

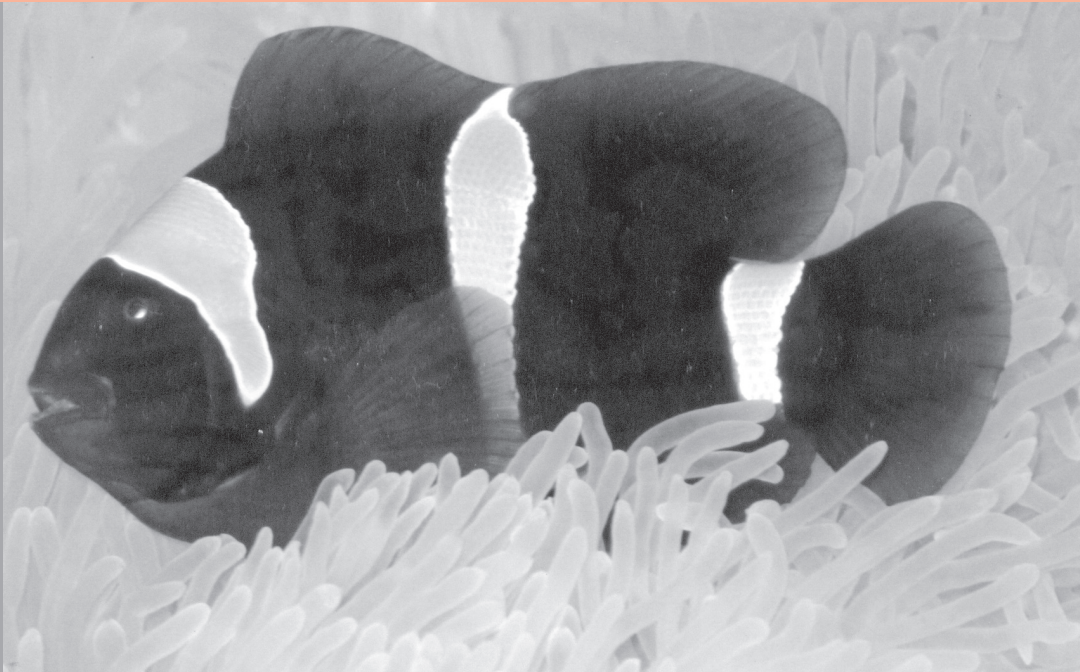
ISSN 0254-380 X



# MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 190

October, November, December, 2006



TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

Groupers procured from the hook & line landings are preferred for export. Nearly 3-5 sea food export firms situated in and around Tuticorin exported *Epinephelus tauvina* and *E. malabaricus* to China and Honkong since 2000.

As soon as the fish is caught its mouth is tied tightly by nylon rope in order to prevent the damage of air bladder (Fig. 1). Entire fish is covered by polythene sheet over which ice pieces are spread for onboard preservation and brought to the shore for auctioning. After the procurement at the landing centers, the fishes are transported to the packing shed in

enclosed van by following the scientific handling procedures. Fishes weighing more than 2 kg are preferred and procured at the rate of Rs. 150/- to Rs. 300/- per kg depending on the size and demand.



Fig. 1 A view of grouper catch, mouth is tied with nylon rope

These groupers are weighed individually and packed in thermocool boxes of different sizes. In each box around 40 kg of fishes are packed with ice pieces. Ice pieces are spread at the bottom of the box above which a polythene sheet is spread. Then the groupers are placed and covered by the same polythene sheet. Once again ice pieces are spread on the surface of covered polythene sheet thereby avoiding the direct contact of ice with the fish.

Then the top of the box is closed by the lid. Entire thermocool box is tightly sealed by cellophane tape. Subsequently these boxes are transported to Kanyakumari from where these boxes are air lifted to markets in China and Honkong. This kind of export trade take place round the year and the peak season is between November and March.

---

*Prepared by : G. Arumugam and T.S. Balasubramanian, TRC of CMFRI, Tuticorin*