



Catch of *Rampani* in Sindhudurg district

Unprecedented landings of Indian Mackerel in Maharashtra

Unprecedented landings of Indian Mackerel, *Rastrelliger kanagurta* was observed in Maharashtra during October to December 2010. Estimated catch of mackerel was 21,761 t that contributed 18.2% to the total marine fish landings of the state, placing the resource on second position after prawns in the order of abundance. Purse seine being the most efficient fishing gear for catching pelagic fish, landed bulk of the mackerel catch (65%), followed by gill net (27%), trawl net (5.6%) and *Rampani*

(3%). The abundance of fish along the coast of Maharashtra was so high that there was complete revival of *Rampani*

(Shore seine) fishery in Sindhudurg district after a gap of many years.

In Sindhudurg district there are about 70 *Rampani* groups all which were engaged in fishing from October to December. In most of the *Rampani* net operations, 2-6 t of mackerel was landed with highest of 30 t in single operation at 'Wairi' landing centre during December 2010. Even in Mumbai, the abundance of mackerel was so high that many trawlers switched over to purse seining. As a result about 460 purse seiners were in full operation during October to December 2010. Due to heavy landings, the price per kg plummeted from ₹ 50/kg to ₹10/kg during October to December 2010. In Sindhudurg district, a basket of mackerel (approximately 20 kg) fetched ₹100-150.

(Reported by: Bashir A. A. Shiledar, Punam A Khandagale & Anulekshmi Chellappan, Mumbai RC of CMFRI)

Landings of Indian Mackerel *Rastrelliger kanagurta* in Maharashtra*

Year	Trawl Net	Gill Net	Purse Seine	Rampani	TOTAL
2005	1644	1592	1593	12	4874
2006	1757	3133	1431	7	6434
2007	1274	4049	3584	440	9497
2008	1212	3543	1989	143	7152
2009	1105	766	8361	20	11045
2010	1224	5835	14087	615	21761

*Catch in Tonnes