

Heavy landing of small sized Indian mackerel by ring seine units

J. Balaji, S. Mohan, R. Vasu, P. Jai Ganesh, S. Chandrasekaran and S. Selvanidhi

Madras Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Chennai - 600 028, Tamil Nadu

Pazhaverkadu in Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu is unique in that ring seine operations are rampant here while in the adjacent Chennai area, these are not operated, mainly as a result of consensus among the fishermen against its use. On 2.5.2017, heavy landing of Indian mackerel by the ring seines operated at Pazhaverkadu as per operational details gathered from the fishermen. Each mother boat unit of 12 m overall length (OAL) had 5 to 6 carrier boats with a capacity of 1500 kg each. An

estimated 60 t of mackerel whose size varied from 170 to 185 was landed by around 80 units. All were in immature stage with gut containing zooplankton. Because of their small sizes, the price per kilogram of mackerel was around ₹30 only and this too only because it was the annual fishing ban period when catches are generally low. The entire catch was transported to Kerala. Enquiries revealed the landing of mackerel by ring seines had started from 26.4.2017 and continued up to 4.5.2017.