

# Open sea cage farming a boon for tribal beneficiaries

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns, 8 families with nearly 50 members of Siddi tribal community of Gir Somanth Jila Adivasi Vikas Parishad engaged in the open sea cage farming of spiny lobster (*Panulirus polyphagus*) for the year 2020-21 under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) programme managed to overcome the pandemic associated economic hardships. The intermittent harvest of lobsters from the open sea cages during March and April 2021 and final harvest on 15.07.2021 provided them much needed economic relief. Five cages installed and stocked with wild collected lobster seeds of size 80 to 120 gm were harvested at 250+ gm size. The lobsters were sold live at ₹1100 to 1250 per kg based on size grade. The scheme and technology was highly appreciated by the beneficiaries.

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