229717	184751	1118053

THE GREEN ALGAE

<i>naetomorpha</i>	--	--	--	13852	--	--	13852
<i>adiophora</i>	184	2525	--	2046	--	--	4755
<i>Holimeda gracilis</i>	--	203300	--	289370	527545	175357	2096878
<i>Holimeda macroloba</i>	--	--	--	47035	10389	18789	76213
Total	184	205825	901306	338451	551786	194146	2191698
<u>DUPLICATE</u>							
<i>Mnghbya</i>	--	--	--	102251	--	--	102251
<i>Thormidium</i>	--	1263	--	--	--	--	1263
Total	--	1263	--	102251	--	--	103514

TABLE 5

## ESTIMATED SPECIES-WISE PRODUCTION OF SEAWEEDS (IN KG) ALONG IN PAIK BAY COASTLINE FIRST SURVEY

	Total	Intertidal	0.0-0.25	0.25-0.75	0.75-1.25	1.25-1.75	1.75-2.0	2.0-3.0	3.0-4.0	Total
<u>EL ALGAE</u>										
<u>Phaeophytes</u>										
<i>Gracilaria acerosa</i>	142	460	842	671	11521	9328	--	--	22964	
<i>G. edulis</i>	--	--	--	13422	--	--	--	--	13422	
<i>G. corticata</i>	101	14365	13051	6710	--	--	--	--	34277	
Other <i>Gracilaria</i> spp.	--	8143	--	--	--	--	--	--	9745	
<i>Gymnophora</i> spp.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	21628	
Total	243	22963	13895	20803	11521	9328	23230	101986		
<u>OTHER RED ALGAE</u>										
<i>Collidiosis</i>	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	
<i>Sohiria fragilissima</i>	--	--	1852	11073	12161	103768	21628	21628	48630	
<i>Jania</i>	--	154	--	--	12801	183052	--	--	197859	
<i>Vitophyllum</i>	--	--	--	--	--	9327	--	--	9527	
<i>Polyiphonia</i> spp.	--	230	--	--	--	--	--	--	230	
<i>Acanthocephora</i>	--	14289	--	--	--	--	--	--	14289	
<i>Laurencia</i>	--	9218	--	--	--	--	--	--	9218	
Total	20	23891	1852	11073	24962	296147	21628	21628	379573	
<u>BROWN ALGAE</u>										
<u>Laminophytes</u>										
<i>Mergasum</i> spp.	4969	70291	83360	171125	170249	355610	--	--	855604	
<i>Surinaria</i> spp.	646	52084	103568	27515	26241	34978	--	--	245032	
<i>Formophysa triquetra</i>	--	538	1684	1006	--	--	--	--	3228	
Total	5615	123220	188612	199646	196490	390588	--	--	1104171	



TABLE 6  
ESTIMATED SPECIES-WISE PRODUCTION OF SEAWEEDS (IN KG) ALONG THE PALK BAY COASTLINE  
SECOND SURVEY

-2-

OTHER BROWN ALGAE

*Setyota* spp.

GREEN ALGAE

Variable

*Heteromorpha*

*va* spp.

*Silberpa* spp.

Total

OTHER GREEN ALGAE

*Limeda* gracilis

*Limeda* macroloba

Total

THE GREEN ALGAE

*Uromicium*

(1) --

(2) --

(3) --

(4) --

(5) --

(6) --

(7) --

(8) --

*Setyota* spp. 868

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297881

954181

294841

3040

2485

57377

310865

253488

7265

7265

1524303

77522

1601825

994

994

TABLE - 7

**REGION-WISE AREA SURVEYED WITH THE DEPTH-WISE BREAK UP  
(Area in square metre)**

Region	Depth in metre	Total
Intertidal	0.0-0.25	0.25-0.75
Gulf of Mannar	58000 720750 989500	1307750 2076500
Gulf of Mannar	76440	4545845
Palk Bay	177750	676000
		11043117
		12467130
		33818200
		29505760
		98,825,925
		5632320
		110260247
		7049250
		28,600,754

TABLE 8

TOTAL STANDING CROP ESTIMATED (FRESH WEIGHT IN KG)

	Gulf of Mannar_shoreline	Gulf of Mannar_Islands_Palk_Bay_shoreline	I Survey	II Survey	I Survey	II Survey
Group of Algae	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cyanophytes	273949	48383	775293	804504	101986	64430
Other Red Algae	107212	191367	434586	272131	379573	133006
Zygnomophytes	285113	1015493	6579000	1711518	1104171	458013
Other Brown Algae	2609	95122	79723	381589	126962	368
Visible Green Algae	111391	6412	754802	1118053	230278	255018
Other Green Algae	845164	78670	1184438	2191698	161308	1601825
True Green Algae	13028	--	17913	103514	2105	994
Total	1638466	1435447	10125755	6583007	2106383	2519154