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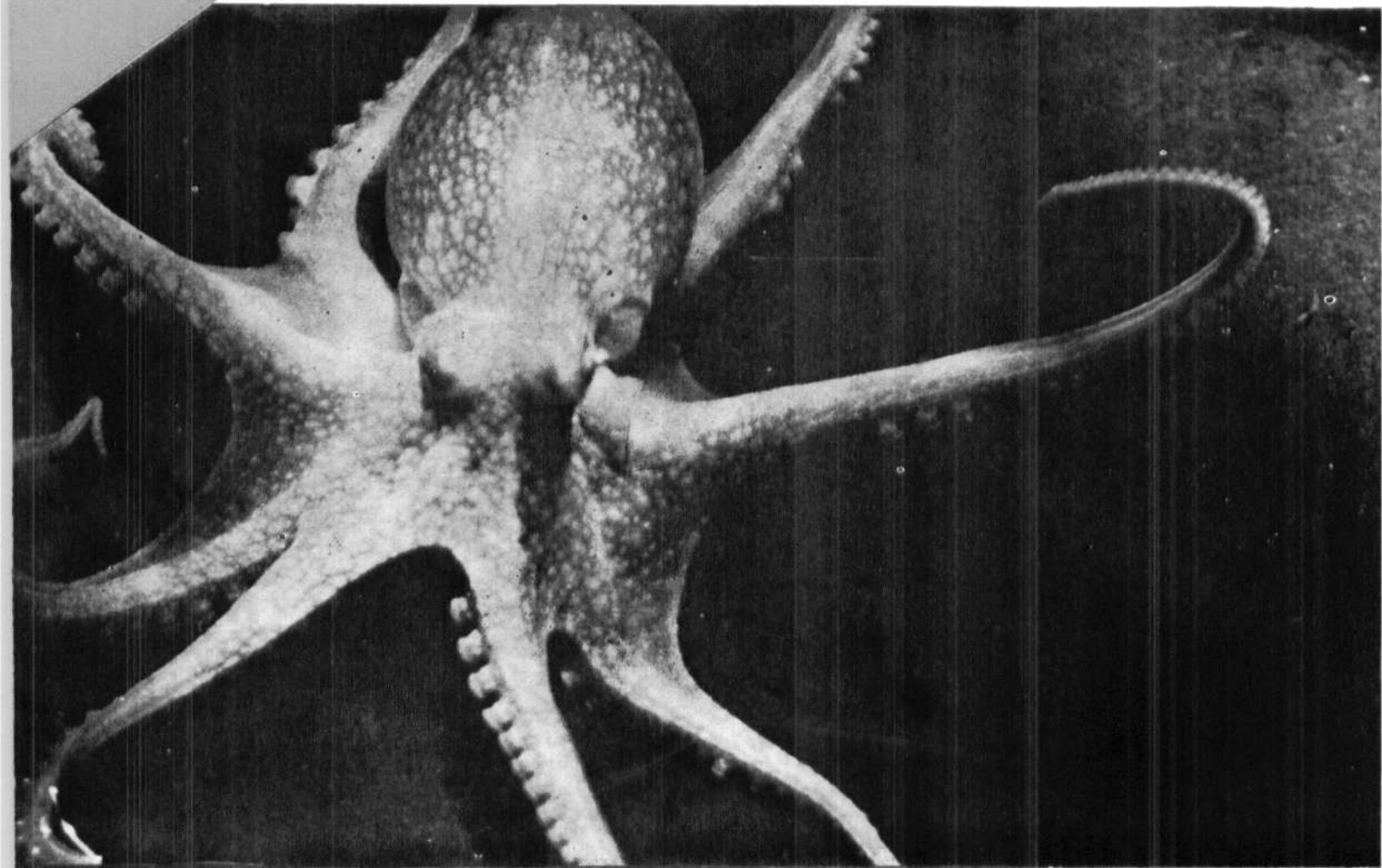
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CEPHALOPOD BIONOMICS, FISHERIES AND RESOURCES OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF INDIA

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CEPHALOPOD FISHERIES AT SELECTED CENTRES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The cephalopod fisheries at eleven selected centres, Waltair, Kakinada, Madras, Portonovo, Mandapam, Rameswaram and Kilakarai on the east coast and Vizhinjam, Cochin, Mangalore and Bombay on the west coast have been studied and the annual and seasonal trends of the total cephalopod catches, species composition and CPUE investigated. Cephalopods were obtained in appreciable quantities in trawl nets in most of the areas studied. There is an organized fishery with hooks and lines for cuttlefish and squids at Vizhinjam. (Trivandrum).

