



FISH & FISHERIES

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THE COSTLY FISH



The Pacific Bluefin Tuna, *Thunnus orientalis* – is known to attain a maximum size of 3 m in total length/ 550 kg and its maximum age is calculated at 25 years. In December 2012, a Bluefin tuna weighing 222 kg was caught from the northeastern Japan and sold at US \$ 1.76 million by auction at Tokyo's Tsukiji Fish market. The cost per kg worked out to US \$ 7963. The Bluefin tunas are famous for the preparation of Japanese sea food item of "Sushi".

Earlier, the Guinness world record for the most expensive tuna fish was by a 342 kg blue fin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and sold for US \$ 4,20,000 by auction in the Tsukji fish market in Tokyo, Japan, on 5 January 2011.

ANOTHER COSTLY FISH-BUT NOT FETCHED ANY MONEY

Last May 2012, an Auckland fisherman caught a 335.4 kg Bluefin tuna, but could not sell it because, he was not licensed to sell fish. Otherwise, the fish could have fetched US \$ 3.18 million and US \$ 7961 per kg.

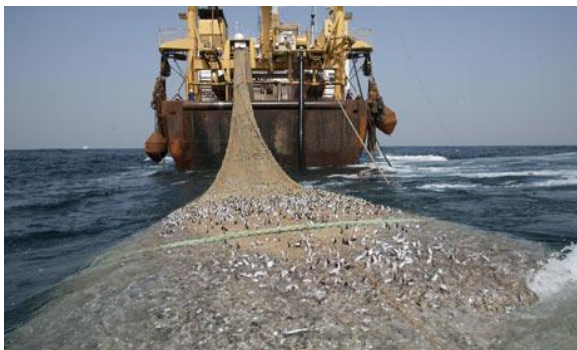


BAN ON FISHING NEAR GAHIRMATA MARINE SANCTUARY IN ODISHA

The mass nesting by the endangered Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) has begun in the first week of November 2012. To ensure the safety of the mating and nesting of these turtles, the Government of Odisha banned the fishing off Gahirmata Marine Sanctuary, in accordance with the Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1982 and the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. This 7-month ban will be strictly imposed on the 20-km stretch of the Dhamra-Rushikulya river mouth

This ban will help prevent the entanglement of these turtles in the fishing nets and their subsequent death. To compensate the loss incurred by the fishermen, the World Bank funded Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme has been taken up to provide the alternative livelihood projects.. Under this scheme, it is planned to cover all fishermen families to compensate their loss due to the seven month long fishing ban.

EUROPEAN FISHING FLEETS EXCEED THE ALLOTTED FISH QUOTAS



Recent study by the researches has shown that the European fishing fleets have landed fish from deep sea (400 m depth),

28 times more than the quantity originally allotted. Those fishes occur in deeper waters are slow growing and restricted breeding. It is feared that such violation of fishing policy may lead to over-exploitation of resources. For example, fishery for orange roughy or deep sea perch, *Hoplostethus atlanticus* has already collapsed. More species are likely to meet the same fate. The study also revealed that European fleets have exerted more efforts to exploit deep sea catches in recent decades. During 1950s, the average depth of operation was 137 m, which increased to 196 m in 2006. Whereas for the deep sea fishing the depth increased from 407 to 535 m. Data on quantity of by-catch and their species composition were not recorded by these fleets. The researchers have opined that unless the fishing policy is refined and strictly adhered to, the remaining fish stocks will be in peril.

Source: The Guardian , 3rd October 2012

SUCCESSFUL BROODSTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND SEED PRODUCTION OF COBIA BY CIBA



The Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai has developed a new technology for controlled breeding of the pond-reared broodstock of Cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) and subsequent seed production. The hatchery produced seeds were handed over to two progressive

fish farmers for grow-out culture. As Cobia is a fast growing fish and can reach 10kg in a year, only 100 juveniles will be sufficient for 1 tonne production per year.

