

Abstract

In order to obtain live individuals of cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*), coastal waters of Jask, Sirik, Kolahi, Bandar Abbas, Bandar-e Lengeh, Bandar-e Bostaneh and Abu moosa, Hormoz and Qeshm Islands have been surveyed from March 2008 to January 2010 in Northern waters of Persian Gulf (Hormozgan province).

All in all 60 alive fishes obtained from fishing boats and transferred to Aquaculture Department of Persian Gulf and Oman Sea Ecological Research Institute (PGOSERI), but 50 of them died and only 10 fish survived. They divided in two groups and cultured in separated concrete tanks. Fishes were fed with trash fish twice a day at a feeding rate of 4-5 percent of body weight. Culturing period last about 6 months. All the fishes gradually died through the culturing period.

Average of specific growth rate in group 1 and 2 were about 0/49 and 0/77 respectively.

The weight gain for group 1 (WG) was %75 for 75 days of culturing time and % 142 for 190 days of culturing time while for group 2 it was %31 for 54 days of culturing time and % 75 for 190 days.

Average weight of fishes belong to group 1 reached from 950(g) to 2150 (g) during 6 months, while group 2 reached from 872(g) to 1271/5 (g) in 3 months.

Feed conversion rate (FCR) for group 1 and 2 were respectively about 6.9 and 6.8. With regard to cost of trash fish (about 2000 Rials per kilogram trash fish) The per unit feed cost of cobia production were 13613 and 13730 Iranian Rials per kilogram, respectively for group 1 and group 2.

Results revealed that obtaining live individuals of cobia is very difficult and also cobia didn't grow well in concrete tanks but if we have better cooperation of local fishermen and also provide some Equipment such as cages in order to rear cobia in the sea, it is possible to achieve more success and obtaining better results.

Key words: *Rachycentron canadum*, Cobia culture, Specific Growth Rate (SGR), Alive capture, Hormozgan Province, Persian Gulf