INTRODUCTION

Squids and cuttlefishes are obtained as by-catch in conventional gears such as shore seines, boat seines, hooks and lines and trawl nets from the inshore waters at a number of centres along both coasts of India. As the cephalopods have become an important item of export they are being sought by the industry and a good amount of interest is evinced in the resources at some of the major centres in the country. The specieswise production of cephalopods caught in different gears; the percentage in total landings; and the CPUE of cephalopods at eleven centres viz., Waltair, Kakinada, Madras, Portonovo, Mandapam, Kilakarai and Rameswaram on the east coast and Bombay, Mangalore, Cochin and Vizhinjam on the west coast have been investigated and the results are presented here.

FISHERY AT WALTAIR

Waltair (Visakhapatnam) is one of the most important centres for cephalopods on the east coast and squids and cuttlefish are caught in three gears viz., shore seines, boat seines and trawl nets. During 1976-80, 833.6 t of squids and cuttlefishes were landed by all the gears together forming 3.7% of total landings. The average annual landings were 166.7 t in which *Loligo duvaucelii* was predominant accounting for 46.6% and the other species in the order of abundance were *Sepia aculeata* (26.1%), *Sepiella inermis* (9.0%),

Sepia pharaonis (8.4%), *Sepia brevimana* (6.2%), *Sepia prashadi* (2.0%), *Doryteuthis singhalensis* (1.5%) and *Loliolus investigatoris* (0.2%). The catches of trawlers of the erstwhile Exploratory Fisheries Project are dealt with in Chapter 10.

About 18 shore seines operate in Lawson's Bay in the period October-May and squids and cuttlefishes are caught in small quantities. The annual catches were low and varied from 19 kg to 818 kg (Fig. 1). *Loligo duvaucelii* was the common species in the catches and a few individuals of *Sepia aculeata*, *S. pharaonis* and *Sepiella inermis* occurred in the catches occasionally.

About twenty five boat seines which operate for prawns, perches and clupeoids off Waltair coast at a distance of 3 to 5 km from the shore at depths of 5 to 8 m net squids in small quantities. The boat seine cephalopod catches consist of a single species the squid *Loligo duvaucelii* and its annual catches varied from 158 kg (1977) to 1,445 kg (1978) accounting for 0.6% and 2.9% of total catches (Fig. 1). In 1976 and 1980 *Loligo duvaucelii* was not found in the boat seine catches.

A total of 200 trawlers operate off Waltair coast between Lat. 17° and 18°N and Long. 82°30' and 84°E at depths of 10-70 m. The estimated total cephalopod production of the trawlers during 1976-80 was 829.9 t and average annual production was 166 t

