

Azhikode South fishermen set example to reduce use of polythene carry bags

Pradeepkumar, K.C. and Chandran, K.
Calicut Research Centre of CMFRI, Calicut

Use of polythene carry bags is increasing tremendously in recent days especially in the coastal areas. After use, these are discarded and finally reach sea through river mouth. Studies conducted by CMFRI reveal that considerable quantities of plastic and other non-biodegradable objects are strewn around not only in beaches but also are recovered from fishing grounds while trawling (30-60.2 g/trawl). Knowing the ill effects of indiscriminate use and discards of polythene carry bags, the fishermen of Azhikode south unanimously have taken a decision to avoid the use of polythene carry bags for transportation of their share of fish for daily consumption after their work.

Azhikode south fish landing centre, is located about 7 km North West of Kannur town. About 300 traditional fishermen families are residing around the landing centre. Main gear in operation is Inboard Ringseine. Ten Inboard ringseine units are operated regularly and each unit along with carrier boats engage about 50 fishermen during regular fishing operations. Fish caught are landed at Ayikkara Fisheries Harbour. During the fishing days while returning from work each fisherman used to



Fishermen carrying the plastic bucket while returning after fishing

carry fish to their home in polythene carry bags. They may use even 2 bags if the catch is moderately good. From August 2011 onwards all the fishermen have purchased 5 litre plastic buckets with lid for transporting their share from the landing centre to their homes. Thus daily usage of minimum 500 carry bags is avoided. If a similar procedure is followed in other fishing villages the extent of pollution and the garbage generated through the use of polythene carry bags can be minimized considerably.