

# MPEDA

*Newsletter*

MAY

2012



**THE MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

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ORGANIC SHRIMP PROMOTED BY IOAP, MPEDA

# MPEDA NEWSLETTER



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**Cover Photo :** *Chairman, MPEDA handover harvested organic BT Shrimp; view of Organic shrimp farm at Valamangalam*

## *On the platter.....!!*



*Dear Friends,*

*You might have noticed the lush green tone spread across in the cover page of this issue of Newsletter. World over, this month is tagged to the environment and our country is also doing its share for a green world. As far as export oriented aquaculture is concerned, we had a quantum jump in the production of Black Tiger as well as Pacific white leg shrimps during 2011-12 with an out put of 1,35,778 tonnes and 80,717 tonnes respectively. Besides, we also produced a sizeable quantity of Mud crab, Scampi and Seabass through scientific aquaculture during the year, taking the total scientific farmed production to 2,25,880 tonnes which is an all time high figure. This increase in production is delightful as it in turn produces livelihood and employment opportunities to many of the rural folk across our coastal states.*

*However, we at MPEDA are committed to the production of quality seafood in a sustainable manner. A lot of initiatives to curtail the abuse of antibiotics and to empower the farming community on Best Management Practices have been undertaken by MPEDA. All this to ensure the safety and quality of aquaculture products exported.*

*World markets are now focusing their attention and demand on safe and sustainable seafoods. We in India cannot remain silent, but have to move with the tide. However, it is disturbing to note that there are efforts from a few pockets to keep off from such 'true' and 'Green' initiatives. Such greed will be catastrophic and we may remember that it took more than a decade for India to recover from its initial setback in shrimp farming. Hence I take this occasion to request all to pledge to follow Best Management Practices in aquaculture so that our country's image is held high among the minds of seafood lovers across the world.*

*Thank you.*

*June 2012*

*Sd/-  
(LEENA NAIR IAS)  
Chairman*



# MARKETING NEWS

## MPEDA Participates in the Brand India Expo, Ottawa, Canada

The Multi-Product Brand India Expo 2012, first of its kind in Canada, was held at the Ottawa Convention Centre, Ottawa, Canada from 13-14<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. The High Commission of India in Ottawa has organized the event in association with Canadian Business Organization and M/s. Trident Exhibitions Private Limited. According to the organizers, the Brand India Expo was aimed at showcasing multi products of India such as Textiles, Apparel, Fashion Accessories, Handicrafts, Handlooms, Home Furnishing, Decoratives, Marine Products, Agriculture Products, Spices, Coir, Leather etc. and to promote and facilitate the trade relationship of Canada with India. The expo was formally inaugurated by Mr. Ed Fast, Hon'ble Minister for International Trade and Minister for Asia-Pacific Gateway. Before the inauguration, a 30 -minute presentation was arranged by Trade Facilitation Office (TFO), Canada on "Documents required for exporting to Canada" by Ms. Marysable Gonzalez, Project Officer, TFO, Canada.

There were over 45 exhibitors from India showcasing their products i.e agriculture, apparels, carpets, marine products and other items. APEDA had taken a larger area for displaying their products as well as the products from their registered members. Apart from MPEDA, the commodity boards - Spices, Tea, and Coffee also participated in the expo and showcased their products in their respective stalls. Members of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC),



*A view of the MPEDA Stall*

State Bank of India, Canada and Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) also exhibited their products in the expo. There was no entry fee for the visitors.

The MPEDA has taken a stall with 18 sq.m. space which was decorated with a back drop showing seafood products and fish charts. MPEDA has

displayed a variety of seafood samples ranging from frozen products to value added ready to eat items.

The visitors were fascinated by the seafood samples displayed in MPEDA stall. The Show had over 1000 visitors according to the organizers. Most of them belonged to the ethnic Indian community of Canada.



*Visitors in discussion with MPEDA Officials*

## MARKETING NEWS

A team consisting of 3 officials from Canadian Food Inspection Agency visited MPEDA stall and sought information on food safety methods followed in the seafood processing units in India. The deputed officials explained them about HACCP implementation in seafood processing units of India, compliance to EU regulatory standards, monitoring and collection of samples from processing units/Aquaculture farms for testing of antibiotics, Microbiology, Residue Monitoring, testing of Heavy metals in Cephalopods etc.

The special attractions in the expo included sample *biryani* and wine tasting in APEDA stalls and green tea and coffee offered by the stalls of Tea and Coffee Boards respectively.

Few trade enquiries received included that of Mr. Claude Larose, an



Visitors in MPEDA Stall

importer and supplier to Metro Richelleu Inc, which is a large food chain store (over 800 stores) in Canada. Subsequently Mr. Claude Larose visited Kochi and Andhra Pradesh in May 2012 to explore the possibilities for

business tie-up with Indian seafood exporters.

Mr. A Jeyabal, Deputy Director and Mr. N Chandrasekharan, Assistant Director coordinated MPEDA's participation in the expo. ●



Display of frozen value added products



Display of value added retail packs

### Chinese Authorities accept Seafood Certification by India

General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), People's Republic of China has brought in a notification during late May 2011 bringing in an Inspection and Quarantine Certification which has to accompany all the seafood exports to China. This means that the seafood exports to China are to be accompanied by a Certificate effective

from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012, the format of which is to be approved by the Chinese authorities.

Now the Embassy of India in Beijing, China has conveyed to MPEDA the formal approval by the Chinese Authorities in this regard. This will ensure seafood exports to China to continue without any hindrance.

## Cephalopods Market - May 2012

The three main cephalopod species, octopus, squid and cuttlefish, were all in short supply in 2011, with the squid sector suffering major declines. With the exception of Japan, where imports increased by 25% compared with 2010, all the main markets were adversely affected.

### Octopus

Supplies of octopus have been a problem, and throughout 2011 this characterized the trade. Nevertheless import volumes in the main markets were relatively stable. Japan's imports (38 400 tonnes) fell by 14% compared with the previous year. Both Mauritania and Morocco lost market share but China managed to hold its own. High prices in Japan caused trade to slow down at the end of 2011 because of consumer resistance and traders started looking for alternative sources of supplies, such as southern Africa and island countries in the Indian Ocean.

Octopus prices in Japan peaked in late 2011 but have dropped considerably since then, in spite of the tight supply situation, and in the first months of 2012 the decline has been greater than expected.

Spanish imports were down only slightly by 1.7%, but volumes from suppliers varied from previous years. Imports from Morocco fell by 19%, although Morocco still remains the major supplier, while imports from Mauritania increased by 34%.

In 2011, supplies from imports to the Italian market increased by 10% (to 51 900 tonnes) compared with the previous year. Spain was the main supplier and there were significant increases in imports from Indonesia,



Senegal and Tunisia, while imports from Mauritania and Morocco declined.

In Morocco in 2011 octopus catches dropped by 30% as a result of a 31% quota reduction for the January to July season compared with 2010. This decline continued in the first two months of 2012 with landings totalling 3 204 tonnes, a drop of 41% in quantity and 31% in value compared with 2011.

### Squid and cuttlefish

Supplies of squid were also tight in 2011. Imports into all major markets declined, except for Japan. Spain suffered the sharpest reduction in imports, which decreased by 33% in 2011. All the major suppliers exported less squid to Spain, with the exception of the USA, which shipped some 97% more than in 2010.

Italy's imports of squid declined by 7.5% compared with 2010. Japan, on the contrary, was the exception and imports grew by almost 25% in 2011

mainly from China and Peru. China now accounts for 45.5% of total imports in Japan.

Although cuttlefish prices fell slightly in Japan at the end of 2011, they remained high in Europe and overall they are moving strongly upward. Squid prices, however, are likely to remain stable in the medium term.

### Outlook

With the tight supply situation prices should remain high or even increase, especially for cuttlefish, and not so much for squid. Prices of octopus may continue climbing as well because of the tight supply situation; however there also seems to be a slight decline in demand that may be attributed to the general economic situation particularly in Japan. In the medium-term, stable prices are expected for squid and octopus, while continued rising prices are expected for cuttlefish, along with slow demand. ●

Source: *FAO GLOBEFISH*

## **U.S. Customs and Border protection published Federal Register Notice On Cancellation of Bond Subject to Enhanced Bonding Requirements Upon CBP's Acceptance of Qualified Superseding Bond Application**

Federal register notice, dated May 31, 2012 announces that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will cancel a continuous bond where the liability amount was calculated pursuant to enhanced bonding requirements (EBR bond) upon the agency's acceptance of a qualified superseding bond application. CBP will accept a qualified superseding bond application pursuant to this notice only if posted by an importer who was not a litigant in any of the *National Fisheries Institute, Inc. v. United States Bureau of Customs & Border*

*Protection (NFI v. CBP)* court cases and who establishes, to CBP's satisfaction, that no contingent liability remains secured by the predecessor EBR bond and that the EBR bond does not cover entries that are subject to a pending protest. The superseding bond must also feature a limit of liability that is calculated using CBP's current bond formula and must be for the same time period covered by the EBR bond. Nothing in this Notice should be construed as applying to importers represented by the plaintiffs in the NFI litigation noted above, as their relief was granted by the Court.

