

Seasonal jellyfish fishery in Jakhau, Gujarat.

Make hay while the sun shines', this forms the motto of Jakhau's fishermen community after their waters has been infested by seasonal jellyfish blooms. The gillnets mainly operated by motorized boats used to get affected by the heavy deposition of jellyfish masses and thereby making them less efficient. Of late, backed by the heavy demand from China and South East Asian markets, fisher folks adapted to this situation by harvesting the jellyfishes itself. In Jakhau, around 75 odis (fibre glass canoes with inboard engine) are involved in jellyfish collection using multifilament gillnets.



Jellyfish (Fam: Rhizostomatidae) at Jakhau



Unloading plastic bags containing jellyfishes

Each odi brings harvest of around one tonne of jellyfish per day. The fishery has two seasons viz, November-December and April-May. Only one buyer was noticed there who procures the fish from the fishermen and carries out initial processing near the landing centre itself. These are then transported to Veraval for further processing and export by the buyer. The production reported for the season is approximately 800 tonnes as per the buyer which is more than three times of the previous years landing of 250 t.