

Bumper catch of Ghol at Jakhau, Gujarat

Jakhau (23° 14.5' N and 68° 36.5" E) is an important seasonal (September to April) fishing centre in Kutch district of Gujarat. *Protonibea diacanthus*, locally known as 'Ghol' is one of the commercially important fishes on northwest coast of India. The swim bladder of *Ghol*, after sun drying, is processed into clarifying agent, the isinglass, for the beverage industry. The bladder of this species fetches a very high market price owing to its excellent quality. On 24th April, 2012 a total of 375 numbers of *Ghol* landed at Jakhau. The catch was caught in Gill net (Multi filaments) which is locally called as "Jada Jaal". As per observation and historical reports, this is the first time bumper landing of *Ghol* fishes in this area. Mr. HasanIsha Bhaya is the fisherman who got the bumper catch of *Ghol* in his Gillnetter craft named "Al Kadari" with 42 feet craft size with 88 hp motor. In a personal interview he told that he got this catch from North-West Shekhranpirs Creek & near Haji Ibrahimdadas Creek with depth of operation 8 - 10 meter. The catch was sold at **₹70, 05,850** which composed of 54.5% of male fishes of



Ghol landed at Jakhau

> 15Kg size which fetches more price in the market compared to the female one. The swimbladder of males are preferred as they had more clarifying property. A catch of 2246 Kg of male and 3218 kgs of female ghol were caught which had a size range of 15 Kg and above. Male fishes of 15 Kg and above were sold at ₹1700/Kg and females were sold at much lower price of ₹ 800/Kg. The purchased fish was brought to Veraval by road in refrigerated containers for further processing.

(Veraval Regional Centre)