ecosystems. Palk Bay may be considered for developing facilities for Controlled Experimental Ecosystem Studies.

15. Benign educational tourism may be promoted by establishing oceanaria, marine parks and marine mammal and sea turtle watch etc.

16. The concerned Ministries and Departments should create posts of trained Aquatic Resource Conservators for fulfilling the conservation objectives in respect of the marine ecosystems similar to those of forest ecosystems.

Awards

Based on the recommendation of Evaluation Committees, the Marine Biological Association of India awarded cash prize (Rs 10,000) and mementos to the authors of the following two papers, which were presented in the Symposium:

1. Assessing estuarine biofilm bacterial diversity by 16S rRNA clone library – a metagenomic approach by M.K. Vidyha, Sandhya C. Nair, S.L. Geetha and K. Hari Krishnan, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram (Dr. R. Raghu Prasad Memorial Award for best poster presentation).

2. Sedimentation pattern in Pirotan Reef, Gulf of Kutchh, India: a case study by Nayruti S. Bhattji and Nandini Ray Chaudhury, Department of Geology, M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara (Dr. S. Jones Memorial Award for best oral presentation).

(N.G.K. Pillai, Convenor, MECOS 09)

New record from Arabian Sea

Liopropoma lunulatum (Guichnote, 1863) a demersal serranid fish which has a disjunct distribution world wide was collected from trawler landings of Cochin Fisheries Harbour. This is the first record from the Indian EEZ, representing a remarkable extension of the known distribution range, which comprises Red sea, Mauritius, Reunion (Mascarene Islands), Taiwan, Mariana island, Cook islands and Tahiti.

Bumper landings of yellowfin tuna

On 20th and 21st March, 2009, bumper catches of yellowfin tuna were landed at Colachel Fisheries Harbour.
On 20th between 7 and 10 AM around 70 boats landed with catch containing 10-25 numbers of yellowfin tuna in the size range 90-170 cm fork length (FL) and weighing 40-75kg each. Nearly 50% of the yellowfin tuna landed were in the size range 130-150 cm FL. Fishes were immediately iced and packed to processing factories.

(Huge landings of Ghol by trawlers at Okha)

An average catch of 218 t of ghol was landed by trawlers at Okha for the month of October. The length ranged from 75 – 120 cm and weighed 20 kg on an average. The price was Rs. 500/kg.

(Processing of Jellyfish at Jakhau)

A daily catch of 1 - 2 t of jellyfish was recorded at Jakhau in the months of October and November. The jellyfish was washed, mixed with salt and ammonium sulphate, rewashed, semi-dried and sent to Chennai for export.

(Monoculture of *Hypnea valentiae* at Navibunder)

A maximum of 6.5 fold increase in yield was achieved in 50 days during December and January by adopting raft culture method of *Hypnea valentiae* at Navibunder.

(Monoculture of *Hypnea musciformis* at Chorwad)

A Maximum of 5 fold increase in yield was noticed in 62 days during August - September by adopting fixed bottom nylon rope method for *Hypnea musciformis* at Chorwad.

(Farming of *Kappaphycus alvarezii* at Miyani)

A Maximum of 5.5 fold increase in weight was obtained by bag culture method for *Kappaphycus alvarezii* at Miyani in 61 days during November and December.

(Integrated Farming of *Kappaphycus alvarezii* along with open sea floating cage at Sutrapada)

Integrated farming of *Kappaphycus alvarezii* along with open sea floating cage was started at Sutrapada by adopting raft culture method and bag culture method in the month of January. A maximum of 9 fold increase in weight was obtained by adopting bag culture method for *Kappaphycus alvarezii* farming for 55 days during January and February at cage culture site. A daily catch of 1 - 2 t of jellyfish was recorded at Jakhau in the months of October and November. The jellyfish was washed, mixed with salt and ammonium sulphate, rewashed, semi-dried and sent to Chennai for export.