

# Landings of juvenile *Uroteuthis (Photololigo) singhalensis* in Tuticorin Fishing Harbour

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In Tuticorin Fishing Harbour about 200 trawlers operate daily from 5 am to 11 pm for single day fishing. Wooden and steel trawlers in three sizes,

namely small boats (OAL 35-40 feet), medium boats (OAL 40-50 feet) and large boats (OAL up to 80 feet) operate from this harbour. During July to September

period, about 30 to 40 small and medium sized wooden trawlers are regularly engaged in the squid fishery. The major cephalopod species landed are *Uroteuthis (Photololigo) singhalensis*, *U. (P) duvaucelii*, *Sepia pharaonis* and *Sepioteuthis lessoniana*. Other species like *Sepia prabahari*, *Amphioctopus aegina*, *Amphioctopus neglectus* and *Octopus* sp. occur as stray catches. *Uroteuthis(P) singhalensis* is the dominant species with peak landings during July and August months. During the regular observations at Tuticorin fishing harbour, it was observed that juveniles of *U. singhalensis* were landed between September and December 2015. The squids were in the size range of 30 to 178 mm (dorsal mantle length) with an average length of 72 mm. The reported Size at First Maturity of *U. (P) singhalensis* is 118 mm (female) and 130 mm (male) dorsal mantle length. In the present observation 95% of the squids were below the size of 100 mm. Biological studies (n=240) revealed 81% of catch was

immature stage specimens followed by 15% with maturing gonads and only 4% were mature. While larger size of *U. (P) singhalensis* fetches around ₹140 - 190 per kg, small sized juveniles were sold only for ₹ 8-10 per kg indicating an economic loss and it can adversely affect the cephalopod fishery.

Details of trawlers sampled and estimated catch of Juvenile squids

Date	Trawler Units sampled (in numbers)	Catch of juvenile squid (tonnes)
09.09.15	15	7.5
21.09.15	13	6.0
14.10.15	14	3.5
31.10.15	10	2.0
07.11.15	19	6.5
30.11.15	20	4.5
04.12.15	8	1.3
22.12.15	9	0.5