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HEAVY LANDINGS OF PRAWN (METAPENAEUS DOBSONI) BY PURSE-SEINERS AT PANAJI—GOA*

In Goa the purse-seiners are operated mostly in Panaji, Vasco-da-Gama, Balina, Colva, Cotbona, Betul and Talpona centres. Out of these Panaji and Cotbona are the major purse-seine landing centres, where more than 30 seiners are in operation. The area of fishing is northwest off Panaji-Calangute belt in 20-25 m depth zone.

On 19th September, 1984 during routine observations for the biological studies of pelagic fishes caught by purse-seines at Panaji, unusually heavy catches of penaeid prawns exclusively of Metapenaeus dobsoni were found landed by purse-seiners. The trend continued till 24th September, 1984 (Table IA). On an average of 600-700 kg of prawns were landed by each boat/trip during six days of fishing.

In the subsequent year also instances of heavy landings of penaeid prawns were observed for purseseine on three occasions. (Table 1B).

TABLE 1A

Date	No. of purse seines operated	Penaeid prawns (kg)	CPUE	Estimated value (Rs.)
19 -9-184	18	8,535.0	474.17	76,815.00
20-9 - '84	22	12,100.0	550.00	1,08.900.00
21-9-'84	22	14,879.9	576.36	1,33,919.10
22-9- '84	24	21,360.0	890.00	1,92,240.00
23-9-'84	22	13,948.0	634.00	1,25,532.00
24-9-'84	18	3,970.0	220.00	35,730.00
6 days	126	74,792.9	593.59	6,73,136.10

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16- 5-'85	1	1.400.0		12,600.00
23- 9-'85	1	320.0		2,800.00
1-11-185	1	600.0		5,400.00
3 days	3	2,320.0	_	20,880.00



^{*}Reported by G. M. Kulkarni, T. S. Balas S. Kemparaju, Field Centre of CMFRI, Goa. T. S. Balasubramanian and