PRAWN SEED COLLECTION IN SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT IN ANDHRA PRADESH*

The fishermen at most of the landing centres in Zone An.-1, the northern part of Srikakulam District up to Geddalapadu (south) use plastic mosquito nets, hand nets and nylon 'Jolly vala' or 'Toka vala' to catch prawn seeds. The nets have different colours i.e., white, green, rose, yellow and blue. 90% of the fishermen use nylon 'Jolly vala' or 'Toka vala.' The seed are collected from the surf region at a depth of 0.5 to 1.5 m. Juveniles range from 1 cm to 2 cm in length. The price of 100 numbers of prawn seed ranges from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 100/-. The price of prawn seed decreases or increases depending upon the demand from the merchants. The merchants from Kakinada, Bhimavaram, Machilipatnam, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry and other centres purchase the seed. Depending upon the sea condition and availability of the prawn seed the fishermen make collections during day and night. The major centres in Srikakulam district where more prawn seed is available are Bhavanapadu, Althada, Nuwalla Revu, Machineteapetta, Kothuru, Gollagandi, Peddakarrivanipalem, Idduvanipalem, Kotha-kalingapatnam, Donkuru and Geddalapadu. In 1994 the seed collection started from third week of June. Initially there was less prawn seed and gradually the number increased. During the last week of August, the occurrence of seed decreased. In June and July each fisherman family got an income ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 18,000/-. The method of operation of 'Jolly vala' or 'Toka vala'.

The net is set at the bottom in 0.5 to 1.5 mm depth with the help of two sticks and 20 minutes after setting the net is lifted and prawn seed are collected into a plastic bucket containing sea water. The merchants transfer the prawn juveniles into polyethylene bags with sea water and add oxygen. Several bags are packed in a carton box for transporting the seeds to the fields.

Fig. 1. 'Nylon Jolly vala' or 'Toka vala'

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PRAWN (PENAEUS MONODON) SEED EXPLOITED ALONG THE COAST OF VISAKHAPATNAM AND VIZIANAGARAM DISTRICTS OF EAST COAST OF ANDHRA PRADESH*

The prawn business proved the best among all the businesses because of its profit earned on investment and high value in export trade. The demand for prawns is increasing day by day. Many prawn and aquaculture farms have come up in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts of Andhra Pradesh. Many agricultural and unutilised coastal lands have been converted into prawn farms. Because of this reason demand for prawn seed has been increasing tremendously.

In Andhra Pradesh there is only one hatchery at Visakhapatnam in public sector operated by TASPARC and there are four or five hatcheries in private sector. They are not in a position to supply prawn seed to all the prawn farmers in time because of heavy demand. To meet the demand the fishermen folk started exploitation of prawn seed from the surf zone. It started at Narsapuram and Rambilli fishing villages of Visakhapatnam District and Tippavalasa and Thotapallimukkam fishing villages of Vizianagaram districts in July.

1994. However, by September 1994 the capture of prawn seed from surf zone expanded rapidly to the coastal belt of almost all the fishing villages of Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts.

The net used is fixed bagnet of 2.5 m length and 0.5 m width which is made of nylon mesh cloth (mosquito netting). The cost of the net is about Rs. 250-300. Two persons are required to operate the net effectively. A net can be operated 20 times in a day. Duration of each haul is about 30 minutes. The seed collected in each haul is transferred into a plastic tub filled with sea water. The seed is sold to the middle-man at the shore.

The price of the seed in July 1994 was Rs. 30/- for 100 numbers and it increased to Rs. 60/- by September 1994 due to heavy demand.

Collection of prawn seed has become a newly established endeavour of the fisherfolk particularly the aged, who have given up fishing and its idle. They have now enthusiastically entered this least risky, more profitable business of seed collection.

ON THE UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE OF ACETES SPP.
IN THE INSHORE WATERS OF PALK BAY*

The landings of sergestid shrimp Acetes spp. have been recorded from both west and east coasts. Among the total non-penaeid prawns landed in India, 75-80% is comprised of Acetes spp. (Mar. Fish. Infor. Ser., T & E serv., No. 110:1991). Their landings from Maharashtra coast alone have been estimated at more than 56,000 tonnes. Similarly information on the catches of Acetes spp. from some parts of Tamil Nadu coast are available (Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T & E Ser. No. 22:1979). But it appears that there is no information on the occurrence of these non-penaeid prawns along Palk Bay coast.

During the visit in connection with the collection of fish landing data, an unusual fishing for Acetes spp. was noticed on 21.6.94, at M.V. Pattinam (Solia Kudi) a mechanised landing centre near Thondi along Palk Bay. The fishing for the species locally called as Chella kooni was conducted in the knee-deep water depth. The gears employed were mosquito nets and common sarees.

The fishing was of short duration extending for two days only. The catches were estimated at about 500 kg. Sun-dried Acetes spp. were sold @ Rs. 10/ per Madras measure in the market of Nambuthalai, a near-by fishing village. Here also this non-penaeid prawn is made use of in curry preparation along with vegetables as is the practice in the northern maritime states (Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T & E Ser. No. 110:1991).

Length measurements were taken for a sample of 25 specimens. The size of Acetes spp. ranged from 15 to 25 mm.

ON THE FISH AUCTIONING SYSTEM IN THE
VADALAREVU FISH LANDING CENTRE, ANDHRA PRADESH*

In the Vadalarevu fish landing centre in Andhra Pradesh the catches are sold by auctioning. For the purpose there are five auctioners in the village. They are selected by the elders of the village for which each auctioner has to pay Rs. 30,000 annually towards celebrating the village festival which falls in January every year.

The fisherman sort out the catch into groups in the boat itself and bring to the shore in separate baskets. The fishermen are not allowed to sell the catch directly to the merchants. Immediately after landing the auctioners start auction. But before auction, one large fish will be taken out from each fish group towards auction charges. If there are no auctioners present at the time of landing, the fishermen will have to wait until they arrive.

The auction will start from a higher to a lower amount. As the auction progress a merchant may utter a word "cho" at the level he desires to purchase the fish and if there is no further