ISSN 0254-380 X

Marine Fisheries Information Service

200th Number

Technical and Extension Series

Number 200
April - June 2009

कडलमीन TM
cadalmin

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
Post Box No. 1603, Cochin - 682 018, Kerala, India
WWW.cmfri.org.in

Targeted trawl fishery for moontail bullseye, *Priacanthus hamrur* off Mangalore for surumi production

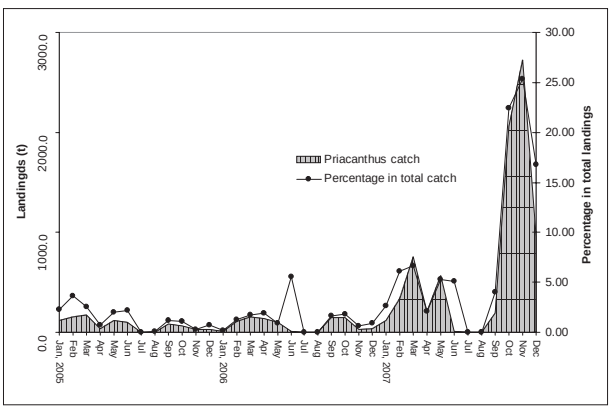

A view of transportaton of bullseye from Mangalore Fisheries Harbour

A. P. Dineshbabu, S. Kemparaju and G. Sampathkumar
Mangalore Research Centre of CMFRI, Mangalore

Moontail bullseye, *Priacanthus hamrur* has been forming a part of the trawl fishery off Mangalore, caught from a depth beyond 100 m ever since deepsea trawling started off the coast. This is not a preferred edible species in Karnataka and was not a species considered for targeted fishery. In 2005 and 2006, the bullseye landing was forming 1.48% and 1.31% of the trawl landing of Mangalore Fisheries Harbour, with 907 t and 884 t respectively. In 2007, the landing of the species increased almost nearly ten times of that of previous year (7,946 t) forming 10.8% of the total trawl landings. Last quarter of the year recorded the heaviest landing of the species and during October-December, 5,750 t were landed (Fig. 1).

It was understood that sudden increase in landing of this species was mainly due to the targeted fishery by the trawlers for the species due to heavy market demand from processing industries. The species is targeted for surumi preparation and is procured by the surumi plants @ Rs. 8/kg. This sudden rise in demand for the species is also an after effect of reduction in the availability of threadfin breams of required size, which is considered as the priority species for surumi preparation which was procured by the industry @ Rs. 12/kg on an average. Threadfin

Fig. 1. Landings of *Priacanthus hamrur* during 2006-'07 at Mangalore Fisheries Harbour



breams became targeted fishery ever since surumi plant was established in the state, leading to heavy exploitation of juveniles . It was observed that, in 2006, threadfin bream catch especially that of *Nemipterus mesoprion,* juvenile composition was 10% by number which increased to 51% in 2007 and the mean size of the species came down from 148 mm in 2006 to 136 mm in 2007. This situation lead the industries to go for bullseye for continuing surumi production and trawlers started targeting the species, since there was a regular demand.

During the study in 2007, the size range of *P. hamrur* was found to be between 105 and 410 mm and majority of the of the catch was in the size range of 140 -170 mm which were juveniles. The current trend shows that this resource showing symptoms of over-exploitation of juveniles which is not a good sign for future fishery.