

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Economic loss due to discards and juvenile fish catch can cause serious environmental threats that could be reduced to the minimum level by adopting appropriate management strategies. A study on quantity and value of juvenile fish landings in selected centres in Kerala were collected and analysed to reach a consensus on the gross economic loss due to juvenile fishing.



- The economic loss due to juvenile fishing made by trawlers, purse seiners, ring seiners and mini trawlers together along Kerala coast during 2001-02 is estimated around Rs.1850 crore where as the annual revenue generated by these fishing units comes to only Rs.705 crore.
- Mechanised trawlers made almost 70 per cent of the economic loss. There are altogether 4,484 number of mechanised trawlers in Kerala which creates a gross economic loss of around Rs.1264.40 crore due to juvenile fishing.



- The next largest contributor of the economic loss is the 2351 ring seiners causing Rs. 286.54 crore to the economy. A total of 1500 mini trawlers debits an amount of Rs. 85.20 crore where as the 76 purse seiners debits Rs.15 crore from the economy.
- To reduce juvenile landings and discards, mesh-size regulations should be introduced, appropriate utilisation strategies should be developed with respect to discards and awareness among fisherfolk regarding the consequences of juvenile catches and confiscation measures may be adopted to discourage mechanised boats from such catches.