

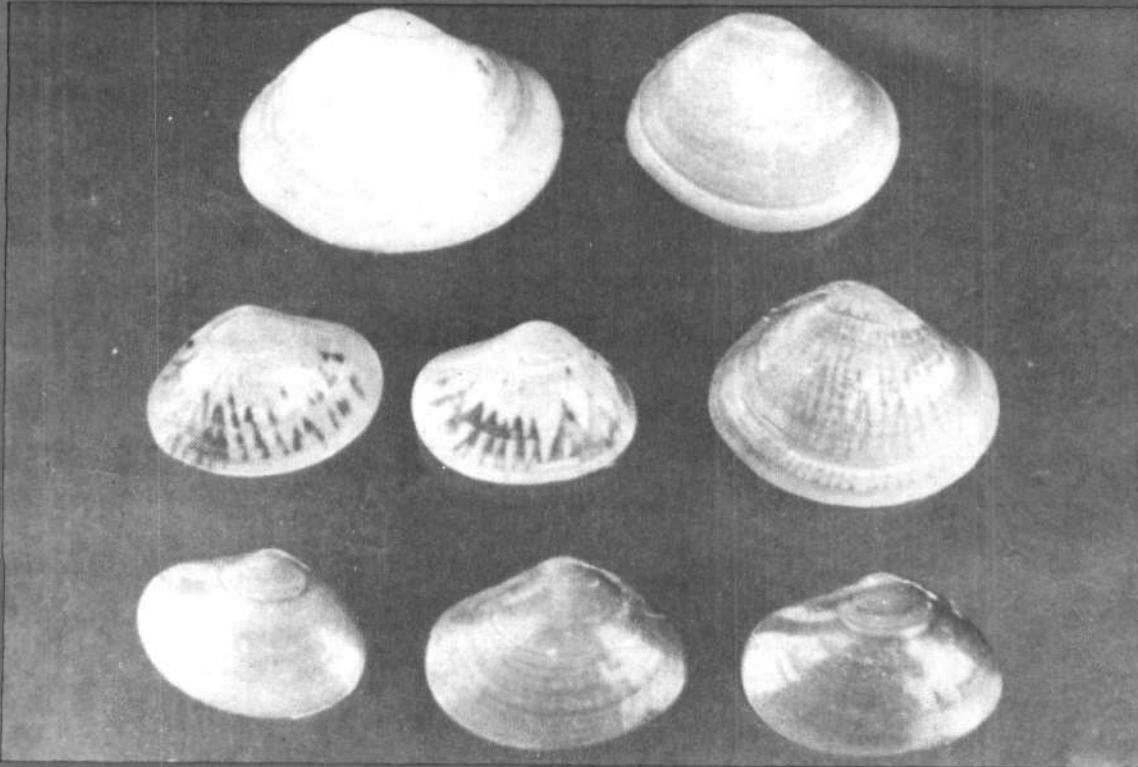


# समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा

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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी अनुसंधान संस्थान कोचिन, भारत CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEMINAR ON SEA RANCHING**  
**HELD AT C. M. F. R. I., COCHIN ON 28.4.1993**

**Minutes of Proceedings**

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has contemplated to conduct a series of seminars on important research findings for the benefit of its scientists and technical personnel as well as those from other institutes. The first seminar was on stock assessment of major marine fish and shellfish resources, conducted at CMFRI on 23rd April, 1993.

The second in the series was on sea ranching, and this was held on 28th April, 1993. Dr. P. S. B. R. James, Director, chaired the seminar which was attended by scientists, technical personnel and students, besides some retired scientists of CMFRI and Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture. Papers on sea ranching of prawn, lobster, pearl oyster, clam and sea cucumber were presented and discussed at the seminar.

After welcoming the participants, the Chairman dealt at length on the origin, concept, and present status of sea ranching in our country and elsewhere. Sea ranching is termed as production and release into natural habitat of aquatic organisms to augment their stock. It was in the United States that the idea of sea ranching originated as back as 1870. Since then many countries have been practising this for enhancing the resources as fishing pressure is evidently felt on many of the resources. Sea ranching also helps in conserving the resources. The Japanese even consider sea ranching as a form of aquaculture as it involves some form of culture and manipulation of the natural population. Since 1975 sea ranching has developed in Japan as an alternative to traditional intensive culture which requires high feed inputs. The proof for the fact that sea ranching has come to stay in Japan is the establishment of the Japanese Sea Farming Association, which has since developed a system of seed production for ranching to supplement the natural stocks, and is currently sea ranching over 45 species. Among fish, the Red Sea bream of the Kagoshima Prefecture is a classical example of sea ranching. There are

several other species which are being ranched today. There have been attempts even to transplant salmon from Japan to United States.

The Chairman said that there are many misgivings, often bordered with septicism or even cynicism, about the practice of sea ranching. The question generally asked is as to what is the guarantee that the seeds that are ranched will grow and could be caught? Is any return guaranteed for the money, time and effort that are spent on the process. The answer to these questions is the success story of sea ranching programmes adapted by many countries of the world —U. K., U. S. A., Japan, Tanzania and Norway, to mention a few.

He continued that the idea of sea ranching in our country started with the pearl oyster which appeared to diminish in number since the Gulf of Mannar pearl fishery of 1961 due to many factors. To overcome the erratic natural population of pearl oysters, it was felt that sea ranching would be the correct step. With the establishment of a hatchery at Tuticorin and large-scale production of seed, sea ranching became a possibility. Ranching of prawn seed has become relevant in the context of diminishing returns from the natural resource. The spiny lobster, clams and sea cucumber offer immense scope for sea ranching because of the increasing demand in export trade, decreasing production from fishery, and because of the success in hatchery production of their seed.

The Chairman concluded the introductory speech by saying that the seminar was aimed at not only to review the past work, take the stock of the present status and to project the future plans, but also to generate interest and interaction among scientists and others and to make ourselves clear about the importance of such sea ranching programmes in conserving and enhancing the natural resources.

The Chairman's speech was followed by the presentation of papers on sea ranching by different groups.