Oman is well established and average annual catches reported during 2002-09 period was about 35,000 t. They are harvested using beach seines and gill nets operated close to the shore. They are consumed fresh as well as in dried form for using directly as fodder for cattle and goats when green fodder availability is low and at times also exported to other Gulf countries like the UAE. Sardine abundance in Oman Seas is reported during September to April months with peak during December- January when temperatures are lower (Jufaili and Al-Jahwari, 2011, Sultan Quaboos University, Oman). In comparison, along the Kerala coast the Oil sardine fishery peaks during June to September with annual catches recorded in 2014 being 1.5 lakh against a record landing of 3.99 lakh t in 2012. Catch trends indicate steady decline since 2012. During June, 2015 landings were conspicuously low along the Central Kerala coast although catches were reported from other parts of Kerala and neighbouring states like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Large scale exploitation of the Unicorn leatherjacket by multiday trawlers

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*Aluterus monoceros* commonly known as the Unicorn leatherjacket or filefishes were exploited by multiday trawlers in Karnataka, but catch volumes were always low. However since mid-April 2015, large quantities were landed both at Mangalore and Malpe Fishing Harbours. The fish has limited preference in local markets but fetches a very good price in other domestic markets and the fishers were happy with the unusual catches.

While small unicorn leatherjacket prefer estuaries and coastal habitats with plenty of weed and reef cover, the larger ones occur in offshore waters. In Karnataka, the trawlers operating at depths ranging from 70 - 100 m were exploiting the larger sized *A. monoceros*. Locally known ‘batmeenu’ soon after landing is skinned and packed in boxes. The fish which originally has a pale grey to brown thick leathery skin then looks smooth with a pinkish white colouration and is sold to local restaurants under the trade name “China pomfret”. The landing price ranged from ₹150 - 200 per kg depending on the size and quantity landed. During the second half of April, around 53 units landed at Mangalore and Malpe Harbours daily with the catch per unit ranging from 0.25 to 4.5 t and the trend continued during May also.