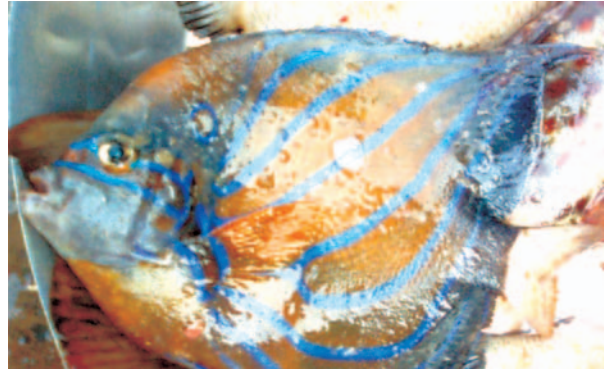


Fishermen's awareness to save a 'Blue-ringed angel fish' at Versova fishing village, Mumbai

Fishermen from Versova fishing village were in for a surprise when they found a live Blue-ringed angel fish, *Pomacanthus annularis* (Bloch, 1787) in their trawl catch. The fish was caught at a depth of about 40-50 m off Versova on 15-11-09. The fish measured about 300 mm in total length and was in a very healthy condition. On seeing the beauty of the fish the fishermen immediately transferred it to a container containing sea water. After unloading the catch the fishermen took the fish to their house and transferred it to a huge glass aquarium. The tank was filled with synthetic sea water which the fishermen had procured from local marine aquarium store. The Scientific staff of CMFRI, visited the place

and gave necessary help for the upkeep of the fish. The Fish was fed with marine algae and small pieces of prawns which it readily accepted. The tank was fitted with an aerator and water filter. The fish survived and very well acclimatised to its new environment. It was very moving to see the care given by the fishermen for this fish and after a month the fishermen were of the opinion that the fish should be released back to the sea, which they eventually did. This gesture has



Pomacanthus annularis

contributed to the rehabilitation and conservation of such a beautiful coral fish.

(Reported by Sujit Sundaram and S.G.Raje, Mumbai Research Centre of CMFRI.)