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RESEARCH REPORTS

Sustainable Aquaculture for a Secure Future

Title: Mud Crab Aquaculture and Fisheries in Coastal Bangladesh

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Abstract: Coastal Bangladesh has the most commercially important species of mud crabs *Scylla* spp., from the family Portunidae (Macintosh *et al.* 2002). They dig and inhabit burrows in mangrove swamps and shallow, soft- bottom intertidal waterbodies (Quinitio *et al.* 2008). Mud crabs spend most of their life in estuaries and coastal environments that have mud or detritus, debris of leaves, branches, roots and enough shelter materials or places to hide to avoid cannibalism or to molt. Mud crabs are also known commonly as green crabs or mangrove crabs (Sha and Quddus 1982). Mud crabs are omnivorous or scavengers, feeding on dead animal and plant matter. The 734-km long coastline of Bangladesh, with the world's largest mangrove forest, is a hotspot for diverse aquatic organisms, including mud crabs, providing suitable breeding, feeding and nursery grounds.

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