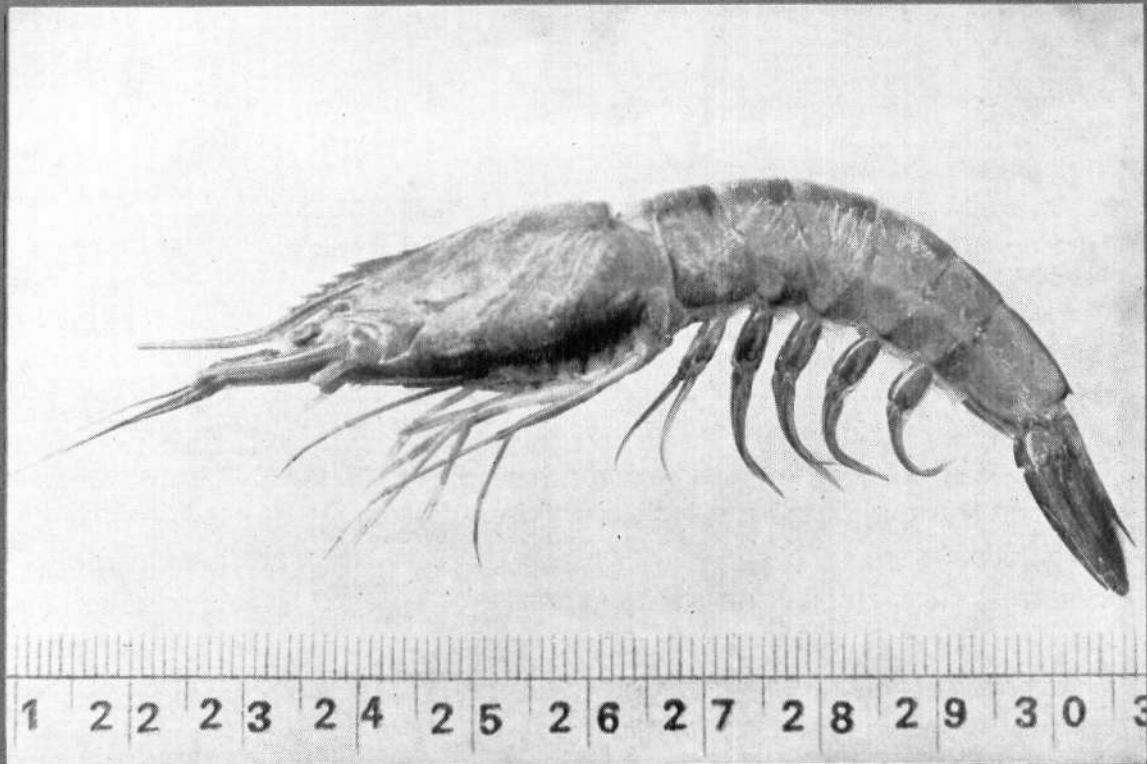




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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

BUMPER CATCHES OF *METAPENAEUS DOBSONI* ALONG THE MADRAS COAST*

Heavy landings of *Metapenaeus dobsoni* was observed during 12th to 18th July, 1988 along the southern landing centres of Madras. *Edavalai* was operated in the inshore waters off Perianeelangaraikuppam, Panayurkuppam and Kanathur Reddikuppam. *Edavalai* is a bag net, which requires 4 catamarans and 20 men for operation. This bag net after shooting is hauled by 2 catamarans on either side. On 16th July, 6 units were operated at Panayurkuppam and the total landings were 3,048 kg with an average of 508 kg per unit which was sold for Rs. 68,508 at the rate of Rs. 22.50 per kg. The landings at Perianeelangaraikuppam were around 2,000 kg. The landings of *M. dobsoni* at Kanathur

Reddikuppam was contributed by *kavala valai* and total landings was estimated at 2,500 kg.

The size of the prawns ranged between 78 and 102 mm and dominant size group was 90-94 mm which constituted 31.4%.

The other fishes that were caught with prawns were species of *Leiognathus*, *Thryssa Trichiurus*, *Pellona* and *Stolephorus* in the *edavalai*.

The sky was cloudy and slight drizzling was observed for three days during the period of observation. The upwelling would have caused migration of prawns to the near shore areas and thus resulted in heavy catches.

* Reported by S. Sankaralingam, Kovalam Field Centre of CMFRI, Madras.

