

## On the rare occurrence of the blacksaddled coral grouper

Miriam Paul Sreeram, K. M. Sreekumar, Thobias P. Antony, M. Sethulakshmi, K. A. Divya, Varsha Shaji and Aju K. Raju

ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi

The blacksaddled coral grouper *Plectropomus laevis* (Lacepède, 1801) is a member of the family Serranidae and is usually found associated with coral reefs. It occurs in the Indian ocean and tropical Western and Central Pacific, but is considered to be uncommon to rare, except in coral reef environs, throughout its range. It is classified as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List owing to its natural rarity in coastal seas and substantial decline in populations wherever it is fished in coral reef regions. A single specimen of *P. laevis* measuring 695 mm in total length and weighing 4.9 kg was landed at Cochin Fisheries Harbour, Kochi on 30.03.16 (Fig. 1). It was caught by hook and line fishers along with a catch



Fig. 1. *Plectropomus laevis* landed at Cochin Fisheries Harbour

of *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*. It was collected and deposited in the National Designated Repository, CMFRI, Kochi with Accession No. GB.31.139.44.1.