

CMFRI Vizag centre initiated study on cage farming of 'ghol' fish, says Director

The air bladder of 'ghol' fish, scientifically known as *protonibea dicanthus*, which is used in the wine industry, costs between ₹40,000 and ₹50,000 a kg'

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VISAKHAPATNAM

The most expensive fish species in India, 'ghol', commonly called black spotted croaker, may soon be bred in cages. The Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of ICAR - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), has already taken up studies on capture-based culture of 'ghol' fish, according to ICAR-CMFRI Director A. Gopalakrishnan.

The CMFRI Director was in the city to dedicate the indigenously developed Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) for nursery rearing of finfishes to the nation, at the CMFRI Regional Centre here on Mon-



ICAR-CMFRI Director A. Gopalakrishnan at the Recirculatory Aquaculture System for nursery rearing of finfishes, during his visit to the CMFRI centre in Visakhapatnam. V. RAJU

day. 'Ghol', scientifically known as *protonibea dicanthus*, commands a very high price in the international market. Its air bladder, which is used in the wine industry, commands a high price. It costs

anywhere between ₹40,000 and ₹50,000, a kg. Though it's available in our seas, it's not widely distributed, Mr. Gopalakrishnan told *The Hindu* in an exclusive chat on the sidelines of the inaugural func-

tion. The other species, being developed by the Vizag centre, through cage farming are black pomfret and silver pomfret, which also command a good price in the open market.

The CMFRI Vizag centre, the forerunner for open sea cage farming in India, has demarcated areas along the coasts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Yanam, which are suitable for cage farming in the sea. Open sea cage farming was started at four locations in Visakhapatnam, Balasore (Odisha), Chennai and Kochi in 2003.

However, the Vizag centre was the first one to successfully harvest 3.5 tons of fish through cage culture in 2005.