

Fisheries restoration by post larval restocking

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Coastal fisheries are in collapse, yet most juvenile fish populations undergo planktonic development and are lost to predation before they can find shelter. We present a new approach, using simple technology to “rescue” a small proportion of wild tropical post-larvae fish populations (with complete biodiversity and genetic variability), short circuiting predation losses. After capture, the fish are reared and released as 3-month old juveniles into coral reefs and other coastal marine habitats undergoing restoration. This operational solution requires on-site training and capacity building in sustainable Post-larval Capture and Culture (PCC) technology. PCC technology has already been tested in many developing countries in South East Asia, the Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Caribbean. There are numerous benefits, especially for small island countries. PCC technology can offer immediate alternative income for local fishermen and implementing biodiversity monitoring to improve basic knowledge of fish stock restoration. PCC can rebuild adult stocks of local species for commercial and artisanal fishing, and mitigate for human impacts such as overfishing, coral reef and habitat losses, global climate change, oil spill pollution, and disasters. We will present case studies using post-larvae fish in coral reef restoration including grouper replenishment (Reunion Island), fishermen’s involvement within Marine Protected Areas (Madagascar), guest fees to restock coral gardens (Fiji, UAE), and boosting resilience of MPAs (Philippines). We also explain how PCC technology can help rebuild damaged fish populations after disasters such as oil spills, earthquakes, or tsunamis. Coupled with habitat restoration, PCC technology will be the fastest way to restore coastal fisheries



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