

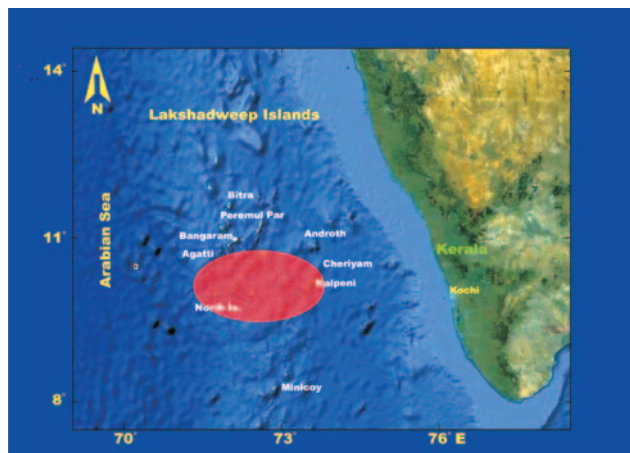
Spawning ground of Oceanic squids in Arabian sea located

Exploratory jigging surveys undertaken along the Eastern Arabian Sea by the squid jigger MV *Titanic* (modified commercial trawler) identified spawning grounds of the purple back oceanic squid *Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis*. The study conducted as part of the NAIP *Utilization Strategy for Oceanic Squids (Cephalopoda) in Arabian Sea: A Value Chain Approach* collected juveniles of oceanic squids in Lakshadweep waters between 10°00' N 71°59' E and 10°14' N 73°44' E (between Agatti and Kalpeni

Islands) during October 2010. Dense aggregations (~ 130,000 numbers/km²) of oceanic squid juveniles with dorsal mantle lengths ranging from 3 to 30 mm size were observed in the surface layers during night (from 7PM to 12 AM and 3AM to 5 AM). The squids were attracted to the powerful lights (1.5 KW x 18 halogen lights) on board MV *Titanic* and station depths ranged from 700 to 1500 m. In December 2010, these oceanic squids had moved in a

northwesterly direction and had grown to nearly 80 mm DML indicating extremely fast growth. This preliminary observation indicates that the area around the Lakshadweep Islands is a major spawning ground for oceanic squids probably because of higher productivity as compared to the central Arabian Sea basin which is the normal foraging area for adults.

(Molluscan
Fisheries Division)



Location of spawning ground (marked in red) of *Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis* in Arabian Sea



Juveniles of oceanic squids *Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis* caught in Lakshadweep waters