

Brown-headed gull entangled in a gillnet

Veena, S., Loveson Edward, Ch. Moshe and Shubhadeep Ghosh

Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Visakhapatnam

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus* Jerdon, 1840, forming big flocks consisting of more than 200 numbers were observed at Bhimili, Visakhapatnam from the months of November 2013 till January 2014. These birds were also observed at Pokkalapeta, Srikakulam on 25th January 2014 forming a flock of around 100 birds. One such gull was recorded in a gillnet operated at a depth of 15 m by fisherman at Gowlamukkam landing centre, Andhra Pradesh on 10th February 2014 (Fig. 1) and brought ashore along with the catch comprising mainly of juvenile oil sardines. There are reports of sea turtles and marine mammals caught or stranded along the coasts of India, but there are no records of seabird by-catch and hence information on the number of coastal birds caught accidentally and the impact of such capture on the coastal bird population is very important.

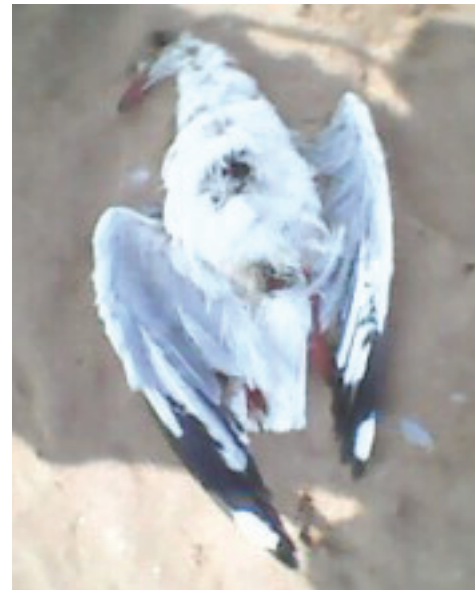


Fig. 1. Dead specimen of Brown-headed gull