

Review of coastal aquaculture development in Mozambique

Rafael Miguel Rafael and Atanásio Brito

National Fisheries Research Institute (IIP), Av. Mao Tse Tung, 389, Maputo, Mozambique
E-mail: rafitorafael2009@hotmail.com

Aquaculture in Mozambique is still embryonic with a total production reaching 603 t.y⁻¹ and providing more than 1000 jobs, growing mainly coastal species. The present review is highlighting the coastal aquaculture development in Mozambique of crustaceans, finfish, bivalves and seaweeds. The main crustacean species cultured were brackish water shrimp, farming *Penaeus monodon* and *Fenneropenaeus indicus* in earthen ponds and, it was booming and reached 1067 t.y⁻¹ in 2005 when the world production started outstripping demand and the world market dominated by larger producers, pushed the prices down and leading to reduced production in Mozambique. Furthermore, the outbreak of white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) killed the already weak shrimp culture industry. Other farmed coastal species like commercial cage fish farming of *Rachycentron canadum* and *Argyrosomus japonicus* lasted only 5 years due to unclear reasons although this had been having good results. Seaweed culture did not last for long in Nampula and Cabo Delgado coast due to marketing, cultural and perhaps other unknown reasons while bivalve culture did not go beyond the experimental phase. It can be concluded that the potential of coastal aquaculture in Mozambique has to date not been meaningfully exploited despite a favourable political environment for investment as well as climatic conditions and identified and preserved coastal areas.

Key words:

Shrimp culture, WSSV outbreak, cage farming, coastal aquaculture potential.