

Report

Sea bass Cage Farming : Harvest Festival conducted by CMFRI and NFDB. Baithkol Fishing Harbour, Karwar : 17 July 2010.

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and National Fisheries Development Board held a sea bass cage harvest festival at Baithkol fishing harbour, Karwar on 17th July, 2010. Minister for Fisheries, Govt. of Karnataka Mr. Anand V. Asnotikar inaugurated the festive harvesting event in the presence of National Fisheries Development Board's Chief Executive, Dr. P. Krishnaiah, CMFRI's Director, Dr. G. Syda Rao, Dr. K. K. Philipose, Scientist-In-Charge, CMFRI, Karwar, Directors and Joint Directors of various maritime States of India, Industrialists and fishermen. All the dignitaries and the media persons went to the cage site of Karwar research centre of CMFRI in two purse seine boats to witness the harvesting of the sea bass grown in open sea floating cages. They also visited the low cost cage designed by the Karwar Research Centre, Cobia and Lutjanids were being reared. There were also the mussel rafts in the marine farm of CMFRI at Karwar. After the visit, all of them returned back to the Baithkol fishing Harbour at Karwar.

During the inaugural speech at the cage harvesting function, the Karnataka fisheries Minister suggested to CMFRI to explore the possibilities of developing cage farming in inland waters also. He appreciated the contributions of CMFRI in promoting fisheries in the Karnataka State and also in other States of India. He mentioned that cage farming had come as a boon to the fishermen as an alternative means of livelihood.

The National Fisheries Development Board's Chief Executive, Dr. P. Krishnaiah, revealed in his speech that the Board had entered into a memorandum of understanding with the CMFRI to develop technology for cage farming. He also called upon the maritime scientists to develop a sustainable and dependable model for open sea cage farming of fish. For such initiatives the NFDB would provide 100 percent financial support, he added. He congratulated CMFRI for the successful demonstrations of sea cage farming of fishes and the development of cost effective cage structures for open sea cage farming. He offered 100 more cages to Karwar Research Centre of CMFRI to popularise the open sea cage farming in



Fig.1: The low cost cage developed by CMFRI



Fig.3: DR.G.Syda Rao delivering the presidential address

Karnataka and Goa. He also expressed the hope that Karwar would become the hub for open sea cage farming in India.

The Director of CMFRI, Dr. G. Syda Rao said in his speech that Karwar was one of the 14 places in the country selected for open sea cage farming. He hoped that at least one lakh tonnes of fish would be harvested by farming of fish in open sea cages. He pointed out that this technology had already been developed in China and in South East Asian countries long ago. CMFRI had successfully carried out this experiment for the first time in Visakhapatnam during 2007. However, among all cage farming experiments conducted along Indian coastline, Karwar Centre achieved commendable results. He also said that the CMFRI was keen to popularise commercial production of sea bass in open sea floating cages and the fishermen would be encouraged to take up commercial cage fish production in an intensive way.

During his address, Dr. K.K. Philipose, Scientist-In-Charge of Karwar Research Centre of CMFRI explained about the open sea cage farming carried out at Karwar. He explained in detail about the low cost metal cage developed at the Karwar Centre of CMFRI. He had also elaborated on the



Fig.2 : Mr. Anand.V.asnotikar inaugurating the harvest festival



Fig.4 : Dr.K.K.Philipose, Scientist- in charge, Karwar RC of CMFRI welcoming the guests

sea bass farming carried out by the Centre at Baithkol and about the marine farming developed in the coastal sea waters of Karwar. Dr. Philipose explained in detail how these cage farming operations could become an alternative means of livelihood to the poor coastal fishermen. He mentioned the potential of Karwar bays for remunerative and successful open sea cage farming practices. He offered continued support to the fishermen and the industry people who are all interested in open sea cage farming.

Dr. S.R. Krupesha Sharma, Scientist of Karwar Centre of CMFRI explained in brief about the possibility of disease occurrences in the open sea cage systems and the preventive measures against that. He also mentioned the treatments given to the diseased fishes in cage farming environment by citing his experiences during the cage farming of sea bass in various seasons at Karwar.

The fishermen group engaged in cage culture activities at Karwar centre of CMFRI was felicitated by the Minister of Fisheries, Karnataka State, NFDB Chief Executive and Director of CMFRI. Mementoes were distributed to the fishermen by the Chief Executive of NFDB at this function. ☺☺

