

Heavy landing of tuna by multiday deep sea ringseiners at Cuddalore.

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In Tamil Nadu, Cuddalore fishing harbour is known for ringseine operation and in February 2018, the fishermen introduced multiday deep sea ringseine for oceanic tunas and the result was encouraging (Sivadas *et al.*, 2018. *Mar. Fish. Infor. Ser. T & E Ser.* No.235). Now the fishermen from neighbouring areas like Pazhayar, Kalpakkam etc also started practising this fishing. In 2019 since July, there were good landings by this gear. A brief account of the landings during July and August is given below to highlight their role in exploitation of both inshore and oceanic tunas. In a boat the catch varied from 5 t to 30 t. Initially the catch was comprised by yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna. But in August, the catch was almost fully dominated by kawakawa, frigate tuna and bullet tuna. In some boats, besides tuna, others such as seerfish, black pomfrets, *Scomberoides* spp., *Caranx* spp, *Mobula*

japonica etc were also caught. Number of days per trip varied from 2 to 3 days in July. But in August, the fishing was mostly limited to single day though absence of enough catch made some boats to extend the fishing to 2 to 3 days. It was said that in August, the open sea was very rough which forced them to limit the fishing within 20 to 30 nautical miles away from the shore. In August, all the boats including those from neighbouring areas also landed their catch in Cuddalore. Yellowfin tuna was auctioned at ₹100-150 per kg, skipjack at ₹80-90 per kg, kawakawa at ₹70 to 80 per kg whereas bullet tuna and frigate tuna were auctioned at ₹40 to ₹45 per kg. Seer fish was auctioned at ₹600 per kg and black pomfret at ₹260 per kg. Entire tuna catch was transported to Kerala and the landing centre price depended on the demand from Kerala.