



# MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 191

January, February, March 2007



TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

## 1230 Export of silver conger eel's air bladder from Chennai

Silver conger eel *Muraenesox cinereus* is locally called as "Vilangu meen" and kadal bamboo and its air bladder is called as "netti". *M. cinereus* is the only species of Muraenesocidae family, observed in the landings at Chennai Fisheries Harbour. *M. cinereus* are mainly landed by multiday trawlers. The species is available throughout the year. The multiday trawlers are operated at 40-60 m depth off 80-100 km northeast off Chennai. Occasionally the eel is caught by hooks & line and mechanized gill nets.

Month-wise analysis of *M. cinereus* catch for the period 2002-2006 revealed seasonal fluctuations in the landings. The catch was high during June-October with peak in June. The estimated annual catch of *M. cinereus* was 53.0 t, 40.9 t, 27.0 t, 20.2 t, and 27.0 t. during 2002-2006 respectively.

The local agents purchase the eels, cut open the viscera and remove the air-bladder without any damage. The air-bladder is sold for Rs. 10-60/- depending upon the size.

The air bladders (Fig. 1) are washed in fresh

water and dried by hanging them over a rope in a room for one week. After drying, the air bladders are sold for Rs. 2000-4000/- per



Fig. 1. Air bladder of eel

kg. to the traders.

Of late the air bladders of eels are also exported along with skin, fins, gill rakers, bones and teeth of elasmobranchs. The air bladders are exported to Singapore and HongKong, and used in the manufacture of soup and medicine.

---

*Prepared by* : S. Rajapackiam, S. Mohan, S.K. Balakumar and P. Poovannan, M.R.C. of C.M.F.R.I, Chennai