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Unusual landings of shrimps, trichiurids, ballistids and ornamental fishes along Vizhinjam coast

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Hheavy landings of shrimps and fin fishes were recorded from Vizhinjam, Trivandrum during 22nd to 24th June with peak landings on 24th June 2007. A mud bank like phenomenon was observed in the area. Water was very turbid and wave action was considerably reduced in the near shore waters. Signs

of upwelling such as low surface water temperature and dissolved oxygen were also observed. Surface seawater temperature ranged from 23-24°C and the surface dissolved oxygen was 3.02 ml/litre compared to normal values of 27-27.5 °C and 3.8-4.5 ml/litre respectively. Salinity of seawater was 31 ppt. About



A good catch of *Fenneropenaeus indicus*



Trichiurus lepturus landings



Alutera monoceros catch



Nemipterus spp. catch



Brisk activities at Vizhinjam landing centre



Iced fishes ready to be transported

1500 fishing units operated in the area which included 1200 boat seines and 300 Disco nets (trammel net). The depth of operation ranged from 10 to 50 m. The fishing ground extended up to 15 km from the shore.

Heavy landings of *Fenneropenaeus indicus* (200 t), *Trichiurus lepturus* (25 t) were recorded on 22nd August and other fishes like flat fishes, sciaenids, scads, goat fishes were landed in moderate quantities which contributed about 5 t. The catches recorded during this period were unusual from a traditional fish landing centre such as Vizhinjam where trawlers and purse-seiners are totally absent. On 23rd catches showed moderate trend.

Further on the 24th, heavy landings of fin fishes were observed, mainly by boat seines. Ribbon fish *Trichiurus lepturus* (700 t), ballistids (20 t),

nemipterids (5 t) and groupers (4 t) dominated the catch. Ballistid landings were constituted by *Sufflamen fraenatus*, *Odonus niger* and *Alutera monoceros*. The groupers landed included *Epinephelus malabaricus*, *E. tauvina*, *Cephalopholis* sp. Other fishes (10 t) included sciaenids, *Johnius* spp. *Nibea maculata* and *Otolithes* sp., flat fishes, *Cynoglossus* spp., *Psuedorhombus* sp. and *Bothus* sp. and bat fish *Platax* sp., *Decapterus russelli*, *Saurida* sp., *Lactarius lactarius*, *Sillago sihama*, *Lutjanus lutjanus*, *L. fавus*, *Mene maculata*, *Stolephorous* spp., squids, *Loligo duvauceli*, *Doryteuthis sinhalensis* etc. and a variety of large adult specimens of marine ornamental fishes. However, only small quantities of shrimps *F. indicus* and *Parapenaeopsis stylifera* were landed by Konchuvala (bottom set gill net).