Comparative Study on Rearing Cobia *Rachycentron canadum* (Linnaeus, 1766) in Cages with Moist Pellet and Trash Fish.

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**ABSTRACT**

An experimental trial of rearing juvenile cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) in floating net cages with moist pellet and trash fish was conducted at Phuket Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Center from 15 February to 20 December 2005. They were started rearing in 8 floating net cages of 3x3x1.5 m fitted with a 1" mesh size moored in a 100 rai reservoir. They were stocked in each of square net cage with 50 juvenile cobias average total length 38.36±2.71 cm and average body weight 347.88±71.23 g. Moist pellet containing protein 40% and trash fish were given to 4 cages each until satiation twice daily. After 2 months of rearing, moved all of the experimental fishes to 8 floating net cages of 5x5x1.5 m fitted with a 2" mesh size. At the end of 11 months rearing, the results showed that fishes fed with trash fish grew to average body weight of 6.55±0.81 kg, average total length of 90.81±3.64 cm, survival rate 84.5%, growth rate 1772.7±43.4% and specific growth rate 0.95±0.06 % / day which were significantly higher (*P*<0.05) than fishes fed with moist pellet which grew to average body weight of 4.22±0.68 kg, average total length of 82.46±4.24 cm, survival rate 66.5%, growth rate 1125.2±116.7% and specific growth rate 0.80±0.00 % / day while food conversion rate was not significant difference (*P*>0.05) among 2 kinds of feed. Water temperature, salinity, pH, alkalinity and transparency at the experimental site were average 31.9±1.26 °C, 33±5.74 ppt, 7.8±0.11, 99±16.76 ppm and 84±14.10 cm respectively.

**Key words:** Cobia, rearing, moist pellet, trash fish

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