A superseding bond application, including supporting documentation, must be received by CBP within 90 calendar days from the date the related preceding EBR bond becomes eligible under the conditions set forth in this Notice. Superseding bond applications, including supporting documentation, must be sent either via mail to U.S Customs and Border protection, office of Administration, Revenue Division, ATTN: Bond Team Intech1,6650 Telecom Drive, Indianapolis, IN46278 or Via email to [Cbpbondquestions@dhs.gov](mailto:Cbpbondquestions@dhs.gov) with a subject line of "Superseding Bond IR#". ●

### Price List of MPEDA Publications / Periodicals

PERIODICALS		Annual Subscription (Rs.)
1	PRIME Weekly (Price Indicator for Marine Products)	350.00
2	MPEDA Newsletter	300.00
PUBLICATIONS		Price Per copy (Postage extra)
4	MPEDA Act, Rules & Regulations	25.00
5	Statistics of Marine Products 2009	550.00
6	Seafood Delicacies from India	100.00
7	Indian Fishery Hand Book	250.00
8	Product Catalogue	150.00
9.	Commercial fin fishes and shell fishes of India	125.00
9	Handbook on Ornamental Fish Diseases	50.00
10	Water Quality in the Ornamental Aquatic Industry - Serial 1	125.00
11	International Transport of Live Fish in the Ornamental Aquatic industry Serial - 2	125.00
12.	Live Food Culture for the Ornamental Aquatic Industry - Serial 3	125.00
13	Biosecurity in the Ornamental Aquatic Industry - Serial 4	125.00
14	Ornamental Fish Breeders / Traders Directory	25.00
15	Directory of Exporters of Marine Products	75.00
16	Directory of Exporters of Marine Products (Interactive CD)	50.00

# FOCUS AREA

## RGCA gains global footprint in Cobia stock enhancement

**C**obia (*Rachycentron canadum*)- known as Lemon fish or Ling, achieves a body weight of 25 kg in two years. The high juvenile mortality of the species, together with over exploitation, has resulted in dwindling natural stocks. Currently, Cobia is cultured in nurseries and grow-out offshore cages in China, Taiwan and Vietnam as well as USA, Mexico and Panama.

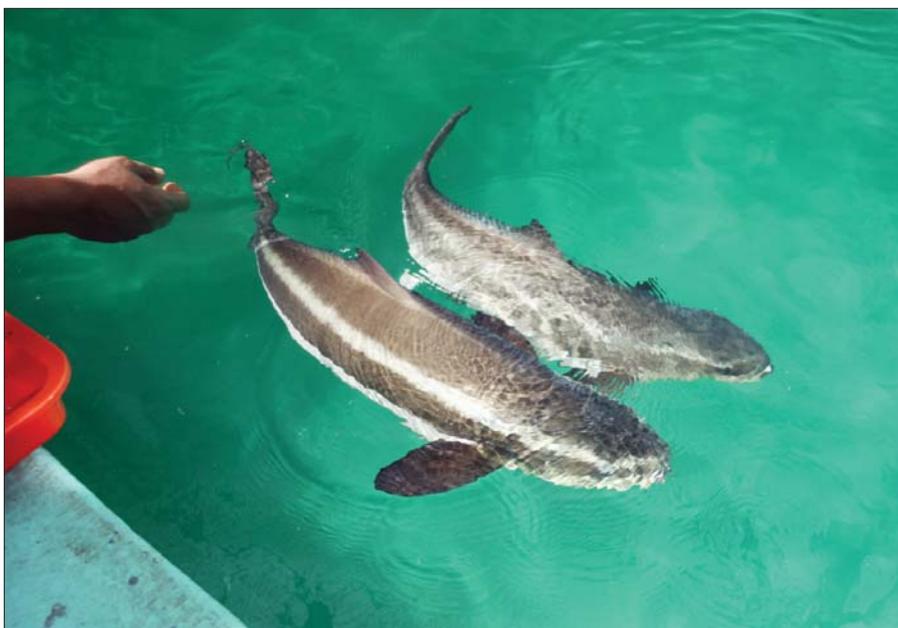
The Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), the research and development wing of MPEDA, has made its first foray into the overseas market by successfully transporting a consignment of Cobia fish seed from Thiruvananthapuram to Iran. The shipment comprising 0.5 million one-day-old yolk fry and 40 juveniles of Cobia, an edible high-value species of finfish, was despatched to the Asian Fisheries Technology and Management (AFTM), a company under the Fisheries department of



*Cobia juveniles*

Iran, in early May, this year. The pilot scale export is expected to net a foreign exchange to the tune of over Rs.1.7 lakh. RGCA is expecting another order of one million yolk fry from AFTM.

AFTM has plans to use the seed material from India for a finfish stock enhancement programme after larval rearing. The logistics to reach out to the AFTM facility located in a remote suburb posed a challenge for RGCA. The seed was first transported via Dubai to Teheran. After an overnight stay there, it was taken to the hatchery site by a local flight next day morning. It has had trade enquiries from Taiwan, Philippines and other South East Asian countries also.



*Cobia broodstock in RAS tank*

The Cobia stocks at RGCA are routinely screened for marine fish diseases and other infections at RGCA's Central Pathology Laboratory. This came in handy in tackling the quarantine regulations of Iran Veterinary Organization, which are generally tough. RGCA has already launched a programme to spawn Cobia at an interval of 60 days in controlled environment. Efforts are

## FOCUS AREA

on to bring down the breeding interval to 30 days.

The packing and transporting of the newly hatched Cobia fry is a challenge, as the stocks shall reach the destination within 48 hours after hatching, by which time the Cobia fry open their mouth and start feeding. For the first 48 hours after hatching,

the Cobia fry subsist on the yolk that they carry under their body in a sac. The Cobia larvae were packed in polythene bags filled with water, oxygen and ammonia adsorbents. Organic anaesthetics were added to the bags carrying fingerlings to reduce stress during transport. RGCA has developed technology for breeding

and sea cage farming of Cobia, a fish known for its firm, white and tasty flesh. Seeds are produced from the captive brood stock at the hatchery located at Pozhiyoor near Thiruvananthapuram. The efforts for the export of Cobia seeds were coordinated by Shri P Anilkumar, Project Manager, RGCA, Pozhiyoor. ●

## Organic Shrimp farming takes off in Kerala State – two success stories

MPEDA, under IOAP scheme, has certified stake holders such as Organic shrimp/scampi hatchery, Organic feed mill, Organic shrimp/scampi farm and Organic seafood processor for undertaking organic aquaculture.

As the country has vast potential to develop organic aquaculture through sustainable and eco-friendly methods, MPEDA is proposing to promote this sector actively for targeting the niche export market. MPEDA offers a financial assistance that will meet 50% of the expenses on organic seed, organic feed as well as the inspection and certification

expenditure under its revised scheme. The assistance component for organic aquaculture has been raised to Rs. 50,000/- per ha. One beneficiary can avail financial assistance for a maximum area of 6 ha subject to the financial ceiling of Rs. 3 lakh per beneficiary, for undertaking organic aquaculture. In case of padasekharams /groups /culster /society, the upper limit will be Rs. 15 lakh for 30 ha or more area.

The IOAP had selected 14 farmers covering a Water Spread Area of 30.78 ha from the districts of Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur in Kerala for the experimental organic



*A basket full of organic shrimp*

shrimp farming project where 13.40 lakh organic tiger shrimp seeds were stocked and fed with artificial organic feed.

Further, 92.09 ha in Andhra Pradesh and 133 ha in West Bengal were stocked with the organic shrimp seeds during the season under the organic shrimp farming programme of MPEDA. The farmers are running the farms under the ICS of WAB Trading International, Hong Kong. For the organic shrimp farming project in India, MPEDA has so far empanelled 3 input suppliers for the supply of organic seed and feed viz. M/s. Matsyafed Hatchery, Kollam, Kerala, M/s. Rama Shrimp Hatchery, Kakkinada, Andhra Pradesh (for supply of organic shrimp seed) and M/s. Indo Aqua Technologies, Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (for supply of organic shrimp feed), with a validity of the empanelment for 3 years.



