

Breakthrough in mariculture: CMFRI achieves captive breeding of high value marine fish golden trevally



In a breakthrough in mariculture development in the country, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has successfully developed seed production technology for golden trevally (*Gnathanodon speciosus*), a high value marine fish. The development is expected to open up a new avenue for sustainable seafood production and boost India's mariculture activities, including sea cage farming. Scientists at CMFRI's Visakhapatnam Regional Centre achieved successful

bloodstock development, captive breeding and larval rearing of the fish after five years of research.

Market Potential and Aquarist Appeal of Golden Trevally

The golden trevally, also known as golden kingfish, holds promise as a marine aquaculture species due to its rapid growth rates, high-quality meat, and strong market demand for consumption and ornamental purposes. In the local market, this fish commands a price of Rs 400-500 per kilogram. Recognized for its distinctive yellow belly, scattered black patches, yellow fins, and black tail, the golden trevally is favored for aquariums due to its appealing appearance. Juvenile golden trevally often acts as companions for sharks, and their silver-grey coloration and golden juveniles make them attractive to aquarium enthusiasts. The fish typically sells for Rs 150-250 per piece.

The golden trevally is commonly found in reef areas off the coasts of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Karnataka, and Gujarat, with total fish landings estimated at 1106, 1626, 933, 327, and 375 tonnes respectively over the past five years, particularly from districts such as Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam, Chennai, Pudukottai, Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Tirunelveli, Tanjavur, Tuticorin, Udupi, and Gir Somnath.