



## Maiden harvest of cultured Silver Pompano at Andhra Pradesh

Another milestone  
in Mariculture  
achieved by  
Mandapam RC

FCR 1:1.8



Harvested Pompano

Among the many high value marine tropical finfish that could be farmed in India, the silver pompano, *Trachinotus blochii* is one of the top most, mainly due to its fast growth rate and high market demand. Very few countries are successful in breeding this fish and the entire world production through culture

is only about 300 tonnes. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has initiated aquaculture research on pompano from the year 2008. The first development, induced breeding and

larval production of silver pompano is now successfully accomplished for the first time in India at Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI. After the successful larval rearing they were transported by



Shri K. Narayana Rao, Hon'ble M.P., Machilipatnam, inaugurating the Pompano harvest





Dr. G. Syda Rao, Director, CMFRI addressing the gathering

road in the second week of August 2011 from Mandapam, near Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu to Antervedi in the East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh at a distance of 1200 km and stocked in one acre pond of a farmer. About 3,600 seeds were stocked and fed with indigenous pellet feed and maintained good pond environment, resulting in a survival of more than 95%. The formulated pellet

feed cost is about Rs 35/kg. An FCR of 1:1.8 was achieved in this crop. During the course of 8 months they reached a size range of 450-550 g weight, which is an excellent table size for marketing. This fish tolerates wide salinity range from 5 ppt to 35 ppt and can feed at all angles, which makes it a versatile and most aquaculture friendly species. Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation has

taken up the marketing in Bangalore. Silver pompano looks and tastes like silver pomfrets and fetches a farm gate price of about Rs 200/kg. The total availability of this high value marine fish in India from marine capture fisheries is about 2 lakh tonnes per year. Such fish are in great demand in all Metros and fetches high prices, particularly during April-July period due to the national trawl ban on East coast and West coast successively. In this context silver pompano's harvest gains lot of importance to aquaculture which can bring lakhs of acres of barren, coastal, saline, low lying lands under culture, thus improving the food production and nutritional enhancement of the country. The harvest was conducted on 17th April, 2012 in the presence of about 300 leading aqua farmers of coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, local MP and representatives from general public, press and electronic media. The total harvest obtained was 1305 kgs.

(Reported by G. Gopakumar, A. K. AbdulNazar, R. Jayakumar, G. Tamilmani, M. Sakthivel, C. Kalidas, P. Ramesh Kumar & Johnson B. Mandapam Regional Centre)



Harvested Pompano handed over to Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation



Shri K. Narayana Rao, Hon'ble M.P., Machilipatnam, addressing the gathering



Section of the audience