

Heavy landing of tranquebar scallop at Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu

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Scallops belong to family Pectinidae and their shells exhibit an extraordinary diversity of shape and sculpture having high demand in ornamental shell trade industry. They are distinct and unique from other bivalves in that they actively swim by ejecting rapid jet propulsion of water. On 15th July 2017, during a regular fishery observation at Cuddalore Fishing Harbour, an unusual, heavy landing of the Tranquebar scallop *Volachlamys tranquebaria* (Gmelin, 1791) along with other gastropods and bivalves was observed in the trawl by catch. The tranquebar scallop constituted about 98% of the total by-catch, and negligible numbers of other species (*Conus* sp., *Murex* sp., *Ficus* sp., *Rapanna* sp. and *Cucullea* sp) were also noticed. They were landed by a the single day trawl unit operated off Cuddalore at a depth of 10 m and sold



Size range of tranquebar scallops landed

@ ₹ 8 per kg. The specimens of *V. tranquebaria* ranged from 28.2-40.7 mm in total length and 4-12 g in total weight. Although, the species has been recorded previously in Gulf of Mannar, Bay of Bengal and Vellar estuary of Tamil Nadu, such voluminous landing of tranquebar scallop is rare.