

Artificial Reefs

Introduction:

Artificial reefs (AR) are devices installed at the sea bottom to provide habitat for marine organisms. ARs are installed in areas where fishing (trawling) ban is in existence as it will not involve any destructive fishing methods and would enhance the livelihood security of the coastal artisanal fishers who are affected by the ban. Such structures are constructed and installed in Lakshadweep and Orissa coastal waters for repletion of fish stocks. Installation of ARs at selected locations along the coast could be an appropriate method to increase fish production. Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme, emplacement of artificial reef is promoted along with integrated fish farming, cage farming

Impact:

ARs have been found to be effective in aggregating a variety of fish species and in holding them by providing suitable habitats. The artificial reefs provide shelter and breeding grounds for majority of the fish shoals. The structures are effective in attracting moving stocks of high value fishes by the rich benthic fauna, crustaceans, molluscs, echinoderms, etc. The ARs are also effective in preventing bottom trawling by damaging nets in restricted zones. as well as value addition to the catch as it would increase production of targeted, high value fish by using non-destructive fishing gears..

Source: <https://biophysics.shg.ac.at/ar/reef.htm>