

Note on a bumper catch of Threadfin sea catfish in shore seine

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For past several years catfish did not form a fishery at Karwar located in the Uttara Kannada District of Karnataka. However, during the routine observations on the fish landings at Aligadda Fish Landing Centre, Karwar, an unusual bumper catch of about 3 tons of cat fish *Arius arius* was recorded from shore seine (*Yendi bale*) in the early hours of 28th July 2018. locally known as "*Billi Shade*", the catch was so heavy that it was difficult to drag the net to the shore and the haul was partially harvested at sea itself. The net operated by around 40 fishers at a depth of less than 8 metres, was 400 m in length. The catch on that day consisted of the cat fish *Arius arius* weighing 2960 Kg (94.78%). Burrowing goby, (*Trypauchen vagina*), Smooth-backed blow fish, *Tetradon inermis*, flat fish,

Cynoglossus macrostomus, glass perchlet, *Ambassis urotaenia*, Tail eyed goby, *Parachaeturichthys polynema*, Ribbon fish, *Trichiurus lepturus*, Silverbellies (*Leiognathus* sp.), Flat heads, *Platycephalus* sp. and sciaenids were recorded. 74 baskets of 40 kg capacity each containing catfish were auctioned locally at a rate of ₹1700 per basket. The catch was transported to the interior markets in Hubli and Bhadravati where good demand exists for catfish. A sample of the cat fish (n=42) indicated a size range of 180-280 mm each weighing from 60 to 276 g individually. The modal length was 230-244 mm with 74% in length range of 210-269 mm. Maturity indicated 73% were immature. The sex ratio (male : female) was 1:1.21 indicating dominance of females.