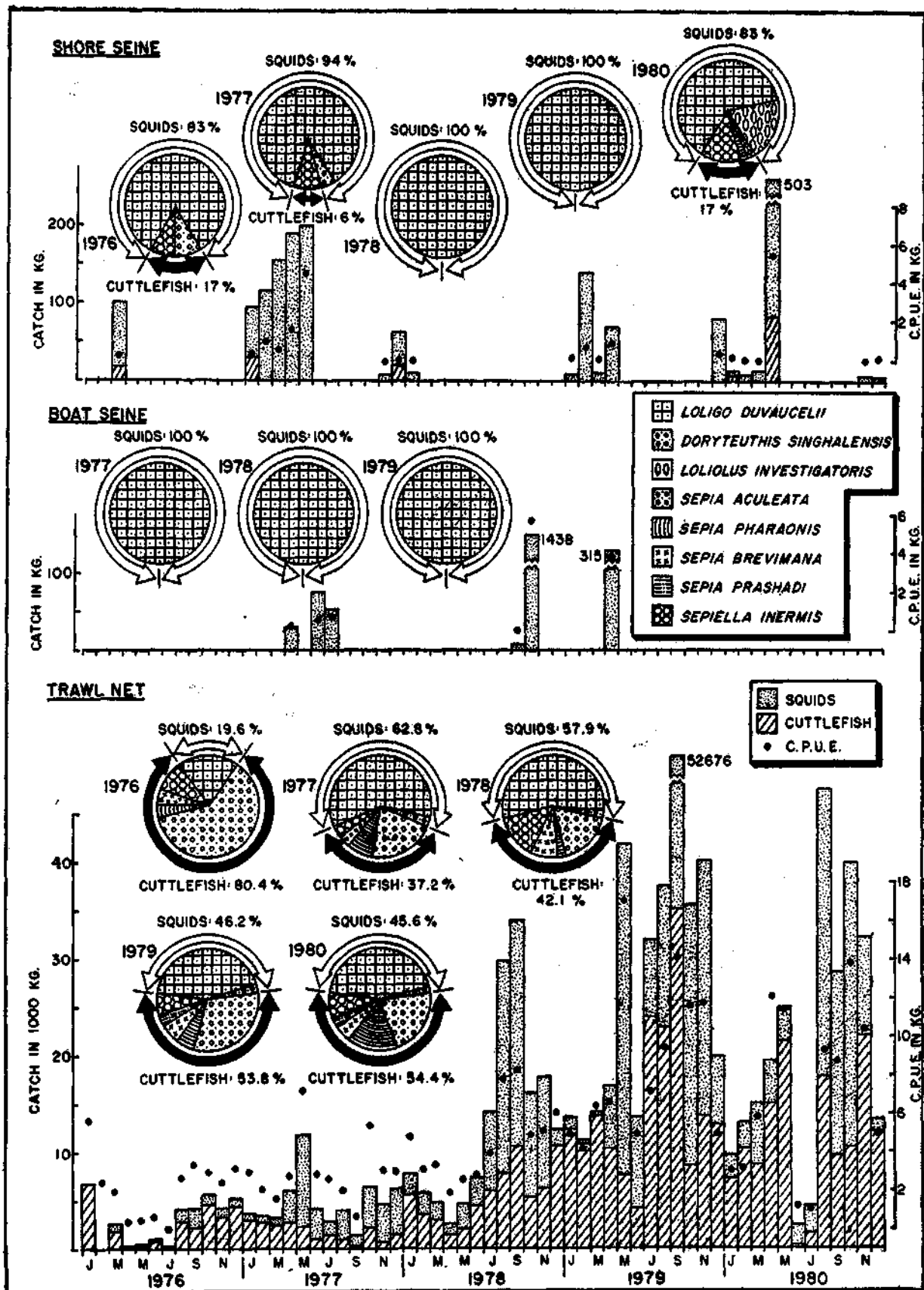


FIG. 1. Monthly total cuttlefish and squid catches, CPUE and annual species percentage composition of cuttlefishes and squids landed by shore seines and boat seines at Lawson's Bay, and trawlers at Waltair (Visakhapatnam) during 1976-80.

forming 3.7% in total trawl catches. During the five year period *Loligo duvaucelii* was the dominant species (46.4%), *Sepia aculeata* was next in importance (26.2%) and the abundance of the other species is similar to that in all-gears combined figures. The annual cephalopod landings of the trawlers progressively increased from 36,302 kg in 1976 to a peak of 329,059 kg in 1979 and there was a sharp decline in the catches by 23.9% to 250,520 kg in 1980 with a decrease in effort by only 2.4%. The CPUE showed a similar trend with a maximum of 8.7 kg in 1979. During 1976 squids formed only 19.6% of cephalopod landings while in 1977 they amounted to 62.8% (Fig. 1). During 1978-'80 there were no large differences in the catches of squids and cuttlefishes the annual percentages of the two groups varying between 45.6% and 57.9% and 42.1% and 54.4% respectively.

