GOOD SPAWNING AND SETTLEMENT OF SEED OF *HOLOTHURIA SCABRA*

The sea cucumber *Holothuria scabra* was induced to spawn on 8 March and 13 March. On 8 March, 6.2 lakhs of eggs and on 13 March 1.37 million eggs were released. The two batches of larvae were maintained separately in one tonne tanks by feeding them on *Isochrysis galbana*. After one week mixed culture and algal extract of *Sargassum sp.* was given. Bits of *Sargassum sp.* were made into fine paste in a mixer and filtered through 50 micron sieve. The larvae settled down to the bottom of tank as juveniles at the end of two weeks. At the end of March 1993, about 20,000 juveniles of *H. scabra* settled down to the bottom of the tank.

ON A TURTLE LANDING

An Olive Ridley turtle, *Olivacea lepiodochelys* was caught in a gillnet at Mirkarwad, Ratnagiri coast on 24 December. The carapace length was 34 inch, width 27 inch and weight was 25kg. This was reported by D.D. Sawant, Field Assistant, Ratnagiri Field Centre.

INCIDENCE OF AMBERGRIS WASHED ASHORE

Ambergris is a valuable substance obtained from Sperm whale. It is either found floating in the sea or obtained by cutting open the animal. It is produced in the intestine and retained mostly in the colon. Ambergris is a solid inflammable waxy substance. When fresh, it has an offensive odor but gives off sweet earthy odor on drying. It is extensively used in the perfume industry as a fixative. It also finds use in Ayurvedic and Homeopathy systems of medicine. On the 2nd fortnight of March, 1.5 to 2kg of ambergris was washed ashore in 3 coastal villages near Bhapila in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh as reported by Shri. K.V.S. Seshagiri Rao, Technical Officer, Ongole Field Centre. It was of medium quality and was sold at Rs. 20,000 to 25,000/- kg.

INTENSIVE FISHING FOR BLACK FISH *ACTINOPYGA MILLARIS* OFF TUTICORIN

During the period under report 20 tonnes of the sea cucumber *Actinopyga millaris* (Black fish) locally known as *Pal Attai* was processed. Locally, processed material is sold at the rate of Rs. 135/- per kg and the export rate is US$ 8 - 10 per kilogram. In each kg 18-20 pieces were weighed.

SEA RANCHING OF CLAM SEED

First time in India, hatchery produced clam seeds (64,062 numbers) were sea ranched in a pen enclosure in Ashtamudi lake at Dalavapuram and 10,000 numbers were ranched in a pen enclosure at Munambam on 18, February. This was under the project on "Clam culture" funded by MPEDA.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK CELEBRATION

As a part of the National Science Week celebration, the Institute conducted "OPEN HOUSE" and screened films on various aspects concerning fish and fisheries to the visitors during 1 - 6 March.