



Open Sea Cage Culture

Artisanal innovation in cage farming of pompano at Vethalai, Ramanathapuram

Around 1,250 hatchery produced pompano fingerlings was supplied to the local fisherman Mr. Nagadoss at Vethalai village, Ramnad district, Tamil Nadu. Initially he introduced the seeds in an artisanal pen, which was designed by him for the lobster fattening.

It was observed that the pen which he was using for pompano stocking was a primitive one, mortality of around 700 fingerlings was reported during the period of three months; subsequently a participatory approach of artisanal cage farming by Mandapam Regional Centre was planned. An artisanal cage was fabricated at the centre with 6×6 m outer and 5×5 m inner square frame, which was made of 50mm GI pipe. The cage was floated on 1st March 2012 and subsequently 518 pompano fingerlings were transferred on 2nd March 2012. Pellet feeding was done once in a day.

On 25th July 2012, pompano from the cage was harvested. Total harvest was 92 kg, the length and weight ranges observed were 16 to 32 cm and 62 to 433 grams.



Fabricated cage at MRC of CMFRI



Initiation of harvest



Handing over the harvest by Dr. G. Gopakumar, SIC to Mr. Nagadoss, the innovative farmer



The harvest was handed over to the farmer Shri.Nagadoss by Dr. G. Gopakumar, Scientist-in-Charge. The farm gate price for the harvested pomapano was ₹120/kg- and it was sold by the merchant in the retail market at ₹180/kg-

During the harvest programme, awareness about farming of pompano and cobia in sea cages and pond was given by Scientist-in- Charge. Totally 40 fishermen participated the harvest programme. Even though it was a small-scale demonstration, it has generated an interest in the artisanal type of cage farming among the fishermen of the area.

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



Dr. G. Gopakumar addressing fish farmers