

He exhorted the Institutes to strive to improve the quality of production to meet the global standards. It was mentioned by him that fish production had gone up from 7 lakh t in early 50s to 48 lakh t. by 1994-95. He said the country stood 7th in terms of fish production at global level. He laid particular emphasis for improving the quality of life of the fisher folk.

The Union Minister was extremely unhappy at the recent undesirable events, in brackishwater aquaculture sector. He was very critical of the circumstances that led to the problems in brackishwater aquaculture with refer-

ence to environmental and ecological conditions.

He felt that apparently our scientists did not do what was expected of them. Otherwise the matter would not have gone to the Supreme Court. Scientists should have performed their duty of preventing the incidence of disease while being very vigilant. He said that the incidence of disease would not have materialised had the environment been properly taken care of.

The Minister expressed his high appreciation of the work being done at CIFE, Bombay and CICFRI, Calcutta as

well. He said that Government would come up to help the farmers and fishermen.

He appealed to the Andhra Pradesh Government through Mr. K. Vidyadhara Rao, to protect and promote the industry. He said that the farmers could be educated on matters in respect of development activities. What had happened in Russia was a glaring and transparent example. We should not keep ourselves in isolation.

Dr. K. Devadasan, Principal-Scientist of CIFT, Cochin proposed a vote of thanks

JADA JAAL FOR OFF-SHORE FISHING

R.S. Manoharadoss, Puthra Pravin & J.B. Paradva

"Jada Jaal", are Gill nets fabricated out of thick High Density Polyethylene multifilament twines (*Jada* = thick; *Jaal* = net), are being used for the past 15 to 20 years in the Saurashtra coast.

Fishing Gear: As ready made webbings of thick twines are not available locally, the gears are braided. Generally they are fabricated with 2.0 to 2.5 mm diameter HDPE twines having blue colour. In the beginning the fishermen were using much larger mesh sizes ranging from 200 to 300 mm exclusively for shark fishing in deeper waters between Madhwad and Porbunder areas and sometimes extended upto Bombay. Mesh sizes ranging from 140 to 160 mm are being used nowadays for the capture of different varieties of fishes in the off-shore areas as it is more economical.

The weight of each unit of the gear is between 5 to 6 kg. A half meshed selvedge with double twine is made for mounting the net to the head and foot ropes of the units. Usually a hanging ratio of 50% is given for all the nets. HDPE ropes of size 7.0 mm diameter and 4.0 mm diameter are used for the head and foot ropes respectively. About 5 to

6 numbers of PVC floats of size 35 mm to 40 mm diameter are used in each unit. Small stones or moulded cement disc sinkers about 5 to 6 numbers, each weighing approximately 500 g are attached in equidistance as in the case of floats. The total hung length of each unit is about 26 to 35 meters. The unit usually consists of 325 to 500 meshes in length and 50 meshes in depth. The float lines, about 70 to 80 meters length are attached in every alternate unit, while in operation.

Fishing Method : The fishermen operate the gear throughout the year, sometimes during daily trips or on long trips for 2 to 3 days. The long trips are made during winter season from October to December. All the fishermen are using either FRP or wooden canoes of sizes ranging from 30 to 36 feet OAL fitted with 8 HP OBM engines. A total number of 4 to 5 fishermen are on board and about 75 to 90 units of gill nets are operated daily in depths ranging from 50 to 90 meters between Dhamlej to Porbunder. The catches are stored in ice boxes and they carry about 100 to 150 kg of ice during long trips. The gill nets are mostly oper-

ated for about 10 to 12 hours during nights when they go for daily trips and are operated during day and night continuously in the long trips. Usually the gill nets are allowed to drift during the operations.

During Monsoon season some of the trawlers operate about 150 to 200 units of "Jada Jaal". The deck fittings like gallows, winch and fore-mast and other accessories for trawling are removed to facilitate easy handling of the gear.

The catch composition consists of Jew fish, Cat fish, Sharks, Threadfin bream, Tuna, Bill fishes, Leather jackets, Seer, Indian Salmon, Perches, Black and White Pomfrets, Hilsa, etc. During peak seasons the earnings per boat is about Rs. 40 to 50 thousand and during lean seasons it is about Rs. 4 to 5 thousand only.

Availability of ready made webbings locally with suitable mesh sizes and twine sizes and introduction of gill net haulers would save time and labour in making the gear and to increase the operation of more units on board for better returns.

Orissa Shrimp Farmers' Association's Seminar - Cum - Trade Fair

OSFA is organising a Seminar - cum - Trade Fair on 9-10th Dec, 1995 at Hotel Prachi, Bhubaneswar. Interested farms/companies may take stalls and advertisement space in OSFA SOUVENIR- for the occasion. They may contact the Secretary/President, Orissa Shrimp Farmers' Association, 367, P. Jagamara, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar. Ph - 470014/406596).