*Harvest of organic shrimp: A firm step forward in organic aquaculture production*

## **Chairman, MPEDA inaugurates the Organic Shrimp harvest function at Valamangalam, Alappuzha District**

Ms. Leena Nair IAS, Chairman, MPEDA inaugurated the harvest function of the organic shrimp culture of Vattakkattussery shrimp farm at Valamangalam in Thuravur Gramapanchayat, Alappuzha District of Kerala on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Shri P Mohanasundaram, Director, Shri N Ramesh, Director (Marketing), MPEDA and other dignitaries attended the function which was co-ordinated by India Organic Aquaculture Project (IOAP) of MPEDA. The farmers of Valamangalam were all in a festive mood to celebrate the occasion.

Among the organic shrimp farmers, Shri George Alexander of Vattakkattussery shrimp farm at Valamangalam having 1.7 ha area, started organic shrimp culture by stocking 65,000 organic seeds during February 2012. MPEDA provided assistance in the form of subsidised seed and feed along with regular monitoring by the officials of IOAP section.



*Ms. Leena Nair IAS, Chairman, MPEDA inaugurates the function  
By lighting the ceremonial lamp*

During the inaugural function, Shri P N Natarajan, General Secretary, Kerala Aquaculture Farmers Federation welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the problems of shrimp farmers of Kerala. Then, Shri

George Alexander explained his experiences of organic shrimp culture in detail. Chairman, MPEDA inaugurated the harvest function by lighting the ceremonial lamp. In her inaugural address, Chairman narrated the commitment of MPEDA which is formulating new schemes for the benefit of shrimp farmers. The Chairman also envisaged the code of conduct and responsible farming from our farmer friends for a sustainable shrimp farming in Kerala. Shri P Mohanasundaram, Director, and Shri N Ramesh, Director (Marketing), MPEDA felicitated the project. Shri C P Anirudhan, Deputy Director, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala urged the need of working together with MPEDA for the revival of shrimp farming in Kerala. Shri T Purushothaman, President of Kerala Aqua Farmers Federation also has very effectively pointed out the problems of shrimp farming in Kerala.



*Inaugural address by Ms. Leena Nair IAS, Chairman, MPEDA*



Shri P Mohanasundaram, Director, MPEDA addresses the audience



Shri N Ramesh ITS, Director (M) addresses the gathering



Chairman, MPEDA cuts the ribbon to start the harvest



Chairman, MPEDA hands over harvested organic shrimp to Shri George Alexander, Vattakkattusery shrimp farm

Shri Ashish Jasuja, Managing Director, WAB Trading International (Asia) Ltd. explained their role in reviving the shrimp culture in Kerala through organic shrimp farming and also discussed the possibility of further prosperity of organic products. Vote of thanks was proposed by Shri

Thampi Sam Raj, Joint Director, MPEDA and the head of IOAP.

After the programme, the inaugural harvest of organic shrimp was conducted at the farm, which was fully covered by all media. The catch of even sized (about 30 gm each) organic black tiger shrimp will surely

open a new evergreen chapter in the history of marine products export from our nation.

The IOAP of MPEDA and WAB Trading International Ltd (Asia) Hong Kong frequently monitored the culture activities that harvested 1100 kgs of organic shrimp.

### Organic Shrimp harvest in Kumbalangi at Ernakulam

The first batch of organically cultured Black Tiger Prawns from Kerala state was harvested in Kumbalangi at Ernakulam on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012, under the technical and financial assistance of India Organic Aquaculture Project (IOAP) of MPEDA. Smt. Usha Pradeep, President, Kumbalangi Panchayath

inaugurated the harvest programme. Apart from the local Governing Body members, Shri P N Vinod and Shri K Reji Mathew, Assistant Directors, and Shri Biju N G, Field Coordinator, MPEDA HO, and Shri Shyam Kumar S, Regional Coordinator of WAB Trading International, were present on the occasion. The function had a

gathering of over 50 people and was well covered by the media.

The organic shrimp farmer at Kumbalangi, Shri C V Mathew stocked 25,000 organic tiger shrimp seeds in February 2012 under the technical guidance and financial assistance of MPEDA. His shrimp farm was lying idle for the past few years, due to



*Shri C V Mathew, organic shrimp farmer narrating his experiences in the presence of IOAP officials*

organic feed was purchased from the certified organic feed mill of M/s. Indo Aqua Technologies, Vishakapatnam. About 340 kg of 30 count organic shrimp was harvested from the pond on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012, fetching a premium price of Rs. 360/ Kg. The organic shrimp was processed at M/s. Baby Marine International at Kochi, the only certified organic processor in Kerala and the consignment was procured by WAB Trading International (P) Ltd itself. ●

incidence of recurring disease and repeated crop loss. At the instance of MPEDA, the farmer stocked his farm on a trial basis. The organic shrimp seeds for stocking were procured from M/s. Matsyafed Prawn Hatchery at Kollam. The PL – 10 samples were tested in RGCA laboratory and reported negative for WSSV. The packing, transportation, acclimatization and stocking of seeds were done under the monitoring of the IOAP team of MPEDA. The



*Sorting the harvested organic shrimp*

## **S R Rao IAS is the new Commerce Secretary**



**S**hri **Suryadevara Ramachandra Rao**, an IAS officer of 1978 batch Gujarat cadre, is the new Union commerce secretary. He succeeds Mr. Rahul Khullar, who has joined as chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

A *Padma Sbri* awardee, Shri Rao is best known for Surat's transformation from a dirty city into one of the cleanest cities in the country after the plague in

1994. Mr. Rao has been on Central deputation since November 2008, when he was appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Information & Technology, Ministry of Communications & IT. He was elevated as Special Secretary in Department of Telecommunications in April 2012.

In a career spanning over 33 years, Shri Rao has served in several departments such as rural development, urban development, ports, health, nuclear energy, among others. Hailing from AP, Shri Rao has also served as Chairman Vishakapatnam Port Trust during 1998-2003. ●

# AQUACULTURE SCENE

## Sub-Regional Centre (Aqua), Karwar arranges Interstate Study Tour for farmers

Aquaculture in Karnataka is carried out only in three coastal districts, viz., Uttar Kannada, Udupi and Dakshin Kannada. The species under culture are mainly *Penaes monodon* and *Litopenaeus vannamei*. During March 2012, the Sub Regional Centre of MPEDA in Karwar organized an Interstate Study Tour to Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh to provide acquaintance to the farmers on the farming activities in the neighbouring state and to interact with their counterparts there. The touring team was extended all support by MPEDA Sub Regional Centre (Aqua), Bhimavaram and Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), Vijayawada. The farmers could get themselves exposed to various aspects of scientific farming practices followed in Andhra Pradesh and could interact with other farmers, officials and feed mill owners of Andhra Pradesh.



Members of the study team during field visit.

When the team visited M/s. UNO Feeds, Komrada, Bhimavaram, which produce extruded floating fish feed for freshwater fishes, its partner Shri T C

V Narasimha Rao, explained the farmers on the advantages of floating feed and the types of floating feed being produced depending on the protein content. The farmers witnessed the production of feed in the feed mill using different raw materials and visited their QC lab where they do proximate analysis of raw materials and the finished products.



Visiting farmers in a crab farm at Chamakuripalem

The farmers also visited the fish demo farm of M/s UNO Feeds where they culture Pangasius, Roopchand and Grass carp. Shri. T C V Narasimha Rao explained the economics and marketing of the culture species. Later, the team visited MPEDA Quality Control Laboratory at Bhimavaram. The quality issues and regulations by the importing countries and the role of MPEDA for mitigating the problems were



Members of the team during field visit

explained by the MPEDA Officials. Sample collection method under NRCP and the processing of the samples to get the residue were explained and various doubts on antibiotic issues were clarified by the MPEDA officials.

The team visited Sri Surya Aqua farmers' welfare Society and Shri Durga Bhavani Aqua farmers' Welfare Society at Chinamainvanilanka, Vemuldevi, Narsapur, and learned about various technique on water intake, pond and water preparation, seed selection

under contract hatchery system, stocking pattern, water and feed management and BMP implementation. Then the team visited Chamakuripalem village to see the crab farming which is done in large scale in this area. The farmers were explained the method of crab culture and marketing. Later, the team went to *L. vannamei* farm of Shri Kanaka Prasad at Jakram, Bhimavaram. The farmer explained biosecurity, aeration, feeding and sanitation procedure which he follows strictly for the success of

farming. He also explained his way of batch stocking and reservoir system to the farmers.

