

Conclusion:

India is a rapid population developing country and second largest in the world after China. At present, it is expected the total population of India is about 127 crores. Among them a huge number of our people including children have been suffering from mal-nutritional diseases. They need protein food and we depend upon the fish, egg, chicken, beef, pork, lamb etc as our protein reached food traditionally. We have to find out alternative sources of protein foods to provide protein to our people. From that point, molluscs meat is a good source of protein. India harvested 1.73 lakh tones of Cephalopods, 0.04 lakh tones of Bivalves and 0.02 lakh tones of Gastropods from Indian marine resources in the year 2013 - 2014. In Southern part of India especially Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka etc, the poor people including fisher folk population considered the molluscs meat as their food. It is considered 12 Bivalves, 2 Gastropods and 4 Cephalopods as edible molluscs available at Digha coast. Edible marine molluscs species are eaten very little by the people of West Bengal and other states of North India because they are getting different varieties of protein foods. But in very coming soon future, the molluscs meat may be eaten by conscious people in large scale due to containing high protein parallelly with other sources of protein and scarcity of protein sources also.

Unemployment is a burning problem in India. A country will be economically developed when it's all people will be engaged in various jobs and earn money. The unemployed people can find out their occupation exporting edible molluscs meat to abroad and build up cottage industries on molluscs shells, preparing various attractive belongings/articles from molluscs shells

The present study evaluates the wide variety of biotic components which are available in the short coastal line (about 158.2 km) of West Bengal. The rich components offer a great possibility of exploring export trades. Presently, these biotic components are used by the local people for their livelihood. Shell fish collection is an old occupation in this region.

Due to the increasing demand of fin fishes and shell fishes, molluscs are caught abundantly without considering their sizes and ages. The fin fishes and shell fishes are not only caught from their feeding ground but also caught from their breeding ground. For this reason the fin fishes and shell fishes are being disturbed in their natural breeding ground. Fortunately, the shellfish resources of the coastal water at Digha coast are not over exploited. Cumulative effect of pollution and other natural factors are also responsible for reduction of shellfish availability in this zone.

To save bio-diversity of Digha coast, it is most urgent to conserve molluscs species. Based on studies, there are some humble recommendations for conservation of marine molluscs like an awareness program for the fishermen, tourists, collectors of zoological samples has to be undertaken, as the fishermen and also the over-enthusiastic tourists destroy the living molluscs and other marine aquatic organisms (with or without their knowledge).

Restrictions period (May and June) may be imposed on fishing activities except permissible seasons, and also on the mesh size regulation (> 90 mm) of fishing nets.

General tourists as well as excursion team often collect a lot of specimen in the first flush of enthusiasm but it is observed that most of those are finally dumped on the beach where the animals are allowed to die and rot. This habit has also to be banned immediately.

Over exploitation by repeatedly collecting the same organisms (especially the various species of live bivalve, gastropods, cephalopods and others) year after year from beach by the study team from various educational institutions for display in their museum should be restricted.

Drag net operation on intertidal areas is to be banned or restricted and selective sorting and releasing of by catch organisms in the sea before their death should be made compulsory.

In this context an alternative way might be taken as taking a number of photographs of the organisms from various angles without disturbing them and to collect only very few examples of each species, particularly of rare and poorly populated species.

Comprehensive assessment (chemical, biological and environmental) of by catch organisms in the light of fishery exploitation and bio-medical studies may be invited.