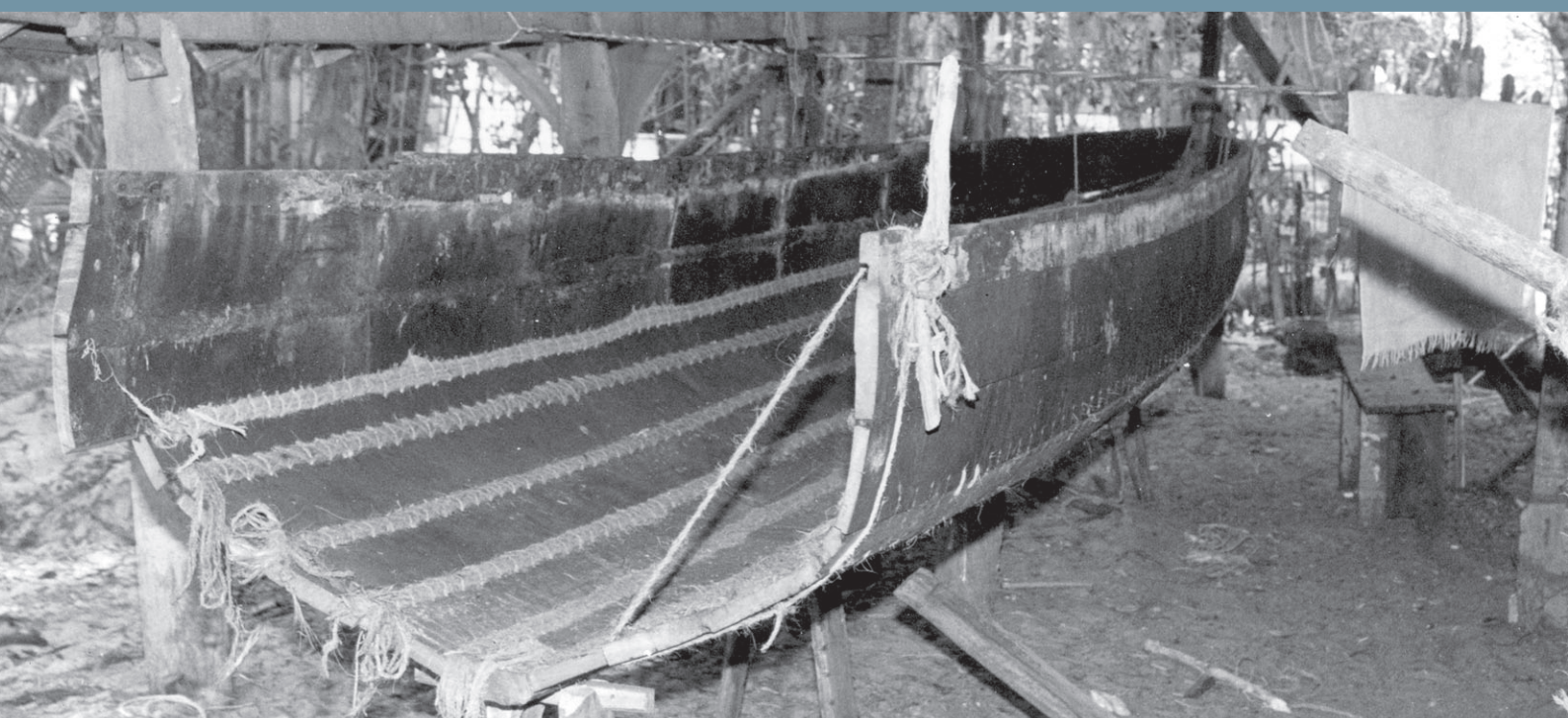




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1092 Octopus landing at Mumbai Fishing harbour, New Ferry Wharf.

The major species of octopuses which contribute to fishery come under the genera *Octopus*, *Cistopus* and *Eledone*. Octopuses in the continental shelf and oceanic region are caught mainly as by catch in the bottom trawl.

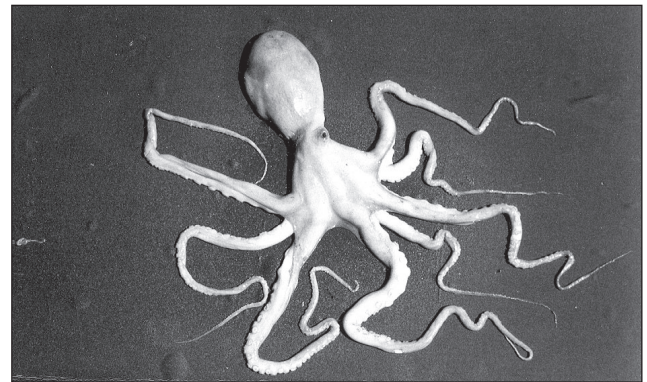
Due to the growing demand for octopus in the international market octopus fishery is gaining importance in the north west region especially along Maharashtra

Table - 1. Seasonal abundance of Octopus at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai based on catch rates.

	CPUE (Kg)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Jan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Feb	1.70	0.00	0.00	2.75
Mar	7.65	3.05	0.00	3.08
Apr	6.18	1.60	0.56	5.59
May	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.83
Jun	0.00	0.70	4.62	2.24
Jul	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00
Aug	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.65
Sep	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.97
Oct	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.60
Nov	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.35
Dec	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.50
Total	15.53	7.85	5.18	45.56

coast. The main fish landing centers for octopus at Mumbai are New Ferry Wharf, Sasoon docks and

Versova. They are landed mainly by shrimp trawlers. *Dol* netters also land line octopus. The three main species which constitute the fishery of Mumbai are *Octopus dollfusi*, *Cistopus indicus* and *Octopus membranaceus*. During the period 2000,2001 and 2002 the total estimated annual octopus catch were 47.0, 16.3 and 2.3 t respectively. In 2003 the landings shot up to 106.6 t with a CPUE of 15.57 Kg, due to high market value and



Octopus spp. landed at NFW, Mumbai

heavy export demand. The period of abundance is February - June with the peak in March - April (Table-1). However in 2003 the landings were recorded almost throughout the year. On 29-03-03 Octopus landing at New Ferry Wharf constituted about 40% of the total cephalopod catch. Although there is very little local demand for octopus they are processed for export. It fetches Rs.13/Kg in local market.

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