Occurrence of Gobi *Yongeichthys criniger* (Valenciennes, 1837) off Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

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On 15th December 2013, during an experimental trawl fishing at about 20 m depth along the Ratnagiri coast (17° 03.187 N - 73° 14.092 E) a single specimen of ‘Hair-finned gobi’ *Yongeichthys criniger* (Fig. 1) was also caught among the catch comprised of groupers, squilla, crab, gastropods, croackers, jellyfish, sea snakes, cephalopods, bivalves etc. The length of the fish was 94 mm and weighed 10.1 g. *Y. criniger* is a tropical Indo-Pacific goby inhabiting shallow to deep coastal mud or silty sand flats.

Gobies are prey species for commercially important fishes such as haddock, sea bass, and flatfish. Several gobies are also of interest as aquarium fish.

Large scale exploitation of Indian squid, *Loligo duvauceli* by jigging from nearshore waters of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

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*Loligo duvauceli* locally called as ‘Nal makul’ (Plate 1) contributes 52.8% to the cephalopod landings of Maharashtra. Large scale aggregation of squids was observed in the nearshore waters of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra during October-November 2013 which caught the attention of fishermen, who used jigs to exploit them. High catches of squids were observed daily during this period. An unprecedented catch of about 24 t of *L. duvauceli* was landed at Rajiwada landing centre on 15.11.2013 which was sent to local fish processing units.

Jigging locally termed as ‘Garkadi’ is usually carried out at night. Fishermen leave shore at mid night and return with the catch at about 6 am. Big gill netters are temperature converted for squid jigging by the fishermen during this period. About 20 bulbs of 28 V are fixed on the boat including a generator. There are about 20 such functional jigging boats operated in Ratnagiri. Each boat carries 6 crew