

Crab fattening -Alternative livelihood for fisherwomen

Introduction

The Mud crabs inhabit marine as well as brackish water environment. Mud crabs are a seafood item of high demand being exported to foreign countries alive. The mud crab fattening is more profitable compared than culture of mud

Crab fattening is essentially stocking soft shelled crabs or water crabs that are held in smaller impoundments for 20-30 days till the shells are hardened and the flesh out. Fattening of mud crab is being undertaken in the states of Andhra Pradesh,tamil nadu,Karnataka,Orissa and west Bengal.

Candidate species for fattening

There are 4 species of mud crabs namely *Scylla serrata* ,*S. tranquebarica* *S. paramamosain*, and *S. olivacea*. Among these, *Scylla tranquebarica* is being used for fattening activity for the present work, because it is abundant in the coastal area.

Mud crab fattening has been considered as most profitable venture and as a method For small-scale aquaculture as the

- Turnover is fast, and the period between investment and returns is relatively short
- Fattened crabs can be stocked at higher densities (15 crabs/sq m) compared to Grow-out systems (1 crab/sq m) as no moulting occurs and therefore losses Due to cannibalism are reduced to a great extent
- Short production time reducing the risk of losing crabs to disease and thus rendering a higher survival rate for fattening (>90%) compared to grow-out systems (40%).

Fattening in cages

- The cages were made up of Fibre Reinforce Plastic (FRP) Cage
- The size of the cage shall be preferably 3 m x 2 m x 1 m.
- The four sides of the cages were perforated for the free circulation of water.
- The cages have to be arranged in a row so that feeding and monitoring can be easily carried out.
- A stocking of 10-15 crab/m² in cages is recommended. Since the stocking rate is higher in cages, and to minimize the mutual attacks, the tips of the chelae can be removed while stocking.

Selection of water crab

- The following should be essential to check the quality of the water crabs.
- The weight of the crab should be more than 490 g.
- Damaged crab (one legged, broken carapace) should be avoided.
- Soft crab should be avoided for the fattening purposes, it may die during the handling process.

Feeding

Crabs are daily fed with trash fish, brackish water clams or boiled chicken waste @ 5-8% of their body weight. If the feed is given twice a day, major share must be given during evening hours.

Water quality

Salinity	15-25%
Temperature	26-30° C
Oxygen	> 3 ppm
pH	7.5-8.5

MODEL FISH POND-LINING



**STOCKING SIZE OF
ADVANCED FRY**



COW DUNG APPLICATION

