



Red Tilapia in Brazil

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normally saltwater species, and the high quality of the red tilapias external appearance, increasing its commercial value. Red types of sea fish have always been valued. Therefore, red tilapia seems very promising.

Interest in fish and prawn culture (specifically *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) is growing due to the lower aquaculture costs compared to fishing costs. The highest cost in the fishing operation is that of fuel, which increases practically every three months.

Aquatec-Macropisces is conducting trials with breeding cages due to high rates of cannibalism found with red tilapias. Aquatec-Macropisces is also trying red tilapias and other fish in cages in large ponds. More research needs to be done by state funded entities on red tilapias, specifically on genetics. In Rio de Janeiro, PESAGRO is studying the possibility of raising red tilapias together with *M. rosenbergii* at its state hatchery. ●

now favoring the culture of the red tilapia due to better market prices. The Federal University of the State of Pernambuco has a fisheries course and fish culture base where red tilapia genetic studies are underway.

In June 1984, Macropisces Aquacultura Técnica located in Rio de Janeiro obtained red tilapia fingerlings from Recife and has started reproduction tests obtaining a good percentage of red offspring. These are being grown out in ponds fertilized with cow manure and fed with chicken broiler ration giving good results for the initial six-month period.

Fish farmers are very interested in red tilapias in the state of Rio de Janeiro due to the state's high consumption of fish,

Reef and Humankind

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of the third world and the general increase of scientific research. Ninety percent of scientists on coral reefs are from developed countries and chiefly concerned with fundamental research.

What is the status of knowledge in countries with coral reefs? This situation can be summed up as follows: traditional knowledge on coral reefs was part of the culture and subsistence economies of their inhabitants, but with the trend towards western culture and economics, this knowledge is disappearing; one may assume that by now, much of it has been lost despite efforts of scientists. Developing countries are faced with development problems. They need answers to exploitation and management questions related to a rational use of the resources. Once again, we come back to the fact that in spite of recent progress our knowledge of coral reefs is insufficiently developed

compared with other ecosystems. A problem lies in the fact that not only do developing countries not have the means to train fundamental research scientists, but also those research scientists from developed countries are unable to answer questions concerning long-term management, taking the effects of man's activities into account.

To fill in the gap between fundamental research and knowledge on the one hand, and advice for management on the other, interconnections between scientists and programs need to be promoted. Through a reciprocal exchange of objectives and activities, all scientists connected with coral reefs, whether fundamentalists or managers, scientific advisers or decisionmakers, will work more fruitfully for the present and future of coral reefs and humankind.

The Tahiti Congress will try to work in this direction through a multidisciplinary approach and by setting up symposia and seminars. The latter will summarize present knowledge on selected topics and outline research needs. We hope that these needs will take into account not only gaps in our scientific knowledge, but also the necessity for management advice. ●

ICLARM Newsletter

Hybrid red tilapias were introduced into the state of Ceará, Brazil around 1981 probably from the U.S.A. They did not perform well until Dean Yancey of Aqoise in Pernambuco started work on their reproduction. Today, Aqoise is selling red tilapia fingerlings all over Brazil.

Tropical aquaculture is most developed in the northeast of Brazil, especially in freshwater. Many farmers who originally worked with other hybrid tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus* x *O. hornorum*) are

The theme of the Fourth International Coral Reef Symposium, held in Manila, 1981, was "Reef and Man", and for the Fifth International Coral Reef Congress to take place in Tahiti, 27 May-1 June 1985, this theme will be continued. Efforts in this field must not only be kept up, but also developed.

For four decades, much research has been undertaken on the coral reef ecosystem. However, in comparison to that of other world ecosystems, scientific knowledge on this ecosystem is recent. This is essentially for two main reasons. Firstly, coral reefs are in the intertropical zone which has been studied later and with fewer means than temperate zones. Secondly, coral reefs are oceanic and our understanding of the ocean is little advanced compared to our knowledge of the land. It is hardly necessary to mention that human beings are land creatures and that ideas on "the boundless riches of the ocean" and "exclusive economic zones" are very recent. We have, nevertheless, progressed in understanding the structure and functioning of coral reefs. This knowledge has been mainly established by developed countries in the wake of their exploitation of coral reef resources, economic and political interests