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ON THE REGULAR LANDING OF TONGUE SOLE BY PURSE SEINERS AT MANGALORE AND MALPE, KARNATAKA COAST*

On 14 - 9 - 1990, approximately 10 tonnes of tongue sole, *Cynoglossus macrostomus* were landed by purse seiners at Malpe. The catch was obtained by four boats operated off Gangolli at a depth of 11 - 20 metres, which was later auctioned for Rs. 2,000/- per tonne (Figs. 1 - 3). Length measurements and sex and maturity studies of 93 specimens were carried out at the landing centre. The size of the fishes ranged from 90 to 128 mm with a mode at 110 mm (Fig. 4). The males dominated over females (M - 57:F - 43). Majority of the female fishes (61%) were in advanced stages of maturity (stage V).

Examination of the purse seine landing data at Mangalore and Malpe for the past five years

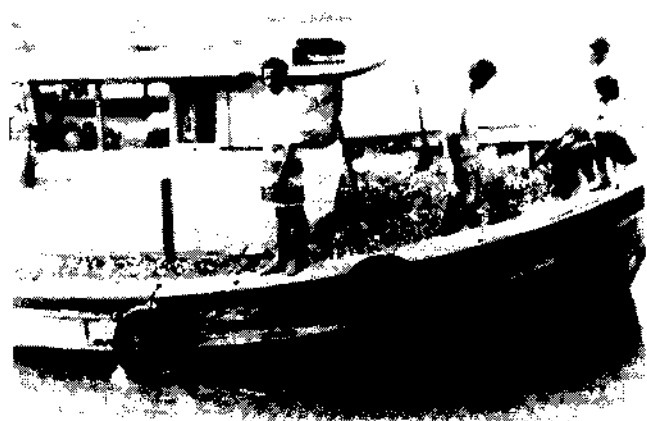


Fig. 1. A purse seine carrier boat with catch of tongue sole at Malpe Fisheries Harbour on 14-9-1990.

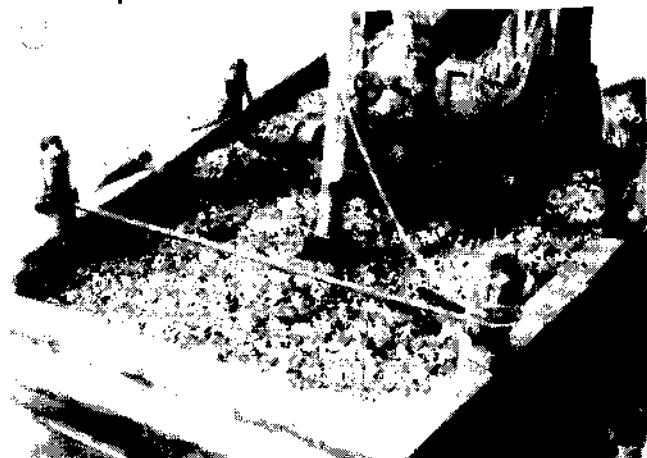


Fig. 2. Another view of the carrier boat full with tongue sole.



Fig. 3. Catch ready for disposal.

TABLE 1. Landing of tongue sole (in tonnes) in purse seine

Year	Mangalore			Malpe		
	Sep.	Oct.	Total	Sep.	Oct.	Total
1985	27.0	-	27.0	No observation		
1986	83.9	123.5	217.4	23.9	20.8	54.7
1987	-	28.5	28.5	5.6	-	5.6
1988	-	-	-	-	4.9	4.9
1989	16.7	16.7	16.7	24.6	-	24.6
1990	17.0	-	17.0	10.0	-	10.0

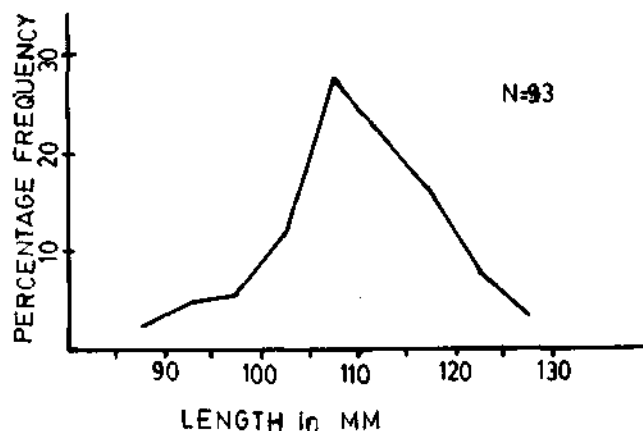


Fig. 4. Size distribution of tongue sole landed at Malpe, September, 1990.

(Table 1) showed the existence of an almost regular landing of sole at these centres during the months of September and October. This is in accordance with the occurrence of large shoals of Malabar sole in advanced stages of maturity along Calicut coast during the months of September and October. Earlier workers after observing the occurrence of polychaete worms in the stomachs of a large number of fishes, found that food factor appears to be

important in determining the inshore migration of these fishes. Immediately after the cessation of monsoon, they form shoals in the inshore areas, remain there till October and move to offshore water for spawning. No detailed feeding studies could be made and hence from the present observation it could not be inferred whether the availability of the species during these months indicates feeding migration.

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