



# CMFRI newsletter

Number 8

April - November 1978

## CULTURE OF SEA CUCUMBER AT ANDAMANS



*Stocking of juvenile sea cucumbers in the farm at Port Blair.*

Culture experiments on the holothurian *Holothuria scabra*, which supports the beche-de-mer industry of Andamans, are being taken up at a site at aberdeen Jetty in Port Blair. The site is suitably enclosed on two sides by the jetties and two sides by sea walls. The area of the farm is 15,000 sq. m and on one side there is an

entrance 20 m wide which allows navigation of fishing boats which generally enter the area for the purpose of anchoring. Depending on the tide the height of water varies between 3.5 to 1 metre in the area toward the entrance side. At the other end the bottom becomes exposed during low tide.

In January 78, 500 juvenile sea cucumbers varying in len-

gth from 65 to 160 mm were collected from the nearby areas and stocked in the farm. As the sea cucumber has the habit of burying in sand when the water level goes up there is no fear of their escaping through the entrance when the farm is filled with water during high tide. During low tide they generally come

## Sea Cucumber . . . .

out of the sand for feeding. No artificial feed has to be provided as the animal feeds on the decaying organic matter. At the end of July the animals were found to have grown 190-290 mm — an increase of over 10 cm in 7 months.

*Shri. Venkatesan*

periodically at a rate of 50 kg/ha. No feed was supplemented.

The prawns showed an interesting growth rate of 1.6 mm/day, and in 80 days the prawns attained an average length of 169.5 mm (with an average weight of 33.4 grams).

*Shri. Victor Chandra Bose*

covery rate was 79.8%. The crop was sold for Rs. 32,200/-.

Thiru S. Victor Chandra Bose and Thiru V. Venkataraman, Assistant Directors of Madras Fisheries, were the Institute-trained scientists under whose supervision the culture experiments were carried out.