

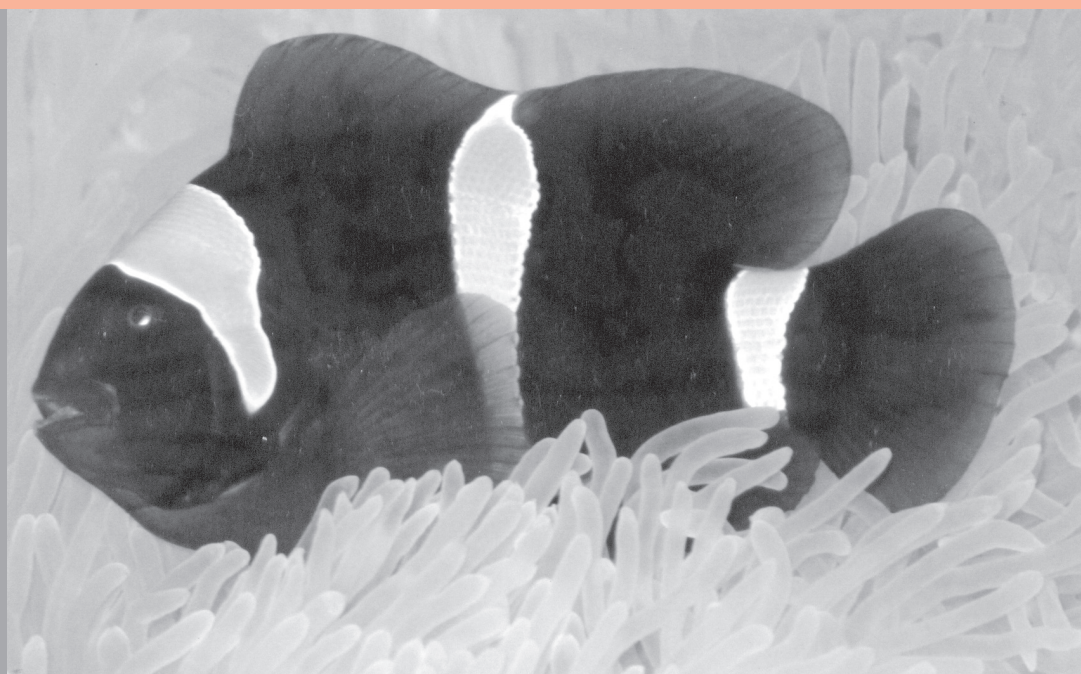
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Heavy landings of (61.5 t) *S. commersonianus* (Fig. 1) was landed by hooks & line, mechanised gillnet, trawlnet and other indigenous gears like Pannuvalai (gillnet), Kolavalai (driftnet) and Pachchavalai (castnet) at Kasimedu Fisheries Harbour during January 2005 to December 2005 (Table 1).

Table 1. Catch of *S. commersonianus* in various gears at Chennai Fisheries Harbour during 2005

Gear	Catch (t)	CPUE (kg)	Effort (units)
Hooks & line	14.1	3.5	4038
Mech. gillnet	27.4	18.3	1494
Trawlnet	14.6	0.7	20087
Other units	5.4	1.5	3640
<b>Total</b>	<b>61.5</b>		

*S. commersonianus* catches were landed by hooks & lines operated at Chinnaneelankarai,

Table 2. Estimated catches of *S. commersonianus* landed by hooks & line in different landing centres during October 2005.

Centres	Catch (t)	CPUE (kg)	Effort (units)	% in total catch
Kasimedu	3.6	11.9	303	25.9
Chinnaneelankarai	0.4	8.9	90	27.8
Chinnandikuppam	0.5	7.1	70	30.6
Nainarkuppam	0.7	4.1	171	16.4
Panaiyur	1.8	14.4	125	36.2
Kovalam	6.0	18.6	323	79.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.0</b>			

Chinnandikuppam, Nainarkuppam, Panayur and Kovalam landing centres. In October 2005, *S. commersonianus* dominated the catch, followed by seer fish and carangids. The catches ranged from 50 to 200 kg per boat (Table 2).

In Kovalam landing centre, heavy landings of *S. commersonianus*, i.e., 3.8 t out of 6.0 t were landed in 6 days (Table 3)

Table 3. Landings of *S. commersonianus* at Kovalam landing centre

Date	Catch (kg)	CPUE (kg)	% in total catch
15.10.2005	500	33.3	75-90%
16.10.2005	660	33.0	
17.10.2005	580	29.0	
18.10.2005	1200	75.0	
19.10.2005	500	25.0	
20.10.2005	360	30.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3800</b>	<b>37.6</b>	

The gears operated off Kovalam were mostly hooks & line operated from catamarans. The size range of *S. commersonianus* (TL) was 75-110 cm. with mean size at 88 cm. The weight range was 2.6 to 10 kg with average weight of 4.0 kg.



Fig. 1 *S. commersonianus*

The value realized from the species alone was Rs. 1.52 lakhs at Kovalam landing centre during this period. In addition, they earned approximately Rs. 30,600/- from other fishes like seerfish and carangids etc. in 6 days.

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