At the facility of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) in Kankipadu, Vijaywada established for the production of all male scampi seeds, Shri Vijay Kumar, Project Manager explained the procedure of producing all male scampi seeds and the benefits of all male scampi culture. The farmers were also shown different areas of the hatchery and the procedures to select and segregate the breed. ●



*L. vannamei* farm



Karnataka farmers at Scampi project of RGCA, Kankipadu (AP)

# BITZER Refrigeration Equipment



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## Export sops extended, SEZ package coming

Foreign trade policy expands interest subvention, widens EPCG scheme coverage

The government has come to the rescue of exporters by extending some promotion schemes and providing incentives to tap new markets, with an aim to increase outbound shipments by 20 per cent this fiscal.

A two per cent interest subvention for labour-intensive sectors and the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme were extended by a year and their coverage widened.

In another significant step, Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma said the ministry would issue new guidelines for promoting exports from Special Economic Zones (SEZs). He said exports from these tax-free zones had been falling for the past couple of years due to the imposition of minimum alternate tax and dividend distribution tax.

However, the government refrained from introducing any new scheme in the much-awaited annual supplement (2012-13) to the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-2014.

To boost manufacturing, the FTP allowed “status holders” to use scrips issued to them to pay excise duty for capital goods procured from domestic manufacturers. At present, the scheme is only allowed to be used to pay duties on imported capital goods.

Releasing the supplement, Sharma set a target of achieving 20 per cent growth in exports this fiscal to almost \$360 billion over \$303.7 billion last year. The \$500-billion target for 2013-14 was retained. That would entail hefty 39 per cent growth in exports next fiscal. Exports grew just 3.23 per cent to \$24.45 billion in April. During the entire last fiscal, they expanded by



almost 21 per cent. Sharma said exports would start looking up from August-September.

The two per cent interest subvention would cover more sectors. The scheme was available only to exporters in sectors such as handlooms, handicrafts, carpets and small and medium enterprises. It has been extended to cover sectors such as toys, sports goods, processed agricultural products and ready-made garments.

The EPCG scheme can now also be availed by units claiming benefits under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and the Status Holder Incentive Scheme.

Through the EPCG scheme, the government has been providing incentives to exporters to modernise production facilities. Under the scheme, the government has now removed the export limit threshold for sectors such as carpet, coir and jute. It will remain applicable on handicrafts, handlooms, the cottage sector, agriculture and sericulture, among others.

The supplement also extended export benefits to external trade through e-commerce.

“One of the key objectives of our Foreign Trade Policy has been to give a thrust to a technology upgrade of exports to enhance global competitiveness of our products,” Sharma said.

He refused to specify a figure for revenue forgone due to measures announced in the FTP. However, senior officials of the commerce department pegged the revenue forgone due to the extension and expansion of the interest subvention and EPCG schemes at Rs 1,850 crore. Last year, the government had announced an export incentive package worth Rs 1,700 crore in the FTP.

With an aim to turn around manufacturing, the government went a step further and permitted ‘status holders’ to procure capital goods from domestic manufacturers and pay excise duty through duty credit scrips, which was not allowed earlier. ‘Status holders’ refers to star trading houses and large-scale exporters.

“Now, all scrips would be permitted to be sourced from the domestic market to encourage manufacturing, value-addition and employment. This will be an important measure for import substitution and help in saving forex,” he said.

As the US and the euro zone, which account for 30 per cent of India’s exports, remain in uncertainty, the FTP added seven markets under the Focus Market Scheme (FMS) and seven destinations under the Special FMS

*-Business Standard*

## Missing popular fish species back in Chilika

The bad news was 'Ilishi', 'Nahama', 'Paniakhia', 'Kalakhuranta', 'Kekenda' and 'Sebakhainga' all popular fish species among Odia households had gone missing in Chilika. The good news: the latest assessment says the species are back in the 1,100 sq km brackish water lagoon.

The species are ilishi (*Tenualosa ilisha*), Nahama (*Elops machnata*), Paniakhia (*Megalops cyprinoides*), Kalakhuranta (*Acanthopagrus berda*), Kekenda (*Rhynomugil corsula*) and Sebakhainga (*Chanos chanos*). More importantly, most of these species have grown to reach commercial scale.

The lagoon, which has registered a record landing in the last one year, has surprised its managers with the recovery of the lost species. During 2011-12, the annual production from the lake touched an all-time high of 14,228 metric tonne.

At a time when fishery resources are in a declining trend in global marine and coastal ecosystem, Chilika seems to be an exception. The hydrological intervention in Chilika lake in 2000 has been attributed to the resurfacing of the lake fishery. From a meagre 1,745 metric tonne in 1999-2000, the production has spiraled. The average fish landing during 2001-02 to 2009-10 was 11,676 metric tonne per annum. Along with the productivity of the fish, diversity of the lake has also improved. The assessment shows that species diversity stands at 317 fish, 28 prawns and shrimps, 35 brachyuran crabs and two spiny lobsters.

Known for prawn and crabs, Chilika has reported a record prawn landing during the year at 6,413.91 metric tonne which is all-time high. The previous highest prawn landing of 5,000 tonne was recorded in 2004-05. Similarly, the total crab landing during the year was

recorded at 358.26 metric tonne, a record.

"Total fisheries output which is all-time high may also be attributable to high floods during the year. The high floods trigger high production of natural fish food in the ecosystem leading to successful fish seed recruitment and good fish stock development," Chief Executive of Chilika Development Authority Dr Ajit Kumar Patnaik said.

However, landing of only fish, recorded at 7,456.03 metric tonne, has reached a plateau of sorts. Compared to 2003-04 when the lagoon recorded all-time high of 10,000-odd metric tonne, it is a 27.51 per cent drop. This has been due to large-scale wanton killing of juvenile fishes in outer channel by using large size bag nets and due to concentrated 'khanda' fishing. The practices have flourished in the absence of implementation of any regulatory and prohibitory laws.

-Express News Service

## Are Deepwater Fisheries Overfished, or Simply Misunderstood?

Speaking at the World Fisheries Congress 2012, Graham Patchell, from the Sealord Group New Zealand and Chief Scientist for the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA), asked whether deepwater fisheries were overfished or simply misunderstood. Charlotte Johnston, TheFishSite editor reports.

Mr Patchell said that the biggest challenge for deepwater fisheries was ensuring that data, that can really tell you what is happening in the deep ocean, is available for management decision making.

He went on to say that there was a lot of premeditated information about deepwater fisheries that was inaccurate. In fact, he said, many "overfished" stocks are now seen as sustainably managed, as the industry's understanding of the stocks has increased.

### Examples of poorly understood fisheries

#### New Zealand Challenger Orange roughy

In 2000 a catch per unit effort analysis modelled the apparent decline of the New Zealand Challenger orange

roughy stock to three per cent of virgin biomass.

ICES used this study to support their view, in recommendations to NAFO and NEAFC, that deepwater fisheries cannot be sustainably managed.

However further studies and industry findings showed stocks moving back to the area, nine years after the fishery was closed. What had actually happened, explained Mr Patchell, was that fish stocks had moved out of the area (not that numbers had dropped due to overfishing).

Because of this the fishery reopened in 2010.

To data, 2012 data has shown that orange roughly compensate to fishing, like other fish species, with new recruitment occurring, and fish maturing earlier. Mr Patchell said that orange roughly usually mature at 24 years of age, but maturing at 12-13 years of age was becoming more common.

He said there was still 20,000 tonnes or more of “unverified” orange roughly to be added to the data, which would put the stock at greater than 40 per cent biomass.

Over the next two months, two vessels are working in the area to get new estimates.

**Ensuring Sustainable Fisheries**

A key message of the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA) is that the seafood industry must be proactive to ensure sustainable fisheries. In response to this, Mr Patchell explained

that prior to carrying out any fishing 15 years ago, the Sealord Group mapped out the entire habitat, over 160,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

Studies carried out by SIODFA have considered the impacts of bottom trawl fishing and Benthic Protected Areas (BPAs) have been established to maintain and protect biodiversity.

This has been recognised as a major contributor to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). The “Coral” BPA area has also been recognised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as having one of the largest deepwater coral reefs ever discovered.

Other efforts by industry, Mr Patchell described, include fitting high resolution video cameras fitted to bottom trawl nets, to ensure there was no significant impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems.

One of the main issues that has been raised is, how do you get quality scientific data for 30-40 widely separated stocks, that cover an area of over 1000 miles.

Mr Patchell said this can only be done through industry assessments, using commercial vessel acoustics and splash surveys. He pointed out that it wasn’t just fished stocks that move, but that stocks that have never been fished before also move about. A five year acoustic time series of two stocks which were tracked showed them moving up to 15 miles a day, prior to ever being fished.

