

# Marine Fisheries Information Service



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Post Box No. 1603, Cochin - 682 018  
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# ***Lagocephalus inermis* catch at Kollam - a new source of income to fishermen**

K. Sasidharan Pillai

*Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi*

**T**he pufferfish, *Lagocephalus inermis*, which was considered as a menace by the fishermen has now become a source of income for them. The fish cut through the gears during hauling and consume the catch, especially cephalopods. However, of late this fish is found edible by certain people and hence it is caught and brought by the trawlers operating off Neendakara and Sakthikulangara.

The fish is generally caught at a depth range of 40 - 110 m by the trawlers. Earlier the catch used to be discarded but after realizing the demand, at present is brought to the harbour for auction and

fetches about Rs. 5 to 8 per kg. During May 2008, multi-day trawlers brought about 20 -50 kg/unit and single day trawlers brought around 15 -20 kg/unit.

The fish is marketed in two ways: i) marketed fresh after beheading, peeling off the skin and removing the visceral parts or (ii) marketed after salt curing, in the internal markets. The approximate price per kg in market is Rs.35-45/-. The size of *L. inermis* in demand varies from 20 to 40 cm.

Fishes of smaller size still continue to be a menace for the fishermen operating gears such as gill nets, ring seines *etc.*