MOBILE FISH STALL FOR CHENNAI CITY

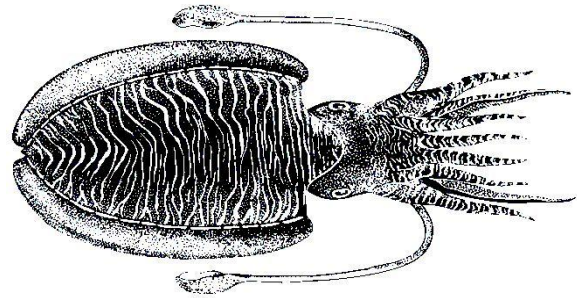
The Department of Fisheries of Tamil Nadu has recently introduced a mobile fish stall in Chennai, which can hold up to 1000 kg of fish in well-refrigerated and hygiene condition. The mobile fish stall contained facilities such as 200-litre freshwater tank, drainage collection tank, display unit, ice storage, cutting and cleaning table, wash area, billing machine and weighing machine. Initially, the mobile fish stall was stationed at South Asian Federation Games Village and sold the fish throughout the week. It is proposed to introduce more mobile stalls for Anna Nagar, Mogappair, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Velachery and Sembakkam. This service is providing fresh fish for the consumers at their door step and the price of fish is cost-effective. A total of 13 vehicles for the State, including five for Chennai, were procured. Adding this door service, the department has revised its fish sales target from 315 tonnes to 450 tonnes for the year 2012-13 for Chennai city alone.

WHALES- AS GOD FOR VIETNAM FISHERMEN

Before undertaking the sea voyage, the Vietnamese fishermen visit a temple at Ly Son Island and worship the God called "Ca Ong" or Whale. The temple houses the remains of two sacred whales. It is a tale that the whales, which weighed between 50 and 70 tons when alive and were both more than 20 m long, beached in separate

occasions on Ly Son's shores over 100 years ago. It is their general belief that when the fishermen face difficult time at sea, the whales will save them. There are few instances, when the fishermen faced a fiery cyclonic storm, they were saved by a whale.

NEW LIPSTICK FROM SQUID SKIN



The Scientists from Central Institute of Fishery Technology, Kochi have developed a new technology through which, a lipstick could be prepared. The brown chromatophores present in the squid skin have been isolated and used as natural colourant or pigment in the lipstick, instead of artificial colours normally used in the commercial preparation. The newly-formulated lipstick was subjected to physical, chemical and microbiological evaluations and found that the new one possessed superior properties when compared to the commercially available lipsticks. The squid-based lipstick will have a shelf life of 15 months and cost-wise, it will be 10 % cheaper than those of the commercial ones.

GLOBAL EFFORT IN SAVING GANGETIC DOLPHINS, RIVER TERRAPINS AND WHITE-BELLIED HERONS

The Save Our Species (SOS), a global coalition initiated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),

the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank, will support the conservation of Gangetic Dolphin, River Terrapin and White-bellied Herons. The Guwahati-based NGO Aranyak will be responsible for the Gangetic dolphin project in the Brahmaputra, while the Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation will be implementing the project on river terrapins. The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment will look after White-bellied Heron project.

SEA LEVEL RISING



According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the sea level is rising faster than expected and may cross one metre mark by the end of this century. The reason attributed to this phenomenon is not only the melting of ice from both the Arctic and Antarctic, but also the draining of ground freshwater, drawn from several land areas of the world, into the sea.

WOMEN IN RESCUE OF MANGROVES IN WEST BENGAL

Once their husbands have cleared huge areas of mangroves either for firewood purpose or for construction of shrimp/fish ponds, now hundreds of women living in the Sundarban areas of West Bengal have come forward to raise the saplings of

mangrove plants and planting them in the river banks, closer to their huts, in order to safeguard their surroundings from the onslaught of future floods and cyclonic storms. They faced a bitter experience during the 2009 cyclonic storm "Aila". Due to climate change, the floods and cyclonic storms have increased considerably in Bay of Bengal region in recent years.



The women self-help groups are getting funds from UNESCO and it was possible to raise 1,70,000 saplings in three to four months and could cover an area of 14 ha.

STATUS OF MANGROVES IN THE SUNDRBANS



In India, 17,179 ha of mangroves were converted as the agricultural land and 7,554 ha as shrimp ponds during 1975-2005. Whereas in Bangladesh 7,500 ha have become submerged due to the rising seas during the last 30 years.