

# Yellow fin tuna fishing off Chennai



Yellow fin tuna caught by hooks & lines

Large-sized yellow-fin tuna *Thunnus albacares* was landed by hooks & lines operated from trawlers that operate for deep sea fishing during January-March. These trawlers operate in the depth range of 300-350m, about 200-300 km from the shore, south-east of Chennai. The length of *T. albacares* landed by hooks & lines ranged from 150 to 200 cm (60 to 85 kg weight) and the price ranges from ' 65 to 80 per kg. The monthly catch of yellow fin tuna during

the period was 3 t, 8 t and 5 t respectively. The fishes were transferred to collection sheds immediately after landing and quickly packed in ice and transported to processing plants for export processing, mainly to Thailand,

Tunisia and Iran.

During January-March 2011, heavy landing of the skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis* was observed in the landings by mechanized gillnets, with the monthly catch being about 340 t, 750 t and 420 t respectively. Along with skipjack tuna, there was an unusual occurrence of small sized (425-670 mm; 0.9-3.5 kg) yellow fin tuna. Occasionally, medium sized (700-1219 mm) yellow fin tuna were also landed. The yellow fin tuna catch by mechanized gillnet was to the tune of 8.5 t, 32.0 t and 20 t respectively in January, February and March.

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