Among squids, *Loligo duvaucelii* was the predominant species and formed 95-99% of the catches. The landings of this species rose from 7,104 kg in 1976 to 145,085 kg in 1979 and declined to 110,267 kg in the next year. The peak months for *L. duvaucelii* were May, August and September to November when the CPUE also was higher than in other months. *Doryteuthis singhalensis* and *Loliolus investigatoris* were represented only in very small quantities.

The cuttlefish landings which amounted to 29,190 kg in 1976 showed a rise to 176,915 kg in 1979 and a fall to 136,202 kg in 1980. Five species *S. aculeata*, *S. pharaonis*, *S. brevimana*, *S. prashadi* and *S. inermis* comprised the cuttlefish catches. The annual landings of *S. aculeata* varied between 12,045 kg (1977) and 102,245 kg (1979) and the best months were September to February. The annual landings of *S. pharaonis* increased from 1976 and high landings of 18,570 kg and 41,948 kg were obtained in 1979 and 1980. For this species the peak months were March and September to December. *S. brevimana* amounted to only 1,733 kg and 2,626 kg in 1976 and 1977 but the landings increased several fold and amounted to 14,409 kg and 20,618 kg in 1978 and 1979 respectively. Peak catches of this species were obtained in February, July, September and November. *S. prashadi* occurred in small numbers in January and March, 1978 but in the next two years it was caught in a number of months and the annual landings amounted to as much as 11,380 kg in 1979. Highest catches were obtained in January and February. The landings of *S. inermis* were very low in 1976-'77. But there was a ten to twelve fold rise in subsequent years the annual landings amounting to 21,656 kg and 24,102 kg. The peak months for this species are July to October.

Cephalopods are obtained along Kakinada coast mainly in trawl catches. In shore seines *L. duvaucelii*, *S. aculeata* and *S. inermis* are caught in stray numbers. There are about 150 trawlers at Kakinada which operate between Lat. 16°35' and 17°25' N and Long. 82°20' and 83°10' E at depths of 5-70 m. Kakinada is one of the major centres for cephalopods and total production in the period 1976-'80 was 747,355 kg which indicates an average annual production of 149,471 kg forming 1.1% of trawl landings. In the cephalopod landings during 1976-80 *S. aculeata* and *S. inermis* were the dominant species (35.1% and 32.7% respectively), *L. duvaucelii* was the next dominant species (24.9%) and the others represented were *S. pharaonis* (7.1%) and *L. investigatoris* (0.2%).

The annual cephalopod landings rose from 105,634 kg in 1976 to an all time high of 256,783 kg in 1977 (Fig. 2) following an increase in effort by about 43%. During the period 1978-80 when there was not much significant change in the effort put in, the landings were lesser and stabilized at 124,151 kg-139,916 kg. The monthly catches of cephalopods showed much variation in different years but it could be stated that good catches are got generally from September to May. The monthly CPUE of cephalopods varied from 0.6 kg to 27.5 kg and high CPUEs were recorded in March, May and August-December. The cuttlefishes were dominant in trawl catches forming 67.8% to 79.6%. Squids accounted for only 20.4% to 32.2% in 1976-'80 and were represented by *L. duvaucelii* mostly with an annual catch which varied from 25,362 kg (1979) to 58,758 kg (1977). The peak catches were obtained in the months May, August, September and December. 1,099 kg of *Loliolus* sp. were got in trawl nets in September 1978.

Cuttlefish landings comprised of three species *S. aculeata*, *S. pharaonis* and *S. inermis* and the peak months for cuttlefishes were January, March, May and September-December. *S. aculeata* was the dominant species (46.9%) among cuttlefishes and the annual catch varied from 22,158 kg (1978) to 129,719 kg (1977) with high CPUEs in January, March, September and December. The annual catches of *S. pharaonis* varied between 3,808 kg (1978) and 26,468 kg (1980). The yearly catches of *S. inermis* varied between 27,989 kg (1976) and 62,769 kg (1978) with maximum CPUEs from August to December.

