Suitable wet feed and feeding Protocol For Developing Cobia Broodstock

Squid and sardine feeding result in quality matured gonads

Background
- 30.3.2009 Cobia Launch Workshop
- 26.03.2010 Workshops on Value addition of cobia fish and Advanced packaging technologies
- 11.01.2011 Workshop on marine fish farming with reference to cobia for livelihood improvement of fisherfolk
- 11.04.2011 Workshop on cobia and other marine finfish farming
- 01.03.2013 Workshop on cobia culture

Benefits / Utility
- Development of good Broodstock results in synchronised breeding and thereby the seed production of cobia can be enhanced. A new alternative finfish species to shrimp will provide more job opportunities to coastal fisherfolk. Mariculture entrepreneurship will be developed thereby marine fish aquaculture production in India.

Country Context
- In India, marine finfish aquaculture is in low profile. In Coastal aquaculture, shrimp aquaculture alone is flourishing and recently the Seabass came to picture. Before this project, Cobia seed production

Scalability
- The fecundity of cobia is from 4 lakhs to 50 lakhs. By developing quality broodstock with better feeding protocol, it is possible to reach the maximum level of fecundity and also the synchronisation of both male and female breeding is achieved.

Business and Commercial Potential
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Target Market / Customer
- Farmers
- Fisherman
- Entrepreneurs
- Feed companies
- Hatchery operators
- Multinational companies

Financials
- Expected economics of Broodstock development in sea cages - 100% survival
- Recurring cost Adult Cobia (2 nos.) - Rs. 2000.00
- Manpower 2000.00
- Squid and sardine for cobia fishes - Rs. 12000.00
- Fuel for boat - Rs. 14000.00
- Income - Rs. 30000.00
- Profit - Rs. 14000.00

Any other relevant information
- The cobia seed production and availability should be ensured since the seeds are important input for farming of cobia.
- Since the Cobia aquaculture is new to Indian context, the farmers should be encouraged to involve in this farming by implementing subsidy.

Limiting factors for large scale commercialization
- Assured adequate supply of cobia seeds is the bottleneck. Cobia hatchery units at farmers’ level need to be started. Since cobia is a new candidate species for aquaculture in India, farmers are reluctant to take up farming. (Shrimp aquaculture is short term crop while cobia is long term crop almost twofold increase in culture period)
- Channelized cobia export market need to be identified.

Social impact of the technology
- Fisherman could earn income during fishing holidays and non fishing seasons. Self employment for rural poor and fisherfolk. Jobs could be created for unemployed rural youth so that rural entrepreneurship will be developed.
- Standard of living of fisherfolk could be improved.