

Cobia culture in low volume cages in coastal waters of Uttara Kannada, Karnataka

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Cobia, *Rachycentron canadum* is a marine finfish globally favoured for aquaculture. In India, cage culture of cobia was first reported by ICAR-CMFRI in 2013 with better growth rate recorded under conditions of higher salinities (Philipose *et al.* 2013). The present report is on the growth and production of cobia, *Rachycentron canadum* in Gangavali estuary (14° 61' 225'' N and 74 °35'726''E) of coastal Karnataka during the period 2018-19. Cage culture of cobia by a local fisherwomen of Shiroor village of Ankola taluk in Uttarakannada district of Karnataka under ICAR-CMFRI-NFDB (National Fisheries Development Board) project on "Open Water cage culture in selected Districts in Kerala and Karnataka" was successfully completed. 1724 numbers of hatchery produced cobia seeds with an average initial weight of 15 gm were stocked in square galvanized iron (GI) cage (4m x 4m x 3 m) during December 2018 and were fed with low value fishes during the culture period. Culture



Fig.1. Cobia harvest from cage site at Shiroor village, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka

was for a period of 180 days and recorded an average final weight of 475 g each. The specific growth rate and average daily growth rate of fish were recorded as 1.46 % weight gain/day and 2.51 g/day respectively. The water quality parameters were recorded during the culture period and the salinity ranged between 24-28 ppt. The harvested biomass of 460 kg after 180 days of

culture generated an income of ₹ 1,0,1200. The study indicated that cobia is a potential candidate species for coastal water cage culture but growth rate was low compared to marine waters. The present study indicated the prospects of cobia cage farming in coastal Karnataka to meet the future demand for food fish from aquaculture sector in India.