

Unusual catch of Mottled fusilier landed in trawlers

During the regular survey of fish landings at Munambam Fisheries Harbour, it was observed on that the trawlers had unusual catches of *Dipterygionotus balteatus* popularly known as Mottled fusilier, on 24th April 2021. The presence of this reef associated fish in the catch is often considered an indicator to the disturbances in the underwater sea which might have occurred or yet to occur as per the fishers. The multiday trawlers had operated Northwest of



Munambam Harbour at a depth of 50 to 80 metres. The major commercially important fishes caught along with this included *Saurida* spp, *Nemipterus* spp., *Priacanthus* spp., *Upeneus* spp., *Rastrelliger kanagurta* and the less valued fishes such as *Trachinocephalus myops*, *Bembrops* spp., *Ariosoma* spp. and *Grammoplites* spp. On an average,

about 150 kg of mottled fusilier per boat was landed and sold along with the other miscellaneous fish at a rate of ₹6 per kg. This trend of landings was observed for next few days and slowly subsided.

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