

# 3 tonnes of fish reared in Vizag sent to WB

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Visakhapatnam:** For the first time in Indian mariculture history, two cage-cultured species of fish (orange spotted grouper and Indian pompano) were harvested on Saturday by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and were sent to the Fisheries Development Corporation of West Bengal.

Around three tonnes of fish reared in four marine cages off Visakhapatnam coast were harvested throughout the day and loaded in large vehicles in refrigerated containers to be transported to West Bengal.

The lot of fish is expected to reach Kolkata on Sunday night or early morning on Monday. While grouper will be sold at around ₹300 per kg, Indian pompano is rated at ₹320/kg.

For this, maiden harvest of orange spotted grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*) and Indian pompano (*Trachinotus mookalee*), dignitaries and scientists from CMFRI attended the

event. They included Dr A Gopalakrishnan, director, ICAR-CMFRI, ministry of agriculture, Dr G Gopakumar, former head of division, mariculture and Emeritus scientist, ICAR-CMFRI, Dr Imelda Joseph, head of division of mariculture, ICAR-CMFRI.

The harvest was performed from four HDPE (high density polyethylene) cages of six-metre diameter and four-metre depth. The cages were moored in the sea using 14-mm long linked alloy steel chain and concrete iron blocks. The fishes were fed with pelleted feed twice a day until their weight increased. Elaborating on the cage culture and harvest, Shubhadeep Ghosh, principal scientist of CMFRI regional centre, Vizag said, "Around 1,000 numbers of grouper advanced fry measuring three cm in length were stocked in one cage in May 2017. With more than 95 % survival rate, after 15 months of grow-out, the fishes have reached on an average 2.5 kg weight and the yield was 2.41 tonnes."