

# Observations on a bumper catch of oil sardine by *Rampan* nets in Goa

\*T. Senthil Murugan<sup>1</sup>, Prakash C. Shetty<sup>2</sup>, Narayan G. Vaidya<sup>1</sup>, Navanath P. Kumbhar<sup>1</sup> and K. K. Philipose<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Karwar Research centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Karwar

<sup>2</sup>Goa Field centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Goa

\*e-mail: drsenthilmurugan@yahoo.com

During the past decade *Sardinella longiceps* has contributed about 30 to 50% of the total fish catch along the Goa coast. The annual oil sardine landings in Goa during the year 2015 and 2016 was 16,212 and 24951 tons (t) respectively. There are 20 landing centres on the South Goa district and 14 landing centres in the North Goa district. At Pale Landing Centre (15° 22' 017" N 073° 52' 552" E) fishing 20 shoroseine (*Rampan*) units are engaged in fishing. On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017, unusual bumper catch of *S. longiceps* in *Rampan* net was observed here. On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 information about a huge shoal of oil sardine received by a mini-purseiner was passed on to the *rampani* owners also. The operation of the *rampani* net (mesh size 14 mm) at a depth of 5-6 meters was started immediately at 1700 hrs which continued upto 2100 hrs. The heavy catch remained in the net which was kept in the sea by tying the both end ropes of the net to nearby trees on the shore. Next day the dragging of the net was started early with 32 fishers engaged. Since the catch was

very heavy, another 15 fishers were additionally employed for the harvest. The catch was brought to shore using scoop nets and by 0530 hrs, totally 8 t of oil sardine was harvested and marketed locally at the rate of ₹ 30-35 per kg. The activity was continued employing another additional group of 25 labourers and a total of 68 tons was harvested. The entire catch packed in plastic tubs with ice were loaded in trucks and transported to fish meal plants at Goa at the rate of ₹ 15-20 per kg.

The *rampan* catch consisted of oil sardine along with stray numbers of mackerel and jelly fishes. The oil sardine catch analysed indicated size range of 121-183 mm with a modal length of 130 mm and an average weight of 22 gms. Most of the fishes were immature (71%), 10% were mature and 19% had spent gonads. The sex ratio (male: female) was 1: 1.36. The gut content contained phytoplankton (*Tintinnopsis* sp., *Coscinodiscus* sp., *Biddulphia* sp.) and partially digested copepods.