

Landings of Trapezium horse conch at Pamban



Landings of *Fasciolaria trapezium* at Pamban

Fasciolaria trapezium a golden brown shell, commonly known as trapezium horse conch or fox conch, is a species of marine gastropod in the family Fasciolaridae. They are landed as bycatch in bottom set gill net especially lobster net (*Shingi valai*) in Pamban fishing harbour. They are traditionally exploited

for shell craft industry in Tamil Nadu. Most of the shells are being brought from the Gulf of Mannar. It is one of the banned mollusc coming under schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. Hence shell craft industry is not using it. Some fishermen throw these shells into the sea as and when they catch but some of them

bring it to shore for operculum. Shells are being thrown on the beach after removing the operculum. Operculum is used to produce an adhesive matrix for coating incense sticks with powdered sandal wood and other sweet smelling materials. The average weight of an operculum is 1.8g. This operculum is sold to local merchant at the rate of Rs. 1800/kg.

(Mandapam Regional Centre)



Operculum of *Fasciolaria trapezium*