



Cobia

Rachycentron canadum (Linnaeus, 1766)

- ◆ Cobia is a high-value marine migratory pelagic finfish, distributed worldwide in tropical, subtropical and warm-temperate waters. Considered an important fish for mariculture.
- ◆ Wild caught sub-adults of cobia (5-6 kg) are developed into broodstock in sea cages. Gravid males and females are identified through cannulation and tagging since sexual dimorphism is not distinct in this species.
- ◆ Mature fishes weighing around 8-10 kg and above, with female having more than 20% of the intra-ovarian egg diameter above 700 µm, are transferred to the spawning tank (>60 tonne capacity) for spawning induction with a female: male ratio of 1:2.
- ◆ Spawning is induced through single injection of HCG@ 500 IU/kg body weight for female and 250 IU/kg body weight for males. Fish breeds naturally in the tank and lay 0.5-2.5 million eggs.
- ◆ Eggs are incubated in 2 tonne capacity tanks at stocking density of 200-500 eggs/litre, which hatch within 18-22 h and develop to larvae in 60-72 h.
- ◆ Larval rearing is carried out in 2-5 tonne capacity tanks at stocking density of 5-10 nos/litre with mild aeration. Green water culture technique is undertaken.
- ◆ Newly hatched larvae fed on enriched rotifer. Inert feed is started from 15th day and switched entirely to artificial feed from 20 days dph. Size grading is done every third day to avoid/reduce cannibalism. The metamorphosis of the larvae takes 18-21 days.
- ◆ The breeding technology is mainly confined to the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.



Compiled by: Dr A.K. Abdul Nazar

More information: Director, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, Kerala
Email: director.cmfri@icar.gov.in