Spine Keeps the fish whole
Integration from Harvest to Export Keeps us Whole

One among the top thirteen Indian marine products Exporters

Operations Profile

- Six multipurpose deepsea fishing vessels
- Two processing complexes
- Shrimp Hatchery
- Aquafarm

Awards

- Best Exporters Awards
- Excellence in Exports through deepsea fishing
The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has initiated transfer of mussel and edible oyster culture technology to the end users by setting up demonstration farms in estuaries of Kerala from 1995 onwards. As part of this programme, in November 1996 the Institute has set up a mussel culture demonstration farm at Chettuva estuary near Trichur, 80 km away from Ernakulam near the Chettuva road bridge, 2 km interior to the barmouth. Three fishermen from the same locality were also involved in this programme right from farm construction to harvest. A rack of 80 sq.m was constructed at a depth of 2 m using bamboo and casuarina poles and a long line of 15 m length floated with empty plastic drums were used for farming oysters and mussels. Oyster spat strings were released by November and seedling mussel ropes were suspended from January 1997 onwards. Good spatfall of oyster was observed by late November. Green mussel seed of 20-25 mm size was collected from the seawall adjoining the Chettuva barmouth and seeded over nylon ropes of 1 1/2 m length. 147 ropes were seeded and suspended from the rack during January to February 1997. The oyster spat settled during November reached harvestable size of 55-60 mm in June within a period of 7 months. Mussels reached an average size of 55 mm within 5 months and both were ready for harvest by June 1997. Mussels had a meat weight of 12.5% and oysters 6% when they were heat shucked.

1 1/2 tonnes for mussels and 1/2 tonnes for oysters grown by the rack and long-line method in the demonstration farm of CMFRI at Chettuva estuary were harvested on 5th and 6th June 1997. Inaugurating the harvest met on 5th June, Dr. M.K.R. Nair, Director, Integrated Fisheries Project, Cochin mentioned the need for popularising mussel farming all along Indian coast. He received a rope of harvested mussel from Mr. Rasak, a fisherman who participated in the farming activities at Chettuva with technical assistance from CMFRI. Chairman and members of the local Panchayat, fishermen welfare societies and other social organisations attended the function.

The implementation of this programme at Chettuva generated awareness among the local fishermen on the techno-economic viability of mussel farming developed by the CMFRI and employment potential viz., construction of farm structures, rearing, harvest, farm maintenance, and post harvest processing to the women and unemployed youth of this area. Impress by the profitability of edible oyster and mussel culture, the local fishermen are willing to start bivalve farming in the next season with technical assistance from CMFRI and financial assistance from NABARD/WFDA/MATSYAFED/State Government organisations. The demonstration programme was unique as the integrated farming of bivalves viz., mussels and edible oyster was tried for the first time and found successful in estuarine conditions. The entire harvested mussels were heat shucked and partially sold to Integrated Fisheries Project, Cochin and to the local population @ Rs. 45/- kg.

Occurrence of Dorodotes shrimp off Mumbai Coast

Heterocarpoides levicarinus, Bate is known as Dorodotes shrimp. It is small in size, it had not been so far recorded off Mumbai coast. Now due to the enlargement of operational range of mechanised country trawlers to deeper areas, this shrimp has been located in the hauling for the first time. This species is addition to the list of prawns and shrimps reported by Kunju (1967) for Maharashtra state.

Holthuis (1980) reported about 45 mm length for the species. The specimen worked by the author however showed a length of more than 50 mm. Identification of the species is easy because of the unique carnation of abdominal segments. Its commercial potential requires further study. Nevertheless there is no evidence that it occurs off Maharashtra coast and this is the first record.

References