FISHERY AT MADRAS

Trawlers based at Madras obtain cephalopods by otter trawling between Lat. 12°20'N and 14°N and

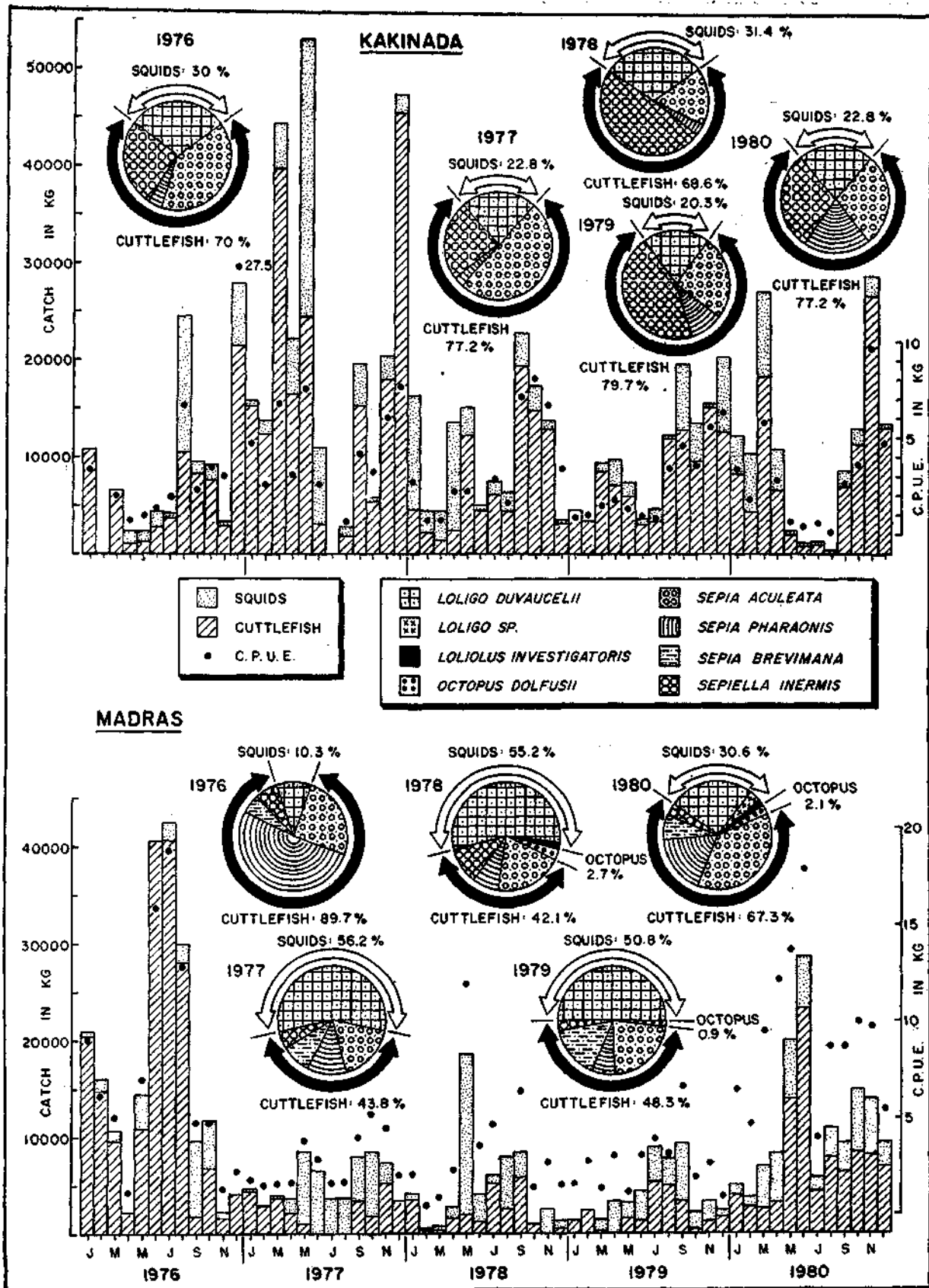


FIG. 2. Monthly total cuttlefish and squid catches, CPUE and annual species percentage composition of cuttle fishes and squids landed by trawlers at Kakinada and Madras during 1976-'80,

