

STUDIES ON THE CULTURE OF *SIGANUS* SPP. AND
PENAEUS SPP. IN FLOATING CAGES

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Trials were conducted in the Thondaimannar Lagoon on the culture of *Penaeus monodon*, *Penaeus indicus*, *Siganus javus* and *Siganus oramin* in floating cages.

Prawns were fed with a compounded feed of rice bran, fish meal and chicken mash. *P. monodon* showed a weight gain of 8.4 g. /month. The performance of *P. indicus* was poor.

Siganids were fed with *Cladophora* spp. and *Chaetomorpha* spp. collected from the lagoon. *S. javus* grew at the rate of 2.5 cm. per month, which compares well with results reported for similar culture of siganids in Tanzania (1) *S. oramin* grew at a slower rate of 1.8 cm. per month.

Net damage by crabs was a major problem. Three different types of protective outer cages were tested using woven palmyrah fibre, vinylon netting, and wire mesh. Palmyrah fibre was effective and cheap but easily waterlogged. Wire mesh was effective but expensive.

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Fouling of the netting was also a major problem. Rapid weed growths consisting of Chlorophyceae, Cyanophyceae and Bacillariophyceae developed and sheltered nematodes, copepods, rotifers and turbellaria. Barnacle encrustations developed on the net frames and on the supporting poles.

Further studies in other locations are needed in order to evolve viable culture systems for these species.

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Reference

1. Bwathondi, P. O. J. The culture of rabbit fish *Siganus* spp. in Tanzania
Stockholm, International Foundation for Science, 1981, 26 p.