Concluding, Mr Patchell said that in 2013, Sealord will deploy into the Indian Ocean, the first real time multi-frequency acoustic system with cable link, being built by Australia’s CSIRO. Despite many years of significant research and many years of commercial fishing, the true status of many deepwater stocks is poorly understood. “Deepwater fisheries can, and are being, sustainably fished, and it is time to erase the outdated assertions of these being unsustainable fisheries. “The use of commercial vessels and collaboration between industry and marine scientists has led to an increase in data available.”

*-thefishsite*

**FAO 2012 Global Tuna Outlook**

**Tuna supply is expected to increase somewhat but demand is hurt by high prices, according to the FAO Global Food Outlook.**

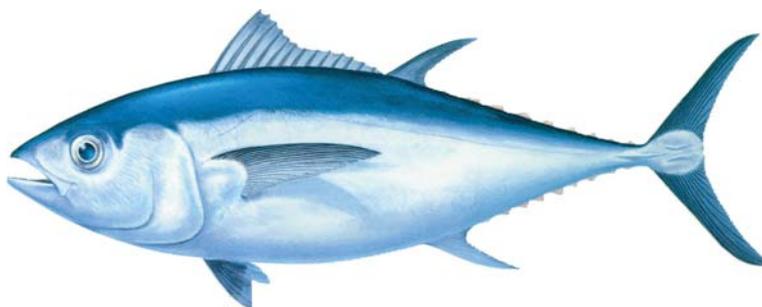
Supplies of skipjack did not improve during the first quarter of 2012, and yellowfin became more limited. Following the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) decision to lift two partial fishing bans, the catch situation may improve in the near future, especially for skipjack.

In the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, 2011 catches reached 540 000 tonnes, with skipjack at 272 700 tonnes representing a 60 percent increase, yellowfin at 208 800 tonnes for a 9

Frozen Tuna Imports (Japan)						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Thousand tonnes						
Yellowfin	90.3	58.7	47.4	44.1	50.1	47.8
Bigeeye	86.3	86.8	77.8	77.1	73.9	62.1
Skipjack	50.5	31.3	33.5	53.3	59.6	42.2
S. bluefin	7.9	8.4	7.4	6.9	6.7	7.4
Albacore	6.2	6.0	8.3	8.5	23.2	18.0
N. Bluefin	5.1	6.3	4.2	4.0	1.8	3.2
Total	246.3	197.5	178.3	193.9	215.3	180.7
Source: INFOFISH						

percent decrease, and bigeye tuna at 44 100 tonnes, an 8 percent decrease. Ecuador and Mexico had the highest catches, followed at a distance by Panama, Venezuela and Colombia. The 2012 catch data for the area show a modest, 4 percent increase, but March prices for yellowfin and skipjack remained firm. In Japan tuna imports fell again in 2011 to 236 400 tonnes, compared with 278 000 tonnes in 2010. Canned tuna imports were up after the March earthquake, as consumers looked for non-perishable products. In the United States, 2011 was another disappointing year, as fresh and frozen tuna imports fell by 14.3 percent. Higher raw-material costs have caused some canneries to introduce smaller can sizes and add more non-tuna food ingredients such as vegetables to the can, especially as lunch-specials.

Despite high prices and economic stagnation, EU imports of canned tuna posted positive growth in 2011, reaching 353 500 tonnes, up by 4.6 percent in quantity. Ecuador maintained its position as the number one supplier closely followed by Thailand. Thai canned tuna export volumes were flat



during 2011 but values increased by a significant 18.3 percent. Thai imports of frozen tuna raw materials totalled 781 449 tonnes, 5 percent lower than in 2010. In Japan, limited supply and good demand will keep tuna prices

firm. In the United States, demand for non-canned tuna is improving, and the non-canned tuna market is expected to improve during spring and summer.

*-thefishsite*

### Fish farming project in Kerala

Minister for Excise and Fisheries K Babu said that a scheme aimed at enhancing fish wealth in the State by expanding fish farming to 12,000 hectares with the support of panchayats will be launched on June 10. Chief Minister Oommen Chandy will inaugurate the project.

Mr. Babu was talking after inaugurating the distribution of subsidies for joint schemes of Kudumbasree and district panchayat here. The project aims at producing an additional 2.25 lakh tonnes of fish wealth.

The government's intention is to encourage fish farming wherever water is available. Mr. Babu said that two committees had been appointed to study the possibility of undertaking fish farming in pokkali-kole fields.

*-The Hindu*

## Fish is Food - The FAO's Fish Price Index

World food prices hit an all-time high in February 2011 and are still almost two and a half times those of 2000. Although three billion people worldwide use seafood as a key source of animal protein, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations—which compiles prices for other major food categories—has not tracked seafood prices.

The article aims to fill this gap by developing an index of global seafood prices that can help to understand food crises and may assist in averting them.

The fish price index (FPI) relies on trade statistics because seafood is heavily traded internationally, exposing non-traded seafood to price competition from imports and exports. Easily updated trade data can thus proxy for domestic seafood prices that are difficult to observe in many regions and costly to update with global coverage. Calculations of the extent of price competition in different countries support the plausibility of reliance on trade data. Overall, the FPI shows less volatility and fewer price spikes than other food price indices including oils,

cereals, and dairy. The FPI generally reflects seafood scarcity, but it can also be separated into indices by production technology, fish species, or region. Splitting FPI into capture fisheries and aquaculture suggests increased scarcity of capture fishery resources in recent years, but also growth in aquaculture that is keeping pace with demand. Regionally, seafood price volatility varies, and some prices are negatively correlated. These patterns hint that regional supply shocks are consequential for seafood prices in spite of the high degree of seafood tradability.

*-Globefish*

# Stock evaluation of Indian mackerel planned

## Group to develop sampling plan for tissue collection along Bay of Bengal

Up for roll call: The Indian mackerel is not regarded as a threatened species in the Indian waters, though there are reports of depleted numbers in waters around Thailand and Myanmar.

Marine fisheries experts will soon cast their nets in different parts of the Bay of Bengal to assess the genetic stock of Indian mackerel. The assessment forms part of the eight-nation Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BoBLME) project, in which India is a participant.

The other nations are Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The Indian Mackerel Working Group, formed as part of the project, will meet in Colombo from Monday to give finishing touches to the programme.

### For a management plan

“The group will work for establishing a robust genetic sampling and analysis scheme for assessing the stock structure of Indian mackerel in the Bay of Bengal region,” the organisers said.

“[Attempts will also be made to] develop a sampling plan for tissue collection along the Bay of Bengal, including the Andaman Islands. [This would enable scientists to] understand how stocks vary across the regions and whether there is one stock or sub-stock structure in the region that will influence how a management plan will be developed for the region,” according to the project document.

### Funding

The project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility in Norway, the Swedish International Development Agency, the Food and Agricultural Organisation, participating governments and the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration.

The Indian delegation includes K K Vijayan, Head, Marine Biotechnology Division of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi; A Gopalakrishnan, Head,



Kochi unit of the National Bureau of Fish Genetics Resources, Lucknow; and S Ramachandran, Senior Fishery Scientist, Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Chennai.

### Periodical review

The experts will evaluate the genetic markers developed for stock identification for Indian mackerel and evaluate the research capabilities of the labs in the region to process and analyse the data. They will also chart out plans to collect the correct information for stock identification and review the results periodically for stock assessment, says the document.

### An ecosystem by itself

FSI director-general K

Vijayakumaran said the stock of dominant species of mackerel available in the Indian mainland and the Andaman Sea were genetically different; the Andaman Sea is a separate ecosystem by itself.

During the study, the genetic characteristics of the species available in different parts would be assessed by scientists, said Dr. Vijayakumaran, who is also the national coordinator of the programme in India.

The species has not been regarded as a threatened one in Indian waters though there could be ups and downs in its stock depending on the changes in environment. However, there were some reports of depletion of stock in waters adjoining Thailand and Myanmar, he said.

In Indian waters, the mackerels, which were earlier available till Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, are now available up to Gujarat in the west coast.

The resource that was earlier found up to Andhra Pradesh in the east coast is now available in Orissa coast too. The average annual catch of the species is estimated to be around 2.5 lakh tonnes. The species fetch up to Rs. 150 a kg.

- Assessment forms part of eight-nation Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project
- Process will show scientists how stocks vary across regions, for better management plan

-The Hindu

## Overfishing will result in disappearance of fish species in 50 years: Official

Overfishing and exploitation of marine biodiversity would result in the disappearance of fish species in the next 50 years, warned M F Farooqui, Special Secretary, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, on Tuesday.

Addressing a function organised in connection with the International Day for Biological Diversity, Mr. Farooqui said beyond the exclusive economic zone, everyone seemed to be exploiting the marine biodiversity and nobody was taking responsibility for conservation.