Long 80°20' and 80°40'E at depths of 10-30 m. The estimated cephalopod production of the trawlers during the years 1976-'80 was 517,442 kg with an average annual production of 103,688 kg, forming 6.4% of trawl landings. *L. duvaucelii*, *S. pharaonis* and *S. aculeata* were the common species in the catches forming 29.1%, 28.7% and 26.7% respectively and the other species in the order of abundance are *S. brevimana*, *S. inermis*, octopods, *Loligo* sp. *Loliolus investigatoris*, *Euprymna stenodactyla* and *S. prashadi*. The annual cephalopod catch was highest, 205,383 kg in 1976 and in the succeeding years it decreased following a fall in effort by 5.5% to 56.5% and only in 1980 there was a recovery of the fishery with landings of 137,815 kg (Fig. 2). The peak periods of catches varied much in the five years but usually large catches were obtained during January and May-October. The monthly CPUE varied markedly from 0.65 kg to 18.8 kg. The annual CPUE varied between 2.6 kg (1977) and 9.5 kg (1980). The relative contribution of squids and cuttlefishes varied over the years. In 1976 and 1980 squids formed 10.3% and 30.6% and in 1977-'79 they amounted to as much as 50.8%-56.2%. Cuttlefish formed 89.7% and 67.3% in 1976 and 1980 respectively but in 1977-'79 they accounted for only 42.1% to 48.3%. Octopods occurred sporadically in trawl catches between February and September and annual catches of 476 kg to 2,940 kg were obtained off Madras coast during 1978-'80. As in the catches off Waltair and Kakinada, *L. duvaucelii* was the predominant species forming 84.6% to 100%. Good catches of the squids were got from April to June and in August and November. The annual CPUE showed a rise from 0.80 kg in 1976 to 2.4 kg in 1980. *Loligo* sp. and *Loliolus investigatoris* formed 0.2% to 10.5% of squid catches.

The best months for cuttlefishes were January and May-August. The annual landings of *Sepia aculeata* varied from 11,297 kg (1979) to 52,499 kg (1980) forming 27.9% to 56.6% of the cuttlefish landings. The annual CPUE increased from 0.5 kg in 1977 to 3.6 kg in 1980. *Sepia pharaonis* was the dominant cuttlefish species in 1976 with a catch of 108,760 kg (59% of cuttlefish catch). The annual landings of this species varied between 3,452 kg and 24,719 kg (4.1% to 26.7% of cuttlefish landings) during 1977-'80. The annual catches of *Sepia brevimana* varied from 5,890 kg to 10,632 kg. *Sepiella inermis* formed 5.5% to 12.7% of the cuttlefish landings with yearly catches of 1,610 kg to 13,355 kg and CPUE of 0.1 kg to 0.5 kg and *Sepia prashadi* occurred only in very small quantities in two years, viz., 1977 and 1980. The dumpling squid *Euprymna*

stenodactyla and octopods were also represented in the trawl catches in small quantities only.

FISHERY AT PORTONOVO

About 40 trawlers trawl off Portonovo coast between Lat. 11°10' and 12° N and Long. 79°55' and 80°10'E and moderately good catches of squids and cuttlefish occur. During the period May, 1976 to December, 1978 an estimated catch of 28,315 kg of cephalopods were obtained and the average annual catch was 10,618 kg forming an average of 1.3% of the total trawl catches. *Sepiella inermis* and *Sepia aculeata* were the dominant species in the cephalopod landings at Portonovo forming 39.3% and 37.6% respectively. *Sepia pharaonis* is third in importance (18.7%) and two species *Loligo duvaucelii* (3.9%) and *Euprymna stenodactyla* (0.5%) were of minor importance.

