

Observations on a mud bank fishery

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The mud bank fishery of four different places in Thrissur district of Kerala was observed in July 2017. The phenomenon was first observed in North west of Chettuva Fisheries Harbour at a distance of 5 to 7 kilometres and depth of 4 to 10 metres. At Chettuva Fisheries harbour inboard ring seiners crafts operated *Thangu vala* (large mesh ring seine) and outboard ring seiners operated *Chooda vala* (small mesh ring seine). The catch in *Thangu vala* had predominance of *Sardinella longiceps* (ranging from 1800 kg to 4000 kg per boat) and *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (ranging from 1650 kg to 3200 kg per boat) followed by *Metapenaeus dobsoni*, *Stolephorus* spp., *Alepes djeddaba*, *Penaeus indicus*, *Opisthopterus tardoore* and *Thryssa* spp. In *Chooda vala*, the anchovy *Stolephorus* spp. was dominant (ranging from 800 kg to 850 kg per boat) followed by *O. tardoore*, *Ambassis* spp. and *Thryssa* spp. At Perinjanan Bhajanamadam landing centre fishing units had temporarily migrated from Kaipamangalam companykadavu, Nattika, Karimpuram, Edamutttam and Vanchipura landing centres. The out board crafts with small trawl net (locally called Double net/*Pothan vala*) were operating very near to shore targeting the prawns. *Metapenaeus dobsoni* (ranging from 200-350 kg per boat) *Penaeus indicus* (ranging from 10-

20 kg per boat) followed by *Leiognathus* spp., *Thryssa* spp., *O. tardoore*, *Stolephorus* spp., *Tripauchen vagina*, *Portunus pelagicus*, *P. sanguinolentus*, *Otolithus* spp., *Jhonius* spp. and young ones of *Trichiurus lepturus* of 25-30 cm were landed. In addition to this, the three layered trammel net locally called as '*Disco vala*' were also operated by outboard and non-mechanised crafts. Catch comprised *M. dobsoni* (ranging from 2-5 kg per boat) followed by *P. indicus*, *Leiognathus* spp., *Thryssa* spp., *O. tardoore*, *Portunus pelagicus*, *Otolithus* spp. and *Jhonius* spp. during the entire month.

At Kallampadi and Edakazhiyoor, crafts based at Blangad, Thalikkulam and Vadanapilly landing centres operated. Outboard crafts operating trawl net landed *M. dobsoni* (ranging from 120-260 kg per boat) followed by *P. indicus*, *P. monodon*, *Alepes kleinii*, *Leiognathus* spp., *Thryssa* spp., *O. tardoore*, *Stolephorus* spp., *Tripauchen vagina*, *Otolithus* spp. and *Jhonius* spp. Gillnets operated from outboard and non-mechanised crafts had *P. indicus*, *O. tardoore*, *Thryssa* spp, *Alepes kleinii*, *Rastrelliger kanagurta* and *Sardinella longiceps*. At Edakazhiyoor crafts from Mannilamkunnu, Panchavadi, and Puthenkkadappuram operating trawl net landed *M. dobsoni* (ranging from 80-160 kg per boat) followed

Table 1. Fishery trends in the different landing centres

Landing centre	Fishing crafts & units operated	Gear specifications	Dominant species and Approximate value /Kg
Chettuva	Inboard ring seiners(both wooden & steel built), 50 units	<i>Thanguvala</i> of 18-20 mm, mesh size	<i>Sardinella longiceps</i> (₹ 60) and <i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i> (₹ 80)
	Outboard ring seiner (wooden built), 25 units	<i>Choodavala</i> of 8- 10 mm mesh size	<i>Stolephorus</i> spp. ₹ 100
Perinjanam Bajanamadam	Murivallam(Outboard wooden craft using trawl net), 25 units	Trawl net (smaller version locally non as <i>Pothan vala</i> /Double net)	<i>Metapenaeus dobsoni</i> ₹ 120 - 140
	Out board and Non-mechanised-wooden <i>valloms</i> , 20 and 10 units respectively	Trammel net (Bottom set gill net)	<i>Metapenaeus dobsoni</i> ₹ 120 - 140
Kallampadi	Out board wooden craft (<i>Murivallam</i>) using trawl net), 30 units	Trawl net (smaller version locally <i>Pothan vala</i> / Double net)	<i>Metapenaeus dobsoni</i> ₹ 120 - 140
	Out board and Non-mechanised wooden craft, 25 and 20 units respectively	Gill net	<i>Penaeus indicus</i> ₹ 350 - 380
Edakazhiyoor	Out board wooden craft (<i>Murivallam</i>) using trawl net), 30 units	Trawl net (<i>Pothan vala</i> / Double net)	<i>Metapenaeus dobsoni</i> ₹ 130 - 140
	Out board and Non-mechanised wooden craft, 15 and 5 units respectively	Gill net	<i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i> ₹ 80 - 100
	Out board wooden ring seiner, 10 units	<i>Choodavala</i>	<i>Metapenaeus dobsoni</i> ₹ 130 - 140

by *P. indicus*, *Alepes kleinii*, *Thryssa* spp., *O. tardoore*, *Stolephorus* spp. and *Sillago sihama*. In gillnets operated by outboard and non mechanized crafts *R. kanagurta*, *Otolithes* spp. and *Lactarius lactarius* were mainly caught. *M. dobsoni* (ranging

from 150-240 kg per boat), *Ambassis* spp., *Stolephorus* spp. and young ones (measuring 7.5 to 10 cm) of oil sardine, *S. longiceps* were the major catch in outboard ring seiners.