Pointing out that overfishing in the seas had led to loss of income for fishermen, Mr Farooqui said India with a 7,500-km coastline conserving marine habitat and biodiversity

represented a huge economic benefit.

“India will identify schemes where conservation and development converge. In rural employment guarantee scheme, jobs such as watershed management, soil conservation and water management would be covered,” he said.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity, said India would be at the forefront of biodiversity conservation globally over the next two years as the host country for the 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity. He also hoped that India would ratify the Convention before the event in October.

Mr Dias said the biggest challenge in conserving biodiversity was involving all segments of social and industrial activity. “Less than half-a-dozen countries have ratified the Convention. Wide participation is needed for the conservation goals set out for the decade to be met,” he explained.

He said the biodiversity conservation targets set at Nagoya in 2010 during the 10th Conference of Parties, aimed to tackle the causes of loss of biodiversity by involving government and society, besides promoting sustainable exploitation of natural resources, protecting ecosystems, making the benefits of biodiversity available to all.

*-The Hindu*



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## Deep-sea fishing ban along Karnataka coast from June 15

The deep-sea fishing ban along coastal Karnataka will begin from June 15.

Mr Suresh Kumar Ullal, Deputy Director, Fisheries Department, Mangalore, said that the 57-day fishing ban will be in force along Dakshina Kannada and Udupi coast from June 15 to August 10.

Mechanised or country boats, with inbound or outbound engines of 10 horsepower or more, will not be

allowed to go fishing during the ban period, he said. The Government has imposed this ban keeping in mind the welfare of fishermen and fisheries business during the monsoon period.

Those who violate the ban will not be entitled for any assistance from the Government. This includes the diesel given to mechanised boats at subsidised rates.

It may be mentioned here that the Karnataka Budget for 2012-13 has

increased the supply of tax-free diesel to fishermen to 1.25 lakh kilo litres for 2012-13. This was 1 lakh kilo litres in the 2011-12 Budget. But later during that year, the quantity was increased by 15,000 kilo litres taking the total to 1.15 lakh kilo litres during 2011-12.

Mr Ullal told *Business Line* that the deep-sea fishing ban along Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka will be in force from June 15 to July 31.

-*The Hindu Business Line*

## Freshwater fishes under siege

\*Booming pet trade and decline of wetlands major concerns

\*Miss Kerala, an endemic fish variety, is being caught from the wild and exported in large numbers.

The indiscriminate collection of ornamental fish from water bodies and the steady decline of paddy fields and wetlands that provide breeding grounds for several species have raised the diversity of threats faced by freshwater fishes in Kerala.

Experts have criticised the absence of a mechanism to regulate the collection of fish from the wild to fuel the booming pet trade, both in the domestic and export markets.

More than 100 ornamental species from Kerala are being exported.

### Critically endangered

As many as 39 freshwater fishes in Kerala have been listed as endangered, with five species critically endangered, according to data released by IUCN

(International Union for Conservation of Nature).

According to C P Shaji, Principal Scientific Officer, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, the diversity of threats faced by freshwater fishes in Kerala has gone up over the years. Apart from existing threats like river sand-mining, destructive methods of fishing such as using dynamite and poison and pollution from fertilizers, pesticides and chemical effluents, there are emerging issues like the pet trade and pollution from antibiotics used by farmers to control fungal infection.

Mr. Shaji said the failure to enforce the ban on fishing during the breeding migration season was a matter of concern.

“Wetlands that serve as breeding grounds for fish are on the decline throughout the State. Construction of roads across paddy fields has cut off most of the entry and exit routes to wetlands”. The diversity of equipment used to catch freshwater fishes is another major issue. Electro fishers

that use electrocution to stun fishes are now common”, he said.

### Water temperature

The rise in water temperature in rivers is believed to be another reason for the decline in population of freshwater fishes.

The Pookode Lake Barb (*Puntius pookodensis*), Red Canarese Barb (*Hypselobarbus thomassi*) found in the Periyar, Kabini and Kallada rivers, *Mesonoemacheilus herrei*, a loach endemic to the Anamalai hills, *Barbodes mynaadensis*, a rare endemic barb found in upland streams and rivers and Nilgiri Mystus (*Hemibagrus punctatus*) reported from Wayanad are the critically endangered species.

The Periyar Latia, Nilgiri Danio, Cardamom Garra, Anamalai sucker catfish, Anamali Loach, Nilgiri Barb, Hump backed Mahseer, Deccan Labeo, Malabar swamp eel, Red line Torpedo Barb, also known as Miss Kerala and Travancore Loach are among the endangered ornamental freshwater fishes of Kerala.

-*The Hindu*

## Banned antibiotics in Asian fish imports: Australia

Australian officials are seeing a rising number of Asian fish imports containing banned antibiotics, a report said Wednesday.

Five consignments of fish from Vietnam have been stopped by authorities this year because they contained enrofloxacin, an antibiotic barred in Australia, official figures show.

This compares with three loads of fish from that country stopped last year for the same reason. The Melbourne Age said experts were concerned that increasing amounts of seafood contained the chemicals, which are used in the growing or feeding of aquaculture fish to reduce the occurrence of disease.

“The trend that we see with fish, and it’s generally about antibiotics, is

that they are very low levels of residues but they are there nonetheless,” Narelle Clegg, from the agriculture department’s food safety branch, told the paper.

While fish imports, including basa fillets and frozen fish cutlets, were stopped from Vietnam because of antibiotics, it was not the only country providing affected food.

China, France and Italy were among many source nations shipping food which failed to meet Australian standards, the newspaper said.

Its analysis of public records showed that since 2010, some 1,050 imported foods had not made the grade — with some 400 foods stopped at the border because of micro-organisms such as E. coli.

Others contained banned additives or contaminants, or failed chemical analysis.

Most likely to fail the Australian tests was Chinese food, followed by products from India, Italy, Japan, South Korea and France, it said.

Experts said antibiotics were a concern even at a low level as they can lead to the evolution of resistant strains of bacteria in both fish and humans.

“If you are taking them into your intestine, they could have some effect on your own (bacteria) in your bowel and it can leave your own bacteria that used to be sensitive to antibiotics resistant,” Peter Collignon from the Australian National University told the paper.

*-channelnewsasia.com/ AFP*

## Fishermen return with good catch on day one

The first day venture by mechanized boat fishermen of Rameswaram ended on a happy note as most of them returned with a good haul.

### Moratorium ends

The seashore in Rameswaram was abuzz with activities on Thursday morning with the arrival of fishermen, who went for fishing after the end of the 45-day annual moratorium on fishing in the deep sea.

The mood among the fishermen was upbeat. They offloaded their catch with the hope of selling them for a good rate.

Interaction with various fishermen revealed that atmosphere in the “traditional fishing ground” was conducive and they did not encounter

Sri Lankan Naval personnel or other agencies.

They did have a happy fishing on the day one of the renewed season. They did face the unfriendly weather of strong wind blowing across the region.

They said that each mechanized boat had netted an average of 150 to 200 kg as against the average of catch of 40 to 50 kg during the normal circumstances. It might fetch Rs.40,000 to 50,000 if they were offered good price.

### Rough sea

“We are generally happy about the first day trip to the sea. Everything



went well except the choppy condition of the sea,” said A Packiaraj of Rameswaram.

He, however, added that about 10 mechanised trawlers had to return halfway because of engine problems, strong wind and other reasons. Catch for some of the fishermen was not satisfactory.

*-The Hindu*

## ABC Finds Illegal Antibiotics in Imported Shrimp

Traces of illegal antibiotics are lurking in America's favorite seafood, according to a new report by ABC World News. The news outlet tested 30 imported shrimp samples from grocery stores across the country and found three were positive for antibiotics that are banned in the United States.

Though the sample size was small, the fact that 10 percent were found to contain illegal drugs is significant considering Americans annually eat 1 billion pounds of shrimp, 90 percent of which is imported from halfway across the world — mostly from Thailand, Indonesia, Ecuador, and China.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration physically inspects less than two percent of imported seafood shipments and even smaller percentage are sampled for drug residue testing. In fiscal year 2009, for example, the FDA tested .1 percent of all imported seafood products for residues, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

ABC, which has ramped up its coverage of food issues, sent the shrimp samples to the Institute of Environmental and Human Health food lab at Texas Tech University for testing. In the three positive samples, lab technicians found banned antibiotics enrofloxacin, chloramphenicol, and nitrofurazone, which is a known carcinogen.