The contribution of squids to the total cephalopod catches was only 16.4% and the rest consisted of cuttlefishes in 1976 but in 1977 and 1978 squids contributed only 2.4 to 3.3% while cuttlefishes amounted to 97.6% and 96.7%. The estimated annual cephalopod landings amounted to 16,158 kg in 1977 and decreased to 9,250 kg in 1978 (Fig. 3). There was a shift in the species domination from 1976 when the fishery was mainly supported by *Sepia aculeata* to later years when *Sepiella inermis* dominated in the catches. The annual catches of *Loligo duvaucelii* were low, 111 kg. and 526 kg.

Cuttlefish catches were better in January and from May to August compared to other months. Among cuttlefishes the catches of *Sepia aculeata* varied from 1,815 kg to 4,483 kg (28.7% to 74.7%), those of *Sepia pharaonis* from 388 kg to 4,892 kg (0.1% to 31.3%) and those of *Sepiella inermis* 227 kg to 6,257 kg (0.3% to 51.6%). In March and July small numbers of *Euprymna stenodactyla* were obtained by a few trawlers.

FISHERY AT MANDAPAM

About 120 trawlers based at Mandapam do otter trawling throughout the year and cephalopods are got in the trawl catches in greater or lesser quantities. Trawling is carried out between Lat. 9°10' and 10°N and Long. 79° and 79°20' E at depths of 10-40 m. In the period January, 1976 to September, 1978, a total of 83,611 kg of cephalopods were landed and average annual catch was 30.4 t forming 0.5% of total trawl production.

The estimated annual cephalopod landings amounted to 40,579 kg in 1976 and decreased by 41.1% to 23,903

