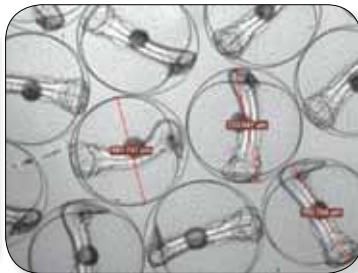




Pink-Ear Emperor Bream

Lethrinus lentjan (Lacepede, 1802)

- ◆ Pink ear emperor is a high value marine fish found along the east and west coasts of India.
- ◆ Broodstock can be developed by stocking wild caught fishes of 500 g-1 kg in a 10 tonne Recirculation Aquaculture System (RAS) @ 1kg/m³ and rearing for a period of 4-5 months.
- ◆ Brood fishes are fed *ad libitum* with fishes like sardine, mackerel or anchovies, and squid supplemented with vitamins and minerals. They also have to be fed intermittently with compounded semi-moist feed at the rate of 2% of body weight to improve quality of egg produced.
- ◆ The fish is a protogynous hermaphrodite and sexes cannot be easily recognized by external appearance. Spawning occurs without any hormonal injection in re-circulatory aquaculture system (RAS).
- ◆ Spawning takes place in early morning. Fertilized eggs are of dia 700-740 μ , and are transparent, pelagic and non-adhesive in nature. The newly hatched larva measures 1.35-1.54 mm.
- ◆ Mouth opens on 3rd day of post-hatch and the larval rearing is done in green-water medium (*Nanochloropsis salina*, *Isochrysis galbana*, *Chaetoceros calcitrans* in the ratio of 3:1:1). Nauplii of copepod species like *Acartia* sp. and *Pseudodiaptomus serricaudatus* are used as first food. From day 5th to 16th, rotifers at density of 4-6 nos/ml are provided as food.
- ◆ *Artemia* can be given from 15th dph onwards and weaned on pellet feed from 20 dph (200-400 μ). Larvae become benthic from 25-30 dph onwards.
- ◆ Juveniles attain the size 27-28 mm and 0.26-0.28 g in 45-50 dph.
- ◆ The technology is being extended in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.



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