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RECORD PRODUCTION OF MILKFISH FROM PONDS DEVELOPED IN SANDY BEACH AT CALICUT

The milkfish, *Chanos chanos*, a hardy, euryhaline and fast growing species was cultured to study the production as well as survival rates in the pump-fed, polyethylene film lined ponds developed on sandy beach at Calicut Research Centre of CMFRI from July 1982 to February 1983. In experiments conducted in 0.20 ha ponds a production of 1819 kg/ha/169 days (3927 kg/ha/year) in a monoculture pond, 1308.9 kg/ha/169 days (2825 kg/ha/year) in a polyculture pond with prawn *Penaeus indicus* and 1007.4 kg/ha/211 days (1741 kg/ha/year) in a mixed culture pond with prawn, *P. indicus* and fish *Eetroplus suratensis* was obtained.

The maximum survival rate was 87.1% in monoculture pond, 74.4% in polyculture pond and 48.9% in mixed culture pond. In milkfish stocked at 18 mm size brought from Mandapam in the east coast, maximum growth of 361 mm in length and 357 g in weight was observed at harvest after 169 days of stocking. The fishes were fed with an artificial feed made out of coconut oil cake, ground nut oil cake and rice bran mixed in the ratio 1 : 1 : 1 at the rate of 10% of the body weight.

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