

FISH AND FISHERY

Fishery can be defined as the science that takes care of aquatic animals. Examples of aquatic animals are fish, crayfish, crab etc. Fish is the most common aquatic animal kept or reared by farmers.

Terminologies in Fish Farming

- ♣ School: A group of fish
- ♣ Fry: Young fish
- ♣ Fingerlings: Newly hatched fish
- ♣ Aquarium: An artificial pond used for keeping fish just for aesthetic (beautification) purposes.
- ♣ Gears: Equipment for harvesting fish
- ♣ Fish monger: a person who sells fish.
- ♣ Fisherman/Fisher folk: a person who catches fish and other aquatic animals from natural water bodies.

Importance of Fish/Uses of Fish

1. For food: Fish and fish products provide food for man and his livestock. Fish are rich in protein, minerals, Vitamins A & D.
2. Income and economic gain: Fishes provide a lot of income for fishermen. They also yield a lot of foreign exchange for countries which export a lot of them. Fish help to bring down the cost of meat obtained from farm animals.
3. For aesthetics: Some people keep fish because of its beauty. The beautiful fish are kept in aquarium or pond for decorative purposes, for enjoyment/fun etc.
4. Fish are also used in the laboratory for scientific purposes.

By Products of Fish and their Uses

1. Skin: the skin of some fish is used on making leather and polishing materials.
2. Fish oil: e.g. cod liver oil contains Vitamins A & D. the oil is medicinal and is also used in the manufacture of soap.
3. Fish offals: are used to make fish meal for livestock.
4. Fish bones: are used in making livestock feed to supply calcium and phosphorus for strong teeth, bones and egg shell.

Characteristics of fish

1. Fish are cold – blooded animals.
2. They are vertebrates.
3. They are fully aquatic.
4. They have fins instead of limbs for swimming.
5. Some fish are covered with scales (e.g. tilapia, carp) while some have smooth, leathery skin (mudfish, catfish)

6. They breathe by gills, but long fish have swim bladders modified as lungs for breathing.
7. Their eyes do not have eyelids.
8. They have a pair of nares (nostrils), lateral lines for detecting vibrations in water.
9. They have body temperatures that vary with the environment (i.e. they are POIKILOTHERMIC)