

Observations on the unusually heavy landings of oil sardine at Karwar

Pandurangachar, K.C., and Narayan, G.Vaidya

Karwar Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Karwar

Oil sardine (*Sardinella longiceps*) forms one of the most important pelagic resource landed along the Karnataka coast. The annual oil sardine landings during the year 2013-2014 was 9522 tonnes (t) in Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka. Baithkol is the major mechanised landing centre here. At Karwar, oil sardine landing is generally observed from August to May and the peak season is from October to March. During 2014, soon after the Monsoon Fishing Ban period, the oil sardine fishery by the purse seine boats started on the first of August, 2014. On 13th October 2014, unusual heavy landings of oil sardine by purseseiners was observed at Baithkol landing centre. The heavy landings started from morning 11 00 hrs and continued upto 18 00 hrs on that day. About 35 purse-seiners landed catch ranging from 5 to 6 t per boat with the total catch landed during the day being 193 t. The total length of oil sardine landed ranged from 15 to 17 cm. The entire catch



Purse seiners loaded with oil sardine berthed at Baithkol Landing Centre, Karw

was iced, loaded in trucks and transported to Mangaluru and other states also. The auction rate of the fish ranged from ₹ 360 to ₹ 420 per basket of 30 kg.