

Culture of Grey Mullet in open backwater cage at Chittattukara, Cochin, Kerala

A 6m diameter HDPE cage was installed at Chittattukara Panchayat, Ernakulam district during January 2012. The cage was provided with an outer, inner grow-out and bird nets. A ballast pipe lined with weight tied at the bottom of the net maintained the shape of the nets. The volume of the net bag is calculated to about 127 m³. The cage is moored at a depth of 5.5m using anchors as well as bamboo poles. The salinity of the site is between 15 and 18ppt. Grey mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) fry

(2-4cm) collected from the wild were nursery reared in hapas (2x2x1.5m) erected in earthen ponds for a period of 120 days. About 5500 numbers of juveniles measuring 10-15 cm size were stocked in the cage in the presence of the local Panchayat Member. Godrej low protein floating pellet (22% Protein) is being given *ad libitum*, thrice a day in a netlon floating feeding ring (2 m dia) installed inside the cage. Two hundred numbers of silver pompano brought from Mandapam RC of

CMFRI and 150 numbers of Pearlsport produced at CMFRI hatchery, Cochin are also stocked in the cage. Initial mesh size for grow-out net is 16 mm and net change was done after 30 days due to clogging with periphyton. The cleaning of the net is being done once in a week. The water quality parameters of the site were conducive for the growth of mullets with good plankton population. The technology is being transferred to a local group of five marginal fishermen of the locality.



Net tying and cage launching by the group at Chittattukara backwaters



Mugil cephalus seed release by Panchayat Member

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