PROFITABILITY OF COBIA (*Rachycentron canadum*) CAGE CULTURE IN BRAZILIAN COAST

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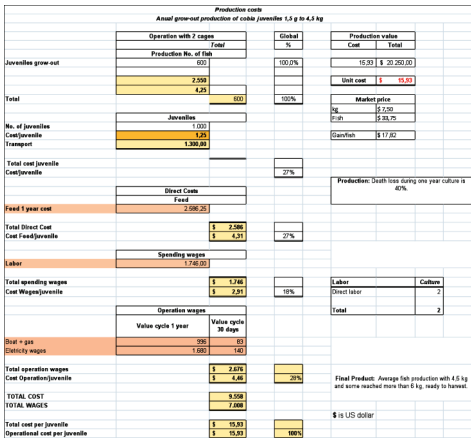
Currently in Brazil, cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) culture has attracted the interest of research institutions and the private sector. Despite the success of its culture in other countries, it is important that be undertaken studies to assess the preliminary technical and economic feasibility of cobia production on Brazilian coast. In order to better understand the cobia´s culture in Brazil, an experimental culture of this specie was held at the Jaconema Beach located in the Bay of Ilha Grande (Angra dos Reis, RJ, Brazil). This research analyzed the economic feasibility of cobia cage culture.

In 369 days of culture the juveniles reached an average weight of 4,5 kg with an specific growth rate of 2,16% per day. During the culture the average temperature was 25,3 °C, the salinity 28,5 and the initial stock density was 1,8 kg/m³ attaining at the end of culture 15 kg/m³.

The unit cost is U$ 15,93, the market price usually is U$ 7,50 and the fish value is U$ 33,75 with the average weight of 4,5 kg. So the gain per fish is U$ 17,82.

The economic viability of this culture has an attractive cost of implementation for coastal communities and still has several alternatives that allow a cost reduction. This nearshore culture appears as a promising activity since this region has suitable characteristics for cobia culture, cobia has an excellent performance in the region, the government is promoting the family-owned cage culture and this activity can become an alternative source of income for coastal communities.



Production costs
Anual grow-out production of cobia juveniles 1,5 g to 4,5 kg

	Operation with 2 cages	Total	Global %
	Production No. of fish		
Juveniles grow-out	600		100,0%
	2.550		
	4,25		
Total		600	100%
	Juveniles		
No. of juveniles	1.000		
Cost/juvenile	1,25		
Transport	1.300,00		
Total cost juvenile			
Cost/juvenile			27%
	Direct Costs		
	Feed		
Feed 1 year cost	2.586,25		
Total Direct Cost		$ 2.586	
Cost Feed/juvenile		$ 4,31	27%
	Spending wages		
Labor	1.746,00		
Total spending wages		$ 1.746	
Cost Wages/juvenile		$ 2,91	18%
	Operation wages		
	Value cycle 1 year	Value cycle 30 days	
Boat + gas	996	83	
Elatricity wages	1.680	140	
Total operation wages		$ 2.676	
Cost Operation/juvenile		$ 4,46	28%
TOTAL COST		9.558	
TOTAL WAGES		7.008	
Total cost per juvenile		$ 15,93	
Operational cost per juvenile		$ 15,93	100%

Production value	Cost	Total
	15,93	$ 20.250,00
Unit cost		$ 15,93
Market price		
kg		$ 7,50
Fish		$ 33,75
Gain/fish		$ 17,82

Production: Death loss during one year culture is 40%.

Labor	Colform
Direct labor	2
Total	2

Final Product: Average fish production with 4,5 kg and some reached more than 6 kg, ready to harvest.

$ is US dollar