

## A note on catfish landing with gravid females, male brooders and young ones at Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu.

M. Sivadas\*, S. Pradeep, P. Vishnu and R. Vasu

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

\*E-mail: sivadasmadhav@yahoo.com

In Tamil Nadu catfish is landed mainly as a by-catch in trawlers, drift gill netters and the hook and line units. In 2018, the total catfish landing in Tamil Nadu was 4165 t of which almost 90 % was contributed by trawlers. On 22.8.2019, around 3000 kg of catfish, *Arius maculatus* was landed by a ring seiner at Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu. The catch was comprised of gravid females and incubating males of total length ranging from 350 mm to 370 mm. Along with the catch, eggs in various stages of development, juveniles with yolk and without

yolk were also seen in good quantity in the boat. One gravid ovary contained 24 eggs in the right ovary and 29 in the left. The young ones with yolk sac varied in total length from 30 mm to 44 mm and weight from 1.02 g to 1.43 g and those without yolk sac varied in total length from 35 mm to 60 mm and weight from 0.6 g to 1.73 g. This also indicates the spawning period. Lack of high demand of catfish acts as a natural deterrent against uncontrolled fishing of this resource.



Fig.1. Eggs and juveniles of *Arius maculatus*.