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1225 A note on the recurring heavy catch of 'Ghol', *Protonibea diacanthus* by dol net at Bassien koliwada, Maharashtra.

Protonibea diacanthus, locally known as 'Ghol' is one of the most commercially important fishes of northwest coast of India. The swim bladder of 'Ghol' fetches a very high market price as it is considered as one of the best qualities.

On 28-10-06 catch of 8820 Kg of 'Ghol' was landed at Bassien koliwada by a *dol* net boat with an OAL of 15 m fitted with 90 HP engine. Bassien koliwada is situated about 66 Km from Mumbai and is an exclusive *dol* landing centre. There are two types of *dol* netters operated at Bassien koliwada, one with smaller cod end mesh size of 20-25 mm targeting *Harpodon nehereus* and the other



Fig. 1. Catch of *Protonibea diacanthus* with larger mesh size of 60 mm targeting silver pomfrets. 'Ghol' is landed as a bycatch in *dol* nets from this area. The fishing was carried out at a depth of 30-35 m at a distance of 30-35 Km in the northwest coast off

Earlier reports of 'Ghol' landings by *dol* netters from Mumbai and Bassien koliwada are given below.

Reported by	Landing centre	Month	Length range(mm)	Total weight (t)	No of specimens
Chakraborty & Dias	Versova	November'84	700-900	5.50	352
Karbhari et al	Satpati	November'86	85-120	39.52	3218
Hotagi Jaydev	Bassien koliwada	October'92	810-1560	3.48	--
Chavan et al	Basien koliwada	October'02	690-1210	5.26	569
Present	Bassien	October'06	800-1100	8.82	490
	Koliwada	October'06	800-1100	8.82	490

Jaffrabad in Saurashtra region of Gujarat. The other catch included *Pampus argenteus* (495 Kg), *Ilisha* spp. (150 Kg), *Chirocentres dorab* (80 Kg) and *Scombromorous guttatus* (50 Kg).

A catch of this magnitude by *dol* netters indi-

cates that 'Ghol' moves in large shoals and would have come to nearshore for feeding.

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