plants, 921 pre processing centres, 321 cold storage units, two agar plants and 52 IQF plants. After ensuring the capacity utilisation of these plants, further establishments may be made considering the requirements.

The fish marketing in India is gradually transforming from traditional to modern system. Despite this the involvement of a large number of middlemen affects the interests of both the fishermen and consumers. Hence, proper provisions should be made in the fish marketing policy to reduce the impact of middlemen. Announcement of suitable support prices for commercially important fish varieties will safeguard the fishermen as well as the consumers. Encouraging local fishermen to form cooperative fish marketing societies may be thought of. Considering the importance of seafood as a potential foreign exchange earner and a supplementary protein diet for the vast majority of domestic population more emphasis need to be laid on fish marketing strategies for the development of fishery sector in India. Studies on fish marketing is conducted by a team comprising Dr R.Sathyadhas, Shri R. Narayana kumar, Shri A.Bastion Fernando and Shri A. Kanakkan of SEETT Division.

New nesting ground for turtle located

Fishermen from Mullur fishing village near Vizhinjam in Kerala coast have reported the existence of a good nesting ground for sea turtle, Olive ridely. About 20 hatchlings were brought by them to the Vizhinjam Research centre of CMFRI which were released back into the sea by the scientists after making external examination.

The sea turtle olive ridely (Lepidochelys olivacea) was caught accidentally in the hooks and lines and gill nets operating at 50-55 m depth at a distance of 10 km from the shore.

Harvest of edible oyster

The second lot of 8 tonnes of shell-on oyster yielding 500 kg meat was harvested in September 1994 under the pilot project on oyster culture at Tuticorin. Earlier, 17 tonnes of shell-on oyster yielding 1243 kg meat was harvested from 0.75 ha in July 1993. The meat was sold to the Integrated Fisheries Project, Cochin at Rs 30 per kg. Thirteen tonnes of shell-on oysters were also sold locally. The project initiated in September 1994 is partly funded by NABARD.

Sale of pearl oyster spat

CMFRI has been producing pearl oyster spat since 1981 at its hatchery at Tuticorin. These spats were used for Institute’s pearl culture and sea ranching programmes and also were given to other government departments for their R & D activities. In August 1994 about 1.35 lakhs pearl oyster spat of length 8.6 to 16.4 mm were supplied to the Gujarat State Fisheries at Rs 10 per spat.

The spats were transported successfully from Tuticorin to Sikka (Gujarat) in aerated polythene bags designed by the Institute.

Dr A.C.C. Victor, Senior Scientist, successfully transported 2000 pearl oyster spat and 800 nucleated oysters from Tuticorin by rail and road to Cochin and Calicut without any mortality.

Successful harvest of ranched clam seed in the Ashtamudi

Under the project on the hatchery production of clam seed and ranching them in coastal waters sponsored by MPEDA a total of 20,000 seeds of P. malabarica produced at the Institute’s hatchery at Tuticorin and measuring 13.1 mm