

A note on the shoal of *Priacanthus hamrur* caught during experimental trawling

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During the experimental fishing conducted by F
V *Silver pompano* on 10th November 2016, a shoal of
bullseye *Priacanthus hamrur*, weighing 1.5 t, was

caught at 65-70 m depth off Alappuzha coast (9°
 $25' 51''$ N, $75^{\circ} 58' 49''$ E). The shrimp trawl net with
cod end mesh size of 20 mm was operated for an



Fig. 1. Bulk catch of *Priacanthus hamrur*

hour and the total catch comprised of *P. hamrur* (99%) and *Uroteuthis (Photololigo) duvaucelii* (1%). *P. hamrur* caught ranged from 189-231 mm in total length weighing between 92- 156 g each. Sex ratio

(Male: Female) was 1:2. Females of size range 189-231 mm and males of 196-221 mm were recorded. Among females, the specimens in size range of 201-220 mm were mature (stage IV). The length weight relationship estimated indicated the 'b' for males and females as 2.73 and 2.93 respectively with no significant variation ($p>0.05$) among the sexes. Most of the specimens (72.8%) had empty stomach. It was observed that the diet was represented by *Acetes* spp. which was the single largest diet component. Hydrographic parameters observed from the location include Surface and bottom water salinity (34 and 32 ‰), Surface and bottom water temperature (27.5 and 25 °C) respectively. Phytoplankton analysis indicated, tintinnids and chaetognatha were present in the fishing ground.