

Adoption of capture based aquaculture by fishermen of Upunda village, Karnataka: A success story

Fishermen group

The fishermen society 'Sampradayaka Meenugara Sangha, ByndoorValaya' of Upunda village located at Byndoor participated in Capture Based Aquaculture with the researchers from CMFRI, Mangalore.

Capture Based Aquaculture:

The concept of CBA was introduced in this village by collection of *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*, *Etroplus suratensis* and *Lates calcarifer* fingerlings and stocking in floating cages of 2.5 m x 2.5 m x 2 m, made of Netlon (mesh of 30 mm) lined with nylon net. It was envisaged to use local seeds for culture, in addition to

assure good production seeds for *Lates calcarifer* was supplemented by CMFRI. The netlon cages was designed and fabricated by CMFRI with the participation of local fishermen. Five cages were provided to the fishermen for stocking the fingerlings.

Feeding was done with locally available trash fish and also fish waste from fish processing areas/plants.

Theses cages were harvested during July, 2011, when the mechanized fishing is banned. The *Lutjanus* spp attained an average weight of 755 ± 415 g ranging from 105 to 1914 g. The pearlspot ranged from 37 to 222 g (96 ± 35 g).

About 255 numbers of seabass of average weight 1819 ± 540 g was harvested. The total production from the cages including seabass, red snapper and pearlspot was around ~ 400 kg realizing a farm gate price of $\sim ₹ 75,000$ per cage.

The popularization and adoption of the concept of CBA among the fishermen would generate alternate livelihood, income and contribute to fish production of the region. The persistent efforts to bring forth a selective contact change on the part of the researchers and extension system of the Centre is expected to bring about a major social change among the coastal fisherfolk of this village.



Artisanal cages used for cage culture



View of harvested Red snapper *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*