

CATCHABILITY OF COMMON CARP (CYPRINUS CARPIO)  
BY GILL NETTING IN VICTORIA RESERVOIR

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Victoria, one of the largest reservoirs (2,270 ha), which came into operation in 1984 under Mahaweli scheme, was stocked with exotic fish in the same year. Since then, fishing was completely abandoned upto the end of 1988. During this period 151,500 common carp, 140,510 rohu, 121,140 tilapia, 39,975 bighead carp (Aristiththys nobilis), 22,500 mrigal (Cirrhina mrigale) and 6,500 grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella) fingerlings were stocked by the Ministry of Fisheries.

Presently, 66 people in fibre glass crafts and 40 people in log-crafts are fishing in Victoria reservoir. Average daily catch per fibre glass craft is 6.5 Kg, while per log-crafts is 7.5 Kg approximately. 82.5% of the catch by numbers is tilapia (Oreochromis mossambicus, O. niloticus and T. rendalii) 8.0% common carp (Cyprinus carpio), 4.6% olive carp (Puntius sarana) 1.9% butter cat fish (Ompok bimaculatus), 1.7% mashier (Tor khudree longispinis) 0.9% rohu (Labeo rohita) and the balance comprised of eels (Anguilla species) and catfishes (Clarias species).

The above results indicate the catchability of common carp by gill netting, which is contradictory to the observations in other large reservoirs.

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