

## Report of dorsal fin abnormality in silver pomfret

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During a routine sampling for silver pomfret *Pampus argenteus*, specimens with dorsal fin abnormality were collected from Ratnagiri and Mumbai, Maharashtra. On 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 a single silver pomfret with deformed dorsal region and a

deep pit in the dorsal region was observed in the purse seine landings at Mirkarwada fish landing centre, Ratnagiri (Fig. 1). On 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 another abnormal deformed specimen was collected from the trawl landings at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai



Fig. 1. Deformed *Pampus argenteus* from Mirkarwada, Ratnagiri

(Fig. 2 & 3). Dorsal region of the fish was deformed being thicker compared to other parts. The female specimen measuring 210 mm in Fork Length (FL), weighed 313 g. Gut contained semi digested prawns and plastic. X-ray revealed that entire pterygiophores supporting the dorsal fin were absent and vertebral spines below the deformed area were curved. The lack/deformity of dorsal fin rays whether it is partial or complete is known as 'saddleback syndrome' (SBS). Although rare in marine fauna, the causes for deformed marine fish are



Fig. 2. Anterior portion of the dorsal fin absent in silver pomfret from Mumbai



Fig. 3. Deformed dorsal profile

attributed mostly to adverse environmental conditions, pollution, stress in larval stage, attack by predators and physical injuries, besides mutation.