"About 10 percent of them showed evidence of pharmaceutical residue in the muscle tissue alone, which people eat," Dr. Ronald Kendall, the director of the Institute told ABC. Kendall said two samples from New York averaged 28 and 29 parts per billion (ppb) of nitrofurazone. If FDA



were to find 1 ppb of the drug in seafood, the product would not be allowed on the market.

It's hard to gauge how widespread the use of antibiotics is aquaculture — and even harder to determine how often illegal drugs are used — but some experts think the industry is getting better at managing residue issues.

"I think the trend is going toward less antibiotics use," said Jose Villalon last week at the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Cooking for Change conference. Villalon is the vice president of the World Wildlife Fund's U.S. Aquaculture Program, which coordinates the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC). ASC is currently working on standards for the industry and aims to be the premiere certification scheme for responsible aquaculture.

For example, ASC standards do not allow any antibiotics to be used in shrimp production, but for farmed salmon, certain drugs are allowed but for very limited, targeted uses, and must be administered under veterinary supervision, according to Villalon.

"For the use that is allowed in certain species, I think the critical issue is to make sure they're not on the World Health Organization's list of critically important antibiotics," he told the conference in Monterey last week. "You really don't want to allow, even though legally they are allowed, some of those antibiotics on that list. There

should be a push to eliminate it, definitely."

Dr. Daniel Benetti, director of aquaculture at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, who also spoke at the event in Monterey, noted that some in the industry are now turning to other compounds to combat disease.

"There's a strong push to use probiotics nowadays...the same ones we use in yoghurt, that colonize the guts of the organisms and takes over the environment," said Dr. Benetti. "It's the best approach and I think that's the direction the industry is going."

Exactly what drugs used in aquaculture and how much of them might end up on consumers' plates is not clear.

The GAO last year raised serious questions about the FDA's oversight of seafood, finding that the federal program is "limited" and needs to be strengthened. The report zeroed in on the use of drugs in overseas aquaculture and the general lack of testing for both legal and illegal compounds.

Gavin Gibbons, spokesman for the National Fisheries Institute, told ABC that the trade group was "disappointed" in the test results, but didn't think more government testing was the answer.

"Our member companies do their own sampling and testing at different times both in the exporting countries and here in the U.S.," said Gibbons, adding that companies also invest in third party audits to help manage their supply chains.

*By Helina Bottemiller*

© Food Safety News

## Fishing banned on west coast for 45 days

The government has banned fishing for 45 days, beginning Friday the 15th June, on the west coast to prevent destruction of breeding grounds of fish and increase the marine resource.

The 45-day ban on fishing on the east coast ended on May 31. During the period fishermen using mechanised boats did not venture into the sea. However, country boats were allowed to fish.

Now, with the ban on the west coast, fishermen from Colachel to Neerodi and from Neerodi to

Ernakulam are not allowed to go on deep-sea fishing. Those who had gone to Kerala for fishing started returning to their native villages in the district from Friday.

A large number of mechanised boats were found anchored in the Colachel fishing harbour area. Merchants from Kerala have started thronging Chinna Muttom in Kanyakumari to purchase fish, which will be sold in lucrative Kerala market.

The Department of Health has taken intensive measures to prevent the

spread of dengue in coastal areas of the district with fishermen who had migrated to various parts of Kerala returning to their villages. Mobile medical teams have been formed to screen them. If they have symptoms they would be asked to obtain treatment.

The coming days will pose a challenge to health officials as well as local bodies to contain dengue with the onset of monsoon in Kerala, said P. Justin Antony, founder of Tamil Nadu Fishermen Development Trust, Thoothur.

*-The Hindu*

## Why is marine life dying on city shores?

On March 29, a humpback baleen whale was found dead on the Uran coast. The whale's carcass was washed ashore with deep cuts on it. Without conducting a preliminary post mortem, the whale's carcass was disposed of. Locals and forest officials, too, found nothing unusual.

Over the next two months, the city saw 11 similar incidents where marine mammals such as whales, dolphins and sea turtles were washed ashore, dead. Apart from these 11 instances, five instances were also reported from the Ratnagiri coast in southern Maharashtra. In at least seven of these cases, the mammals were covered with oil and had deep cuts on their carcasses.

In another mysterious incident in Velas, Ratnagiri, in the first week of April, two pet dogs of a local, Mohan Upadhyay, died after licking the carcass of a whale.

The unusual frequency of these deaths has perplexed marine ecologists and environmentalists alike. Several environmentalists have also claimed

that the mammals may have fallen prey to the toxic oil pollution in the Arabian Sea or may have been hit by the propellers of a ship.

These events have put the debate on marine pollution and marine ecology conservation back in the spotlight. "The death of these marine creatures, which is unnatural, points to environmental degradation of marine life. Of the 20 whale species found in the Arabian Sea, certain species migrate in search of plankton. If the content of heavy metals in the aquatic vegetation has increased, it may have harmed these mammals," said Dr Vinay Deshmukh, scientist in charge, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

"Marine pollution affects all aquatic life. The amount of industrial and domestic waste released from the city into the west coast is considerable, and its effect needs to be investigated," said Deshmukh, who has been asked by the forest department to conduct a thorough study on the deaths of marine mammals.

As per current data, Mumbai generates 3,000 million litres of sewage a day (mld). This sewage, which is only partially treated, is released into the west coast via creeks using the drainage outfalls at Bhandup, Ghatkopar, Thane, Colaba, Versova and Malad, Bandra and Dharavi.

According to P Sakhare, chief engineer, sewerage operations, BMC this waste is fully treated at six sewage treatment plants located at Colaba, Worli, Bandra, Ghatkopar, Bhandup and Versova. "The treated sewage is released into the west coast from three marine outfalls at Colaba, Worli and Bandra, while at Bhandup and Ghatkopar we have aerated lagoons, where waste water is treated in a pond through artificial aeration," Sakhare said.

Environmentalists claim the effluents released in the creeks and sea and oil pollution are entering our food chain and also turning water bodies into nullahs. "Marine vegetation feeds on the effluents which in turn is consumed by the fish. Most fish in creeks and wetlands is sold in markets

and so pollution enters our food chain,” said Stalin D, director (projects), Vanashakti non-profit organisation.

Plastic debris is another major source of marine pollution. “The use of plastic on the coast should be restricted as it often ends up harming

marine ecology,” said N Vasudevan, chief conservator of forests (mangroves).

According to Dr Shankar Gajbhiye, chief scientist, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), although the level of heavy metals in the west coast has decreased, the

effluents released in the creeks and beaches has had an adverse localised impact, polluting them immensely.

“Versova and Mahim beaches are hotspots of organic pollution. Marve creek is also highly polluted,” Gajbhiye said.

*-Hindustan Times*

## Jharkhand fisheries sector achieves breakthrough in fish production

The fisheries sector in Jharkhand has been witnessing a phenomenal growth after Jharkhand became a separate state bifurcating Bihar in 2000. When in 2001-02, the production of fish in the state had been only 14,000 metric tonnes. In 2010-11, eighty government fish firms produced 71,886 metric tonnes.

The fish seed production was increased from 32 crore to 67 crore, along with construction of 116 new fish seed hatcheries in private and government sector. The department of fisheries aims to produce fish of 1,40,000 tonnes during 12th plan.

The department of fisheries earning in the year 2001-02 had been only Rs 67 lakh, which in 2008-09 rose to Rs 191 lakh.

It may be mentioned that Jharkhand is predominantly an agriculture state. The major dependence of farming and its allied activities on rainfall has resulted in a meagre income from the small holdings of the community and has constrained the development of rural areas.

The fisheries is an integral part of rural households more so, for the traditional fishermen whose livelihood is inseparably linked with fishing.

An estimated 1.35 lakh fishermen in Jharkhand traditionally depend on fisheries and the activity provides secondary source of income and employment to all these rural households.

The existing demand for fish in Jharkhand is partly met through supplies from outside as internal production is not adequate to meet the demand. On the other hand, the state has a large number of vast and diverse water bodies, developed for multiple purposes supplementing and complementing agriculture and allied activities.

*-Business Standard*

## Karnataka, AP record highest fish production

New Delhi: Clocking a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 11.48 per cent during 2004-05 and 2010-11, Karnataka has emerged as the leading coastal state with highest growth of fish production according to an independent research and analysis of an apex industry body ASSOCHAM.

With about five lakh tonnes of annual fish production, Karnataka accounts for almost six per cent of overall fish production in India which is currently estimated at about 91 lakh tonnes according to The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry

of India (ASSOCHAM). Besides, in value terms the fisheries sector in Karnataka is worth about Rs 4,000 crore.

With over 300 km of coastline and almost six lakh hectares of inland waters, Karnataka has huge scope for further growth and investments in fisheries sector. Besides, about eight lakh fishermen are involved in fishing business across Karnataka.

