

Unusual heavy landing of Blackspotted croaker at Jafrabad, Gujarat

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The Blackspotted croaker (*Protonibea diacanthus*) locally known as *Ghol* was landed in huge quantity at the Jafrabad Fish Landing Centre on 10th December 2018. The total weight of the catch was 10,700 kg with the croakers in the length range of 679 to 1298 mm (Fig.1). The motorized fishing vessel with an overall length of 14 m and powered by 95 hp engine carried the catch harvested from the bag (*dol*) net. The cod-end mesh size of the net was 60 mm. The fishing period was 6 hours for the 2 hauls. The total number of fishes landed were 1105, of which male to female ratio was 1:2. The catch location locally known as *Ghata-vara buoy* between Surat and Valsad, had depth around 15 m. In general, fish meat fetches ₹300 per kg whereas the high-value air-bladder price depends on its size and weight. Similar seasonal heavy landing of *Ghol* fish has been reported earlier also from the nearby areas which pointed its region-specific and seasonal abundance of fishery.



Fig.1. Catch of croakers transported to shore