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The Marine Fisheries Information Service : Technical and Extension Series envisages dissemination of information on marine fishery resources based on research results to the planners, industry and farmers and transfer of technology from laboratory to field.

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**Unusual heavy landing of juvenile catfish
(*Arius caelatus*) at Pondicherry Fishing Harbour.**

An unusual bumper catch of juvenile catfishes *Arius caelatus* was observed in Pondicherry Fishing Harbour on 16.08.2005. A mechanised trawler boat (12 m OAL) fitted with 125 HP engine landed a heavy catch of 1.6 tonnes of catfish. The area of operation was 12km off the coast and 14 km North of Pondicherry port at a depth of 34m. The water was clear and the drift/ current was moving towards northern direction. The boat caught a heavy catch of juvenile catfish shoal during the first haul. For avoiding damage to the net and to save the catch, the crew tied the net into 4 segments, slowly pulling/

trawling to reach the harbour without lifting the catch. After reaching the harbour, the catches were lifted to the deck by four segments. The fishes were packed in plastic tubs with ice for transportation. The catch included nearly 32 boxes/ tubs, 50kg each, were sold at the rate of Rs.300/- The length of fish ranged between 183- 332mm and weight ranged between 100-260 gm. The entire catches were transported to Chennai and Kerala for marketing.

Reported by: L. Chidambaram, Field Centre of CMFRI, Cuddalore