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Environmental impact of coastal aquaculture in the areas of Thoothukudi district: Using Contingent and Hedonic pricing method

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Coastal aquaculture production is increasing in Thoothukudi district as a means to make the ends meet in daily lives of the coastal communities who mostly depend on marine ecosystem for subsistence and income. Besides, environmental damage wrought by aquaculture to the surrounding ecosystem had led to serious socio-economic and environmental threats among different stakeholders has not been recognized since coastal aquaculture will be destructing factors in all common pooled resources. This paper estimates the environmental impact of coastal aquaculture in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu using Contingent Valuation Method and Hedonic Pricing Model which was confirmed with analysis of water and soil test samples which were collected from the coastal zone areas at different distance scales (1-5 Kms). Another major setback of continuous pumping of seawater or saline water into vast confined pond areas would lead to salinity of agricultural land. Similarly, continuous withdrawal of ground water might lead to drying up of shallow wells or salt-water intrusion. Transformation of multi-ownership coastal aquaculture resource into private owned single ownership would lead to social displacement of local fishermen. Out of 251 household respondents who were engaged in aqua cultural activities about the land price is differed due to so many factors which are highly attributed due to environmental impacts. Therefore, this study would suggest creating market-based instruments to promote an eco-friendly coastal aquaculture industry for sustainable development.

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