'Ton Shell' hatched in CMFRI Laboratory

The Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI achieved success in breeding the ornamental 'Ton Shell' Tonna dolium in the laboratory for the first time. The estimated eggs in the characteristic egg ribbon was 7,94,420. The embryos hatched out after 22 days.

Sea Ranching Programme of Penaeus semisulcatus

As a part of the Sea Ranching Programme to collect preliminary data on survival, migration and effect of sea ranching of P. semisulcatus on commercial fishery, laboratory spawned and farm reared P. semisulcatus were tagged for the first time and released into the Palk Bay. 3,070 prawns were tagged within a period of five days from 23 March to 27 March. Tagged prawns were recovered from the commercial catches from 28 March and a total of 18 prawns were retrieved till 30 March.

The unusual landings of oil sardine being continued

The unusual high landings of oil sardine is being continued in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar. During March, the trawlers at Rameswaran landed 5.8 t of oil sardine. The average catch per unit was 252 t. The size ranged from 121-165 mm. During the last week of March, 35 t were landed on one day by a Kara valai operated at Dargavalasai in the Palk Bay region. In the Gulf of Mannar area 144 t were landed by a Kara valai unit. But only stray specimens were noticed in the trawlers at Pamban and Mandapam. The fishery is being monitored closely.

Unusual specimen of Scarus spp.

An unusual specimen of Scarus spp. (Gulf Fish of Red Sea) measuring 423 mm weighing 1,200 gm, was landed at Porbander Cement Factory landing centre on 3 January by one gillnet.

Marine Crocodile Landed

A rare marine crocodile - Crocodylus porosus was accidentally caught by the fishermen of Yajrada, 10 km south of Visakhapatnam in nylon shore seine on 6th March '91. On the suggestion of Shri C. V. Seshagiri Rao, Technical Officer of VRC of CMFRI, the specimen was brought to the fishing harbour and kept alive, till the wildlife department people took over the specimen on 7th March. The specimen had a length of 2.14 m and weighed 50.5 kgs. Presently this rare crocodile is an attraction at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, where it is being reared.

T. V. Programme

Dr. R. S. Lal Mohan, Principal Scientist, gave a Programme in Thiruvananthapuram Doordarshan Kendra on 'Dolphins of India', 15 February.

Staff Research Council

The 43rd meeting of the Staff Research Council of CMFRI was held at Kochi on 2 March to review the progress of the Scientific Work carried out during Oct - Dec 1990.

Engagements

Dr. P. S. B. R. James, Director, attended the following meetings:

- The NACA Regional Committee Meeting, at Bangkok, 10-13 Jan.
- ICAR Regional Committee No. VIII meeting at Thiruvananthapuram, 13-14 Feb.
- Inaugural function of the International Training Course on Pearl Culture under FAO/UNDP Regional Sea Farming Project, Tuticorin Research Centre of CMFRI, 1 Feb.
- The valedictory function of the International Training Course on Pearl Oyster Farming and Pearl Culture at Tuticorin Research Centre of CMFRI, 28 Feb.
- The Remote Sensing Project Evaluation Committee Meeting at Hyderabad, 13 March.

Dr. N. Kaliaperumal and Shri. S. Kalimuthu of Mandapam Regional Centre participated in the All India Symposium on 'Algae in Human Affairs and Environment' organised by the Dept. of Botany, A. V. V. M. Sri Pushpam College, Poondi, Thanjavur Dist., Tamil Nadu in collaboration with Seaweed Research and Utilization Association at Poondi, 21-23 Feb and presented the following papers: