

Farm demonstration of hatchery produced seeds of Cobia and Pompano on the East Coast by Mandapam RC

Under the technology demonstration programme, two important cultivable marine finfish species viz., cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) and silver pompano (*Trachinotus blochii*) which were successfully bred for the first time in the country by Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI were selected. A total of four enterprising farmers, one each at Vethalai (Tamil Nadu), Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu), Antarvedi (Andhra Pradesh) and Akividu (Andhra Pradesh) were identified for farm demonstration of the hatchery produced seeds. Apart

from that, farming of these two species is also carried out at Mandapam Regional Centre in open sea cages.

At Antarvedi, Andhra Pradesh cobia seeds were stocked in the pond with average length and weight of 16.3 cm and 17.5 g respectively. After 90th day of stocking the average length and weight were 28 cm and 120 g respectively. In the same place pompano seeds were stocked in the pond with average length and weight of 3.3 cm and 1.2 g respectively. After 210th day of stocking the average length and weight were 31 cm and 270 g respectively.

At Vethalai and Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu the length and weight range of Pompano during stocking was 1.5 to 2.5 cm and 0.5 to 0.75 g respectively. After 100th day of stocking the length and weight range was 11.7 to 16.3 cm and 26.0 to 70.0 g respectively.

At Akividu, Andhra Pradesh pompano seeds were stocked in the pond with average length and weight of 6.5 cm and 1.2 g respectively. After 60th day of stocking the average length and weight were 12 cm and 25 g respectively.

At Mandapam Regional Centre pompano seeds were stocked in the open sea cages with average length and weight of 8.5 cm and 4.5g respectively. After 160th day of stocking the average length and weight were 25 cm and 240 g respectively. In the same place cobia seeds were stocked in the open sea cages with average length and weight range of 16 to 21 cm and 21 to 50 g respectively. After 120th day of stocking the average length and weight were 30 cm and 100 g respectively.

The on-going farm demonstrations have been found to be successful and both cobia and pompano are found to grow well in ponds as well as in cages, and the results are encouraging. Both cobia and pompano are found to be excellent species in terms of hardiness, survival rate and growth in grow-out systems and there exists a very good market demand.

Dr.R.Jayakumar, Senior Scientist and Dr.Johnson, B. visited the Antarvedi and Akividu farm site and Rudra Techno Feeds during 27th to 29th January 2012.



A view of Akividu farm site



Sampled pompano at Vethalai farm measuring 14 cm



Sampled cobia weighing 120 gram



Sampled pompano weighing 250 gram



Dr. R. Jayakumar, Senior Scientist and Dr. Johnson B., Scientist of Mandapam RC visiting the Antarvedi farm site



Cobia at Mandapam Regional Centre cage site



View of Antarvedi farm site