

## **PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES OF MARINE FISH CULTURE IN BRAZIL**

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Brazil presents good potential for marine fish culture, due to its favored geographical position and diversity of fish with rearing potential. However, the sector is still underdeveloped. The Federal Government through the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture has been stimulating the commercial production of marine fish, especially cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*). One of the most important incentives from the government, was the publication of laws that assure the concession of federal areas in open sea for fish production. As a result, private companies are beginning to operate, producing fingerlings and establishing growout facilities.

On the other hand, besides cobia, there is good scientific knowledge for the production of other native species such as snook (*Centropomum undecimallis* and *C. paralellus*), mullet (*Mugil platanus*) and Brazilian flatfish (*Paralichthys orbignyanus*). A scientific network, called REPIMAR, was created in 2008 congregating at least 12 different institutions working solely with cobia, covering in all aspects of the rearing process, including marketing strategies.

It is hoped, that in the near future, the establishment of cobia production will serve as an incentive for diversification of marine fish culture in Brazil.