

Unusual and heavy landings of rays and skates in Muttom fishing harbour in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

During June-July 2012, the traditional fishermen of the Jeppiaar Fishing Harbour, Muttom in Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu got bumper catches of rays and skates. The body weight of the rays ranged from 0.9 to 1.5 Kg and those of the skates ranged from 2.5 to 4.0 kg. On an average, the estimated catch per day was 6.0 tonnes. Considering the price of ₹ 58/kg, the total revenue obtained due to the heavy catches of rays and skates for about one week was ₹24,36,000 for the estimated total catch of 42.0 tonnes. The rays and skates were stored in plastic trays in crushed ice and transported for marketing. The majority of the catch (about 85.0%) was stocked with ice and sent to the neighbouring state of Kerala in mini trucks for better prices. The remaining catch was sent to the local



A view of the rays at the collection site before packing

markets in Tuticorin and Colachel by the whole sale dealers.

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