

Rare occurrence of Yellowmargin trigger fish from Kerala coast



Fig. 1. *Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus* landed in mechanized gillnetter at Cochin fisheries harbour.

The fishes of the family Balistidae are popularly known as trigger fishes and distributed along the Indian and the Pacific Oceans, though certain species are restricted to particular regions. In India, these fishes are abundant in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk

Bay, off Maharashtra and Gujarat coast, off Kerala, Andaman and Lakshadweep Islands. Three specimens of *Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus* (Ruppel, 1829) commonly known as yellow margin trigger fish, were observed in a mechanized gillnetter

which operated hook and line, measuring 14, 24, and 34 cm in total length and weighing 1.7, 2.1 and 2.5 kg at Cochin Fisheries Harbour on 7th June, 2022 (Fig. 1). The operational depth of hook and line was at 50 m off North West Coast of Kerala. The species was identified by its blotchy pinkish to greyish body colour and a yellowish-pink snout, darkish stripes behind the eye, and yellow fin margins. The local populations consume fresh and dried *Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus*, but there are reports of cases of ciguatera, a serious intoxication caused mainly by its herbivorous alimentation, which may include poisonous sea weeds.

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