

Small scale commercialisation of designer pearls at Vizhinjam RC



Designer pearls



Designer pearl ornaments

Small scale commercial production of designer pearls is taken up along with research work at Vizhinjam Research Centre to test the feasibility of small scale units of production. Indigenously produced pearl nuclei are used for the production of designer pearls. Two species of oysters namely *Pinctada fucata* and *P. sugillata* were used for designer pearl production. Production rate of quality pearls ranged from 20 to 30 %. Produced pearls are sold at a price of rupees 1000 to 5000 per piece

depending on the quality of pearls. Local people and visitors to the centre have evinced great interest in designer pearls and ornaments.

Cultured pearl production can provide opportunity for income generation among coastal communities. Pearl production can be taken up in small family-based pearl farms or co operative or community based farms and individuals may enter the industry at a number of levels to produce oyster,

designer pearls, half-pearls or round pearls, or they may collect juveniles (spat) from the wild or grow them to implantable size for sale to pearl farms. These activities will also provide opportunity for the involvement of women and provides the raw materials for local ornament manufactures, creating income generating opportunities to different low income groups.

(Reported by M.K. Anil, Vizhinjam RC of CMFRI).

Cage farming of Cobia at Mandapam

Cage farming of cobia is being carried out at Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI using the hatchery produced fingerlings. The fingerlings were stocked after nursery rearing in the last week of August 2012. The length ranged of fingerlings stocked from 14 to 19 cm and weight ranged from 13 to 43 gms. The fishes were fed with trash fish ad libitum twice a day.