

Revival of short neck clam *Paphia malabarica* Chemnitz, 1782 In Kali estuary, Karwar, Karnataka

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Short neck clam *Paphia malabarica* (Chemnitz, 1782) (Class: Bivalvia, Order: Veneridae), locally called as 'Tisre' was available in Kali estuary in abundant quantity during 2005-06 and 2006-07 and

the percentage contribution to catch was about 51 and 46% respectively. Later, it disappeared from the fishery but during 2012 this species was again observed in the fishery.



Fig. 1. Fishing for short neck clam, *Paphia malabarica* in Kali estuary

In the year 2011-2012 some fishermen introduced *P. malabarica* in the estuary from Tadri (Aghanashini estuary). They collected the seeds and put in the estuary for growing to marketable size. It is reported that Kadra Dam has a great influence on the clam fishery. According to the fishermen fresh water was not released into the river after August 2012, which resulted in the increased salinity in the lower reaches of the estuary and it may be the reason for revival of *P. malabarica* in the estuary.

The other clam species found along with this species are *Meretrix casta* and *M. meretrix*. *P. malabarica* contributes about 54% and *Meretrix* spp. 46% to the fishery.

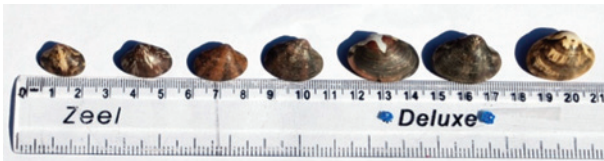


Fig. 2. Juvenile *P. malabarica*

Juvenile fishing of *P. malabarica* has started in the month of January 2013. It was noticed that juveniles with an average length of 22.55 mm and average weight of 2.90 g were available in the estuary. The size range observed was 16 mm-26 mm. Among the 800-1000 people engaged in clam fishery, 70% were women and children. Clam fishery of Kali

estuary provides employment to hundreds of people and efforts to develop culture technology for these clams can provide better livelihood options for these marginalized fisherman.

The fishers collect juvenile clams for traditional farming in the near shore waters and only a small portion is marketed in local market which is either used for consumption or making dry clam meat.

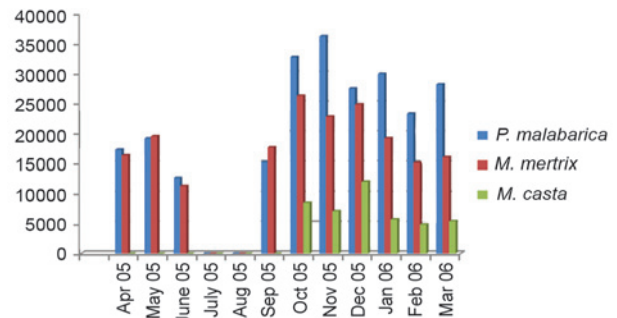


Fig. 3. Data of clams during 2005-06

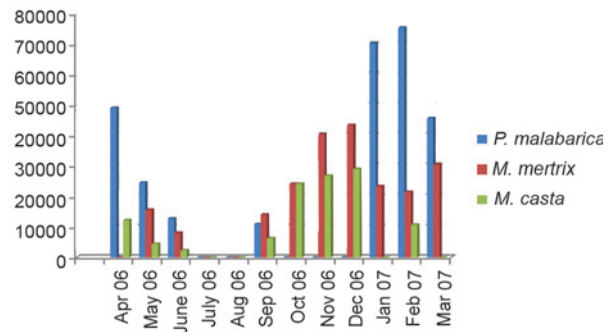


Fig. 4. Data of clams during 2006-07

From the observations of the clam fishery in Kali estuary it can be said that it has undergone tremendous changes during the last decade. The reasons may be the climate change, changing pattern of salinity, effect of dams, mines etc., which need to be studied in detail.