



STATUS OF MARINE FINFISH AQUACULTURE

IN

MYANMAR

by

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-Myanmar has a long costal line of 2832 km stretching from the northern most at the mouth of Nerf River to southern most at the Victoria point.

-A long stretching coastal areas forms almost 213720 sq km of continental shelf.



Current Status and Species Culture

- Fish culture has been practiced since 1950s and nowadays (45452) ha of freshwater fishponds are recorded.
- Among marine fin fishes, the indigenous species of sea bass (*Lates calcarifer*) and groupers (*Epinephelus* spp.) are famous and abundant in Myanmar water along the coast.


-State has three year plan (2000-2003) for the development of finfish culture.

-It is expected to develop 26315 ha of fishponds and 19 new fishery stations including 3 stations for marine finfishes.

-Location of marine finfish stations were designated at Chaungtha, Taungok and Myeik.

-Chaungtha in Ayeyarwady Division is under construction as a proto type.

-Two other stations are to be constructed at Taungok Township and Myeik Township.



-Myanmar has several indigenous marine species among these potential species are sea bass, groupers, snapper and milkfish.

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Asian Sea Bass, *Lates calcarifer*



Greasy Grouper *Epinephelus tauvina*



red snapper, *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*



Milkfish, *Chanos chanos*



-Commercial scale grow out farming of grouper in net cages are being practiced at Kyun Su Township (Myeik area) in Taninthayi Division.

- At present the most pioneer farm manage almost 300- 350 net cages of 3x3x3 meter size.

-The most common species are *Epinephelus coiodes* and *E. Tauvina*.

-Different juveniles of 10 cm to 25 cm are generally stocked.

-Culture period is 3-12 months, stocking rate is 800-2500 pcs per cage and survival rate is about 30% at harvest.

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Grouper larvae



10cm grouper fingerlings ready for stocking in pond

Prices of various marine finfish fingerlings are as follows:

# 10-12.5 cm (60 gm)	50 Kyats
# 13-13.5 cm (120 gm)	90 Kyats
# 16-18.5 cm (150 gm)	100 Kyats
# 19-21.5 cm (200 gm)	150 kyats
# 22-24.5 cm (250 gm)	200 kyats
# 25-27.5 cm (300 gm)	300 kyats

Status of nursery

- Almost 60% of fry mortality was observed during first week.**
- mortality during transportation was about 10%**
- Hatchery, nursery and management techniques are urgently need for the development of marine finfish culture in the country.**



Fry



-In Myeik area floating net cages are used for groupers culture.

-The sizes of the cages is 3x3x3 meters and a cluster of cages usually set and stationed by anchored at appropriate site.

- Pond: small earthen ponds of 0.4 ha are used for sea bass farming in Palaw Township, Thanintharyi Division.

-Recirculation system: It is not initiated yet.

Feed used and Feeding practies

-Ground trash fish are fed daily in the morning and evening.

-In Rakhine State fishes are fed with either whole trash fish or chopped trash fishes.

- Feeding rate is 5% of the total fish weight.

Socio-economics, environmental and marketing issues

- Fish is one of the major diets and source of protein for Myanmar people.
- Fisheries sector stands in third position in foreign exchange earning after Agriculture and Forestry sectors of the country.
- As the declining in captures fisheries, conducting of Aquaculture is the most effective alternation in sustainable fish production.
- Aquaculture becomes promising industry and an important role to elevate the social economy by enhancing job opportunities.

future development

- Among the several marine species, sea bass, grouper, snapper and milkfish are potential species for future development.

Other issues

- Lack of sufficient seed supply.
- Lack of technologies are standing major constraint.



-Artificial propagation.

- Nursery technology and facilities.

- As well as capital inputs are urgently needed to speed up the marine finfish culture industries.

Recommendation on future development of marine finfish aquaculture and potential for collaboration

-Myanmar is active member of NACA, SEAFDEC, ASEAN and FAO.

-We highly acknowledge all organizations for the contribution of appropriate assistance and sharing of invaluable experiences.

-Collaboration with regional organizations, the sustainable aquaculture technologies among farmers.

- Core extensions personals are required**
- to formulate and implement the appropriate project.**

Conclusion

- There are huge potential for further development in marine finfish culture, which is just initiated in Myanmar.**
- It is envisaged that concert effort by both State and private sector, mariculture will be booming very near future.**
- The Department of Fisheries is pursuing mariculture development by providing assistances and dissemination of technology to all fish farmers.**

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The land is covered in dense green forest, with a few buildings and a prominent golden stupa visible. The ocean is a deep blue-green, with some rocky outcrops visible in the water. The text 'THANK YOU' is overlaid in a large, bold, rainbow-colored font with a black outline.

THANK YOU

Kye Zu Tin Bar De`