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Unusual landings of flying fish *Cheilopogon furcatus* (Mitchill, 1815) in Veraval, Mangrol and Chorwad

Flying fish, locally called "Zeri" or Kunga" have been occasionally reported from different fish landing centres in Gujarat. They are tropical oceanic pelagic fish which migrate and aggregate in the near shore areas for spawning.

In December 1999 and early January 2000, unusual landings of the sportfin flying fish, *Cheilopogon furcatus*, was observed from gill net and trawl net operations off Veraval, Mangrol and from gill net operations off Chorwad (Table 1).

The smaller fish are usually caught in the commercial fishing gears during spawning period while the large ones are caught during the non-spawning period, using specially designed gill nets, hooks and lines. Tamil Nadu accounts for more than 75% of the flying fish catch of the country.



Cheilopogon furcatus

this coast and for initiating experimental gillnetting aimed at exploiting the fish during non-spawning periods, following the lines of BOBP's experimental gillnetting for flying fish of Madras in 1988.

Table 1. Flying fish landings from gill nets and trawl nets operated off Veraval, Mangrol and Chorwad (Dec. '99 & Jan. 2000)

Date	Centre	Gear	No. of boats operated		No. of boats with flying fish catch		Flying fish catch (kg)		
			Gillnetters	Trawlers	Gillnetters	Trawlers	Gillnetters	Trawlers	Total
16/12/99	Mangrol	Gill net	97	76	10	0	500	0	500
16/12/99	Veraval	Gill net	150	107	65	0	650	0	650
18/12/99	Mangrol	Gill net & Trawl net	169	183	70	47	2100	1410	3510
22/12/99	Veraval	Trawl net	5	126	0	92	0	3680	3680
23/12/99	Mangrol	Gill net	156	67	15	0	1650	0	1650
28/12/99	Mangrol	Gill net	38	0	6	0	510	0	510
28/12/99	Mangrol bara	Gill net	162	83	129	0	4773	0	4773
4/1/00	Mangrol	Gill net	124	82	15	0	555	0	555
4/1/00	Chorwad	Gill net	105	0	55	0	495	0	495
11/1/00	Mangrol	Gill net	132	107	15	0	105	0	105

Their landings along Gujarat coast was sporadic and exhibited a fluctuating pattern over the years. The present observation suggests the need for a close monitoring on the resource's availability along

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