PROCEDINGS

Thirteenth Annual Student Research Sessions Department of Animal Science



Faculty of Agriculture University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka

Editor-in-Chief R.M.C. Deshapriya

10th September, 2004

PRESENT INVOLVEMENT OF QUARANTINE SERVICES FOR THE ORNAMENTAL FISH EXPORT INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA

N.M.S.T Bandara,.1, U.Edirisinghe1 and S. Jayasinghe2

¹ Department of Animal Science, University of Peradeniya.

² Animal Quarantine Office, Bandaranayake International AirPort, Katunayake.

INTRODUCTION

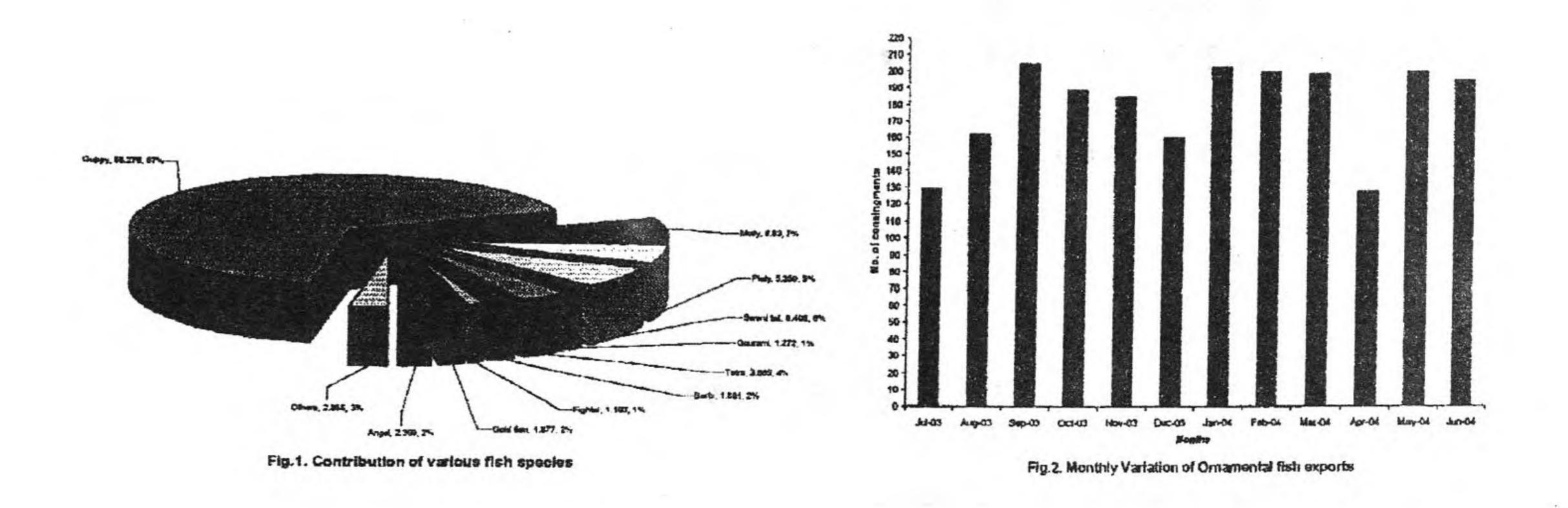
Quarantine means the compulsory detention in isolation of any animal or any article. Any fish which is kept or reared for its pet or hobby qualities is known as ornamental fish. The involvement of Animal Quarantine Service is in the issuing for International Export Health Certificates. This service is governed under the Department of Animal Production & Health. Issuing of health certificates is authorized by the Animal Disease Act No.59 of 1992. According to the statistics of 2001, this industry has earned Rs.531 million of foreign exchange (Customs, 1993). The contribution of Sri Lanka for the world ornamental fish supply is about 1%. Major destinations of current ornamental fish exporters are United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Australia, Holland, Spain and Portugal .The contribution of fresh water, marine and brackish water fish species are respectively 87%, 10% and 3%. The overall impact on wild fish population also cannot be ignored.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This project was done in Animal Quarantine Office, Bandaranaike International airport, Katunayake. The data were obtained from the invoices, packing lists and other documents in the Quarantine Office. Relevant Ordinances, Acts and Gazettes were referred to identify the legal background.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, 53 ornamental fish exporters were identified. Of this, six were major exporters. Sri Lanka ornamental fishes are exported to 47 countries in the world. UK, Germany, Holland, France, Italy and Australia are the major exporting countries. A fluctuation in number of ornamental fish consignments can be identified within the year. A significant reduction can be observed in April and July months. Fresh water and marine fish ratios in export consignments are respectively 96% and 4%. Guppy, Molly, Platy and Sword tails are the common fish species found in exports.



CONCLUSION

This industry is a significant source of foreign exchange earning for Sri Lanka (Karunarahtne, 2002). However the most serious problem at present is the entry of many new entrances. The continuation of this unfavorable impact affects the prices as well as lead to overexploitation of wild fish populations. The most convenient and rational solution is the standardization of exporters. The updated information on the international market and new trends, breeding methods, packaging techniques are essential for the well being of this industry. The existing administrative procedures and government regulations are rigid and unfavorable for development of fish exports industry. A good coordination among the relevant government bodies and introduction of efficient and reliable result oriented monitoring process could help to solve this problem.

REFERENCES

Anon, (1998 a). "Export and Import of live fish regulations", Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No.1036/13, 16/07/1998, Department of Government Printing, Sri Lanka.

Karunarathne, K.P.W. (2002). "Present status and challenges of ornamental fish export industry in SriLanka" M.Sc. Thesis, P.G.I.A, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.