Heavy landing of tranquebar scallop at Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu

P. Laxmilatha, E. M. Chhandaprajnadarsini, S. Pradeep and N. Rudramurthy
Madras Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Centre, Chennai
e-mail: laxmil@yahoo.com

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 @ ₹ 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.

Artisanal longline fishing for high value fishes off Mumbai, Maharashtra

Albert Idu, Anulekshmi Chellappan*, K.V. Akhilesh and V. V. Singh
Mumbai Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mumbai
e-mail: anulekshmic@gmail.com

Sassoon Dock is one of oldest and a major landing center located in Mumbai from where several multiday and single day fishing vessels including trawlers, dolnetters, gillnetters and hook and line units operate. Marine fisheries of Maharashtra is mostly dominated by trawlers and dolnetters while line fishing is done by only a few fishers. The artisanal fishers in Juhu, Colaba and nearby areas of Mumbai are operating a few long line units in small wooden boats (6 - 7 m OAL) or fibre boats fitted with engines of 16 - 24 hp from Sassoon Dock landing centre. Single day short duration fishing trips of about 5 hours with 4-5 crew, are done in the nearshore waters at 10-25 m depths. Targetted species includes cat fishes, groupers, rays, croakers etc.

To reduce investment cost, the fishers are using cheap and locally available materials for the fishing gear. The main line is made of synthetic rope (Polypropylene) of 3 mm thickness with an approximate length of 210 m. The mainline contains 60 numbers of 40-60 cm long vertical branch lines fitted with "J" shaped...