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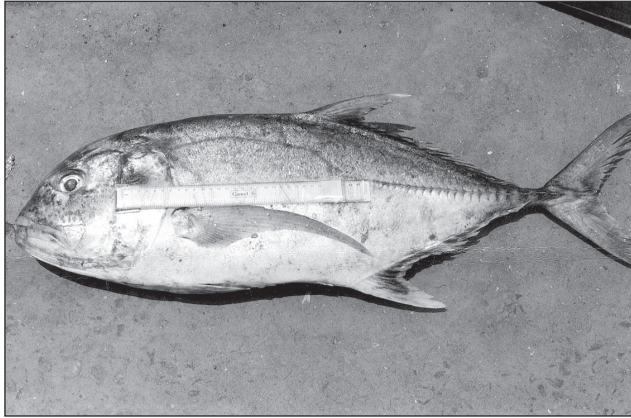
COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

1076 Unusual heavy landings of *Caranx carangus* along Cuddalore Coast

An unusual bumper catch of *Caranx carangus* was observed in Cuddalore fishing harbour on 26.03.2004. Three fibreglass boats fitted with 9HP outboard engine of 9 m length and 2 m width landed a heavy catch of 5.2 tonnes of fish.

The gear used was a monofilament drift gill net *Surukku vallai* with a mesh size varying from 80 to 90 mm. The length of the net was 300 m and width 30 m. The head rope and foot rope were provided with floats and sinkers respectively.



Caranx carangus

The area of operation was about 5 km. off the coast and 20 km. south of Cuddalore port at a depth of about 30 m. The water was clear and the current was moving towards northern direction. Three boats which moved slightly beyond the shore caught large size carangids.

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The duration of fishing was only for 2 hrs. On reaching the fishing harbour the fishes were packed in plastic tubs with ice for transportation. The length ranged between 72 to 90 cm with a dominant size group of 86-87 cm. Average weight of a fish was 10.6 kg. The fish were transported to the interior processing plants in Kerala. The total weight of the fish was 5,247 kg. and sold at a price of Rs. 27 per kg. The total revenue realized was Rs. 1,41,669/-.

The occurrence of carangid shoals appear to be related the occurrence of oil sardine shoals along the coastal regions of Cuddalore.

Reported by : V. Rajendran and R. Thangavelu, Madras Research Centre of CMFRI, Chennai.