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BUMPER CATCH OF MACKEREL AT PANJIM, GOA *

Unlike the previous few seasons, the mackerel fishery at Panjim during this season was exceptionally good. Infact the purse - seiners started landing mackerel from the second fortnight of July. However, the magnitude of the catch during July and August and also in the earlier part of September was not that much

high but the bumper catches of mackerel ranging from 14 to 19 cm size were landed at Panjim jetty on 18th and 19th Sept. On an average each purse-seine landed a catch of about 3 tonnes of mackerel practically flooding the jetty. Seeing the good catches of mackerel in the north west of Panjim, the purse - seiners from other



Fig. 1. A View of the mackerel catch landed at the Panjim jetty.

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landing centres such as Vasco-de-gama, Colva and Betu also landed at Panjim jetty. The prices crashed to Rs. 10/- per basket weighing 40 kg and the fishermen resorted to distress sales on 18th & 19th September due to the non availability of ice and cold storage facilities. Some of the catch were thrown into the estuary which then spread along the edges of the river Mandovi. Details of the Mackerel catch by the Purse-seines at Panjim jetty is given below.

Sixty seven purse-seiners , each one with 2 to 4 tonnes of mackerel landed on 18 - 9 - '89 and on 19 - 9 - 89, 39 purse-seiners landed the catch at a rate of 1.5 to 5 tonnes by each boat.