

## **STATUS OF COASTAL AQUACULTURE IN INDIA - THE PRESENT TREND AND FUTURE PROSPECTS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Aquaculture is being viewed as the only alternative to augment fish production due to over-exploitation of nature. The world demand for fish in 2000 AD is expected to be 130 million tons against the present production of about 100 million tons. In 1991-92, India has exported 171,820 million tons of marine products. India is endowed with rich natural resources in the coastal zone with ample scope for the development of aquaculture. The technology for culture of mud crab, sea weeds, edible oyster and sea cucumber has also been developed. But the commercial farming of these has not kept pace with the demand because of the lack of awareness of, and the information needed to divert the attention of people from the lucrative business of shrimp culture. Though great advances have taken place in India in the technology involved in culturing pearls with the pearl oyster *Pinctada fucata*, it has not attracted potential entrepreneurs and is awaiting development of suitable locations in Gulf of Mannar, Andaman and the Nicobar islands.