Amid leading coastal states in India, Andhra Pradesh ranks second in terms of growth in fish production with a CAGR of about eight per cent

and with over 13.5 lakh tonnes of fish production annually, the state accounts for over 16 per cent of country's total fish production.

West Bengal (4.85 per cent), Tamil Nadu (4.47 per cent), Gujarat (3.37 per cent) and Odisha (3.25 per cent) are certain other leading fish producing states in India which recorded fish production growth rate between three and four per cent during 2004-05 and 2009-10.

Kerala recorded least growth rate of fish production between the aforesaid period as the fish production

has come down from about 8.66 lakh tonnes in 2008-09 to the current level of about 6.82 lakh tonnes, said ASSOCHAM.

Besides, growth of fish production in Maharashtra (0.86pc) was also below one per cent as the fish production has fallen from about 5.96 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 to an estimated 5.82 lakh tonnes.

Goa has registered a negative growth rate of fish production of about -33 per cent as the fish production has slipped from a whopping 9.9 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 to the current level of just about 94,000 tonnes mostly due to over-exploitation of fishery resources, highlights the ASSOCHAM analysis.

Fish production in India is rising at a CAGR of about five per cent and is likely to cross 104 lakh tonnes by

2015, according to ASSOCHAM. In terms of value, exports of fish from India are likely to reach Rs 16,000 crore by 2015 from the current level of about Rs 13,500 crore.

Captured fish accounts for about 70 per cent of India's total fish production annually, while aquaculture accounts for about 30 per cent.

India is the second largest fish producer in the world after China and accounts for nearly six per cent of global fish production of about 180 million tonnes, said ASSOCHAM.

Besides, India has over 8,100 kilometers of marine coastline, four million hectares of reservoirs, two million hectares of brackish water and nearly 51,000 square kilometers of continental shelf area and thus there is a huge scope for developing

technology for value addition and infrastructure for fish production through public private partnership, asserts the chamber.

The units in the fish processing sector are largely small scale proprietary, partnership firms and fishermen co-operatives. There has been spectacular growth in the marine fisheries sector due to well developed harvest and post harvest infrastructure and increased demand for seafood both in the domestic and export markets, said ASSOCHAM.

Of the non-coastal states, Haryana has recorded a staggering 14.7 per cent growth rate of fish production followed by Chattisgarh (11.29 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (7.05 per cent), said ASSOCHAM. (IBNS)

*-newkerala*

## **Aquaculture gains top level recognition as a contributor to future food production**

Kofi Annan left a deep impression on world aquaculture leaders when spoke on how aquaculture can contribute to feeding nine billion people by 2050 in addressing the fully-subscribed global aquaculture business conference AquaVision 2012 in Stavanger, Norway. It is a mark of the rising recognition of aquaculture as part of the solution to feeding the planet in the coming decades that Kofi Annan, two times Secretary General of the United Nations, found time in his hectic agenda to give a presentation on this important topic. Around 100 local students who had prepared reports on sustainable food production attended the conference to hear Mr Annan speak. After his presentation, he met with those students with the highest rated reports.

In the same AquaVision session, Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director General at FAO—the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, described the emerging food security challenges. FAO views aquaculture as a vital part of addressing this challenge in a sustainable manner. Mr Mathiesen reported that FAO aims to build a broad global partnership programme to advance aquaculture and wants to see special initiatives to increase the impact of fish on human nutrition, including for women and for children, especially in their first 1000 days.

### **Protein for 500 million more**

Speaking next, Dr Fraser Thomson of the McKinsey Global Institute told the delegates that aquaculture can potentially increase to

meet the protein needs of 500 million more people. He calculated by 2050 there would be an additional three billion more middle class people with spending power to be selective in their food purchasing. He highlighted the importance of aquaculture by pointing out the constraints on land agriculture, which include competition for raw materials, water, land and energy.

Also in the first session Dr Lisa Borges of the Sustainable Fishery Partnership described how aquaculture can contribute to sustainable fisheries and Professor Rudy Rabbinge of Wageningen University elaborated on why the food security challenge is increasing the importance of aquaculture. The conference is organised by global fish feed leader Skretting and its parent company

Nutreco. It was opened by Knut Nesse, Head of Skretting Group and Nutreco Executive Board member. Subsequent conference sessions will focus on the boom in aquaculture in Asia, the location of many of the new consumers, and look into the contributions of science and technology to aquaculture growth and sustainability.

AquaVision is a world-class aquaculture conference that attracts a diverse range of stakeholders to Stavanger every two years and has done so again in June 2012. The conference, organised by Skretting and its parent company Nutreco since 1996, has established itself as an important meeting place for some 400 participants from more than 30 countries.

AquaVision 2012 is being attended by the maximum capacity of 430 registered delegates from around 33 countries. Organised by Skretting and Nutreco since 1996, AquaVision is now established as a world-class conference that attracts a diverse range of stakeholders to Stavanger every two years.

*<http://aquavision.org>*

## **USDA Works to Create Organic Aquaculture Standards**

Consumers are likely to see much more domestic farm-raised seafood bearing an organic label in the not-too-distant future. The U.S. Department of Agriculture released a memo this week about forward with developing an organic aquaculture certification program.



According to Seafood Source, “Existing U.S. rules do not allow any seafood to bear the coveted ‘USDA Organic’ label due to the lack of standards for organic aquaculture production and certification, though some seafood products are labeled as organic because they’ve been certification by a third-party outfit such as Naturland in Germany.”

Organic Standards Board (NOSB), the Deputy Administrator of the National Organic Program (NOP), Miles McEvoy said that his agency is preparing a proposed rule for the production and certification of organic aquaculture products.

“We expect this rulemaking process to take place over the next two years,” wrote McEvoy, in the memo. “In anticipation of this rulemaking, the

NOP has received a number of petitions for substances to be added to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List) for use in organic aquaculture. These petitioned substances must be reviewed by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).”

The document formally asks NOSB to review the petitions about what substances might be allowed under the program.

The development of these standards comes amidst growing concern about chemical residues in farm-raised seafood — and concerns about aquaculture practices more generally.

*News Desk © Food Safety News,*

In a memorandum to the National

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# TRADE ENQUIRY

## TRADE ENQUIRIES RECEIVED AT IBSS 2012 (CONTINUATION)

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|---|--|---|
| <p>1. <b>R S K TRADING CO</b><br/>Raguram A. (Director)<br/>18 Gould Court, Brampton,<br/>Ontario, Canada L6P 1G9<br/>Ph:(905)794-9068<br/>Mobile:(416) 992-7801<br/>Fax:(416) 820-4771<br/>E mail: abirami20@hotmail.com<br/><i>Fresh fish-Barracuda, black pomfret,<br/>sword fish-@4000kg/week</i></p> | <p>Fax: (33) 3656-8931<br/>E mail: rase11@hotmail.com<br/><i>Raw and cooked shrimp-PDPTO (IQF<br/>&amp; block)-ALL GRADES, BT &amp;<br/>vannamei</i></p>   | <p>( Managing Director)<br/>P.O. Box 43,<br/>Schotlandstraat 47,<br/>Oranjestad Aruba,<br/>Ph: (297) 5821064<br/>Fax: (297) 5828213<br/>E mail: onno@caribbeanoverseas.com<br/><i>HL-16/20, PDPTO-8/12-16/20-<br/>IQF (BT &amp; vannamei)</i></p> |
| <p>2. <b>PESCADERIA PACIFICO</b><br/>J. Alejandro Garcia Flores<br/>Av. Del Pial N. 8 Col. EI Vigia<br/>Mercado del Mar, Zapopan, Jal.<br/>C. P. 45140<br/>Ph: (33) 3633-4336<br/>Mobile:3331-152684</p>  | <p>3. <b>TIAN TIAN FOOD SERVICE</b><br/>Kama Law ( Vice President)<br/>1515 Hebert ST. Houston,<br/>TX 77012<br/>Ph:281-657-6628<br/>Mobile:832-755-6868<br/>Fax:281-657-6627<br/>E mail: lkamch@yahoo.com<br/><i>HLSO BT-16/20 to 61/70 (IQF)</i></p> | <p>5. <b>JOAQUIN GIL DEL REAL</b><br/>Frangaly S. A.<br/>San Francisco, Panama<br/>Rep de Panama<br/>Ph: (507) 226-5416/7864 / 7312<br/>Fax (507) 226-6292<br/>jg@frangaly.com<br/><i>AFD shrimp</i></p>  |
| <p>4. <b>CARIBBEAN OVERSEAS LTD</b><br/>Onno Van Romondt</p>  |  |   |

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