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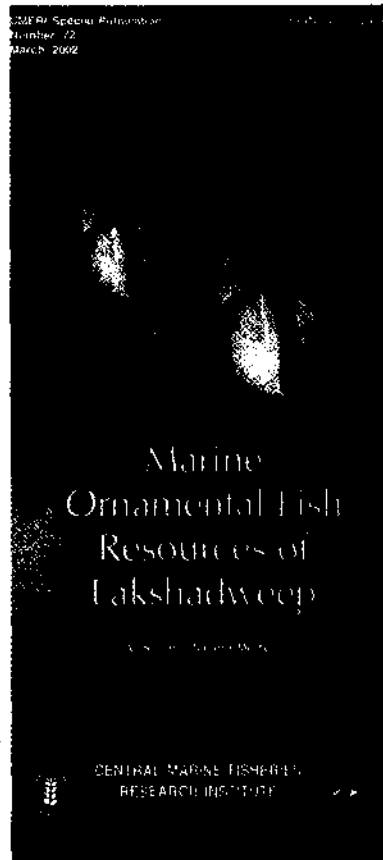
Marine Ornamental Fish Resources of Lakshadweep

by

V. Sriramachandra Murty

Ornamental fishes are receiving increased attention in view of their demand in export trade. The annual world trade in ornamental fishes is of the order of U.S.\$4.5 billion of which nearly half is constituted by marine ornamental fishes. In terms of quantity, the marine ornamentals constitute only an insignificant proportion. These fishes are available in certain pockets along both the coasts and the Andaman and Lakshadweep islands in India, which is placed in a very advantageous position to become a leader in the export market for these fishes. The export trade in marine ornamental fishes has not so far picked up owing to the lack of any scientific assessment of these fishes from any where in the country.

The publication "Marine Ornamental Fish Resources of Lakshadweep" is based on a devoted survey and assessment of ornamental fishes of Lakshadweep during 1993-1997 by the author. This is the first publication on the subject from India consisting of data and information on different species, the biology and stock assessment of major ornamental fishes of the Lakshadweep is-



lands which is the richest region in the country in respect of number of species and their abundance. Colour photographs of over hundred species are included. Relative abundance of different families and species, the length data and growth curves of major species in the islands are incorporated in the publication in colour graphics. Stock sizes and catch quotas of 165 species along with suggestions for developing the ornamental fish fishery and management in the Lakshadweep are given. The entire book is printed in multicolour on imported art paper.

The publication is of reference value to the researchers, policy makers, fishery development organisations, exporters, importers, teachers and students.

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