

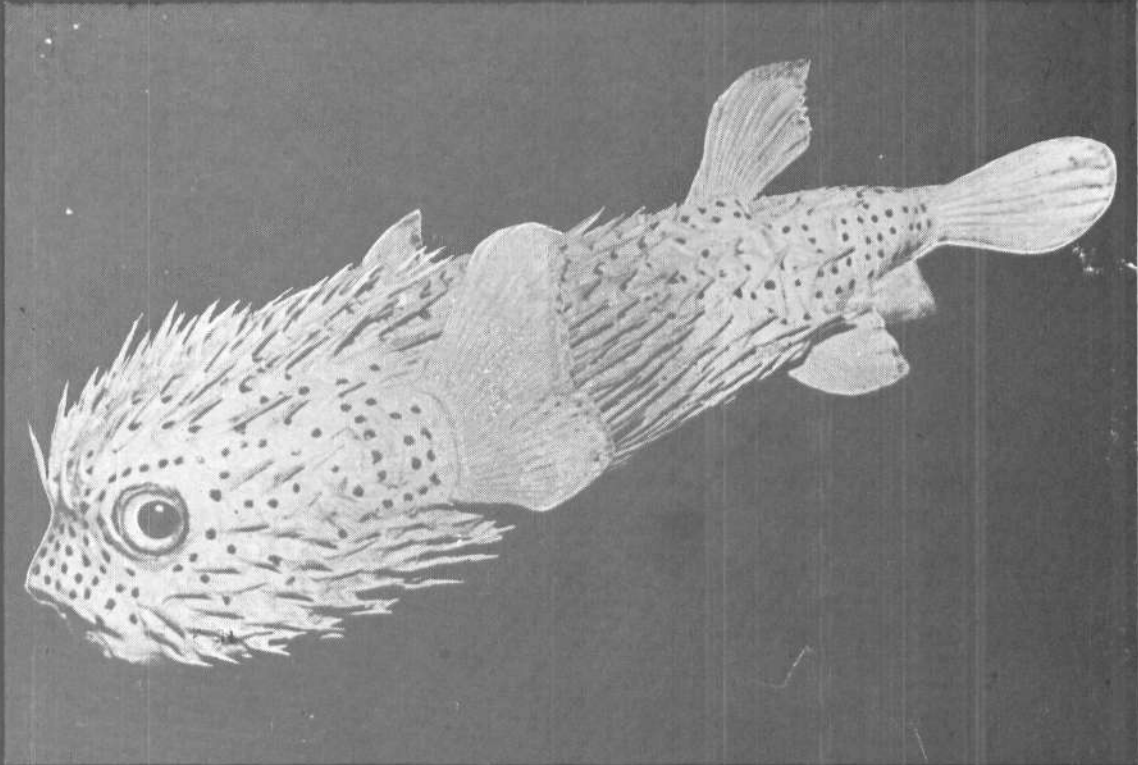


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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Oil sardine fishery along Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh*

The Indian oil sardine, *Sardinella longiceps* as a nonconventional resource has become one of the important exploited fishery resources along Andhra Pradesh coast in recent years contributing on an average 3,000 t annually during the period 1979-'83. During July 1994 - July 1995, unprecedented heavy landings of oil sardine were observed in most of the fish landing centres along Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh and were exploited by monofilament gill nets, bay nets and shore seines. Peak landings were recorded during February 1995. Length frequency data collected during the period indicated that 200-205 mm size groups of the species predominated the fishery.

During 1992-'93 period, due to meagre price the entire oil sardine catch obtained was sundried in the open beach to be used later as poultry feed or as manure in paddy fields. But this scenario has changed recently thanks to the demand from fish merchants especially from Kerala markets. When the fishermen of this coastal stretch were facing extreme financial hardships due to reduced catches from fishing operations, the incidental heavy landing of oil sardine was a blessing for them.

***Reported by N.P. Chandrakumar, Field Centre of C.M.F.R. Institute, Srikakulam - 532 002.**