

Kaleidoscope

Unusual fish landings during monsoon season of 2018 along the Trivandrum and Kanyakumari coast

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Bumper catch of *Odonus niger* (Redtoothed triggerfish) at Thengapattanam Fisheries Harbour and Moonfish *Mene maculata* along Vizhinjam coast was one of the major observations during the monsoon 2018. An estimated 50 t of *O. niger* was landed at the Thengapattanam Fisheries Harbour. Fishing vessels of

32 feet overall length (OAL) with two outboard engines (9.9hp each) operating boat seines were used for fishing. The crew members of each vessel vary from 12-15. It was estimated that each boat landed an average of 0.7 t of *O. niger* exclusively. The mean total length of fish landed was 201 mm with an average weight

115 gm. Since it is not a common and regularly landed fish domestic price of the fish was only about ₹15-20 per kilogram. The salted and dried trigger fish had good demand in the nearby markets of Thiruvananthapuram. The gonadal examination revealed that fishes were either fully mature or spent condition. Most of the guts were empty while some were having fully digested matter.

Mene maculata, forms a major fishery along the Vizhinjam coast especially during the monsoon period. Bumper catch of about 20 tons was recorded on two observation

days and comprised of mainly juveniles and sub adults of 9.2-12.1 cm length. A single box of moon fish (60-70 kg) could fetch a price of ₹150-200 only during the glut days. Boat seine were operated by boat (12.5m OAL) having two out board motor engines of 9.9 hp and 12-14 crew members. The monsoon fishery along Vizhinjam coast characterized by continuous landings of the moonfish developed as a good domestic market and the larger sized fishes could fetch a good price. A week after this landing, adult moonfishes in spent recovering stage were landed by the same boat seine units.