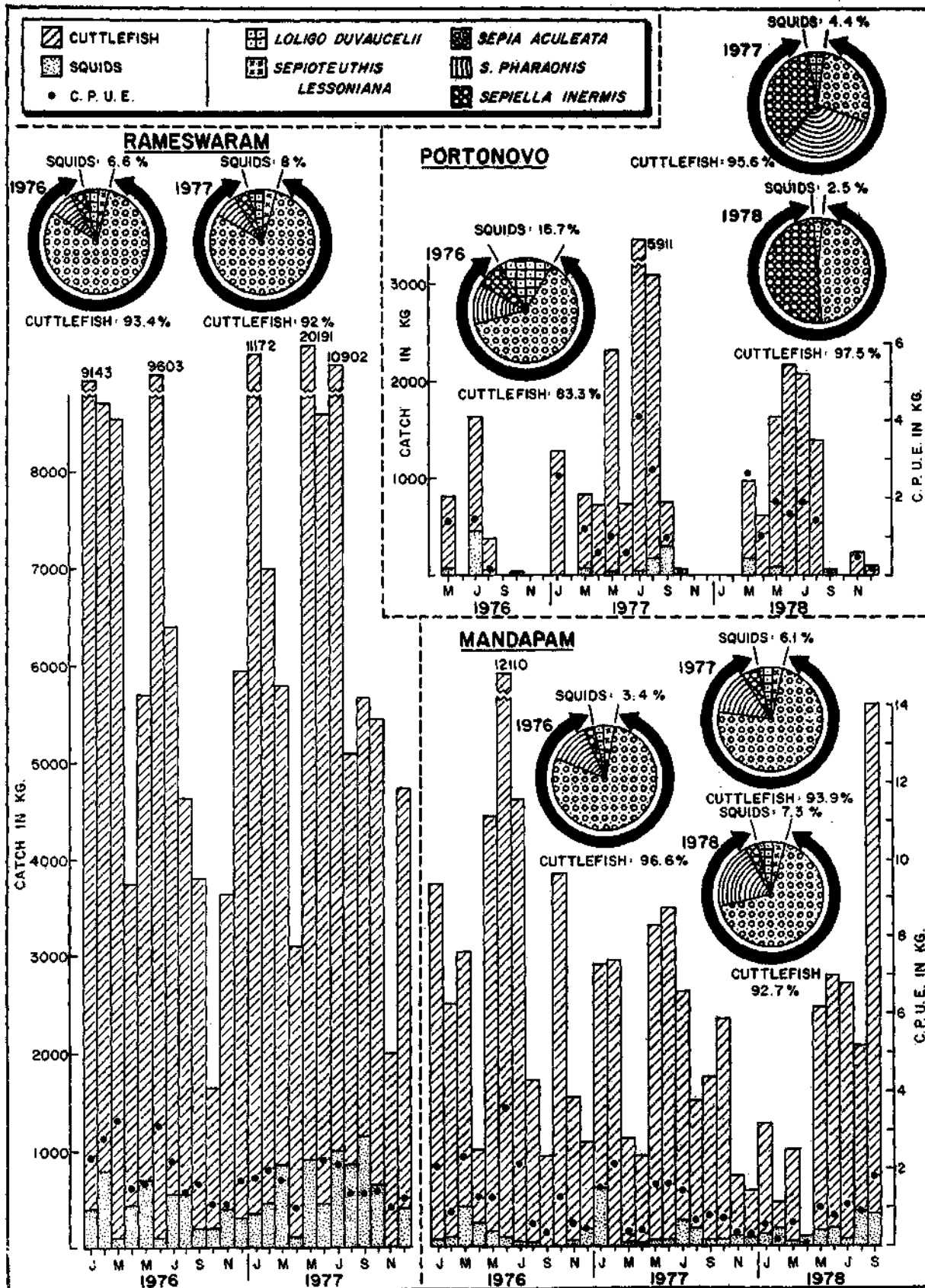


FIG. 3. Monthly total cuttlefish and squid catches, CPUE and annual species percentage composition of cuttlefishes and squids landed by trawlers at Portonova and Mandapam during 1976-'78 and Rameswaram during 1976-'77,

kg in 1977 with a decrease in effort by 8.7% (Fig. 3). The catches during the period January-September, 1978 were 19,129 kg which were only slightly lower than those in the corresponding period of the previous year (20,643 kg). Along Mandapam coast the best months for cephalopods were May to July.

Cuttlefishes predominated in cephalopod catches forming as much as 92.7% to 96.6% and squids accounted for the rest (3.4% to 7.3%). The annual cephalopod catches amounted to 39,213 kg in 1976 and decreased by 42.8% in 1977. The best cuttlefish catches were obtained in January, May to July and October. The cuttlefish landings consisted of three species *S. aculeata*, *S. pharaonis* and *Sepiella inermis* of which *S. aculeata* was the dominant one constituting 69.8 to 83.2%. *Sepia pharaonis* accounted for 11.7 to 20.1% and *Sepiella inermis* 1.7% to 5.6%. The CPUEs of cuttlefishes were generally higher in the months January to July than in other months. The catches of the common species *Sepia aculeata* amounted to 33,765 kg in 1976 but decreased by as much as 47.2% to 17,813 kg in 1977 which is indicative of wide fluctuations in yearly catches. During 1976 and 1977, the landings of *Sepia pharaonis* amounted to 4,777 kg and 3,299 kg respectively. *Sepiella inermis* is a minor component of the catches with annual landings of 671 kg and 1,334 kg in the two years. The annual squid landings amounted to only 1,366 kg and 1,457 kg in 1976 and 1977. *Loligo duvaucelii* formed 25.1% to 34.5% and the rest consisted of *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* in the two years.

FISHERY AT RAMESWARAM

About 140 trawlers which do bottom trawling between Lat. 9°20' and 10°N and Long. 79°10' and 79°40' E land cephalopods. The fishing grounds coincide to a large extent with those of the trawlers based at Mandapam. The cephalopod landings at Rameswaram amounted to 160.6 t during 1976-77 forming 1.1% of the total trawl landings. The annual landings increased from 70,823 kg in 1976 by 26.7% to 89,773 kg in 1977 (Fig. 3) following an increase in the boat trips by 34.3% in the year. The average CPUE of cephalopods was slightly higher (2.15 kg) in 1976 compared to that (1.93 kg) in 1977. The cephalopod landings were high in two periods in the year viz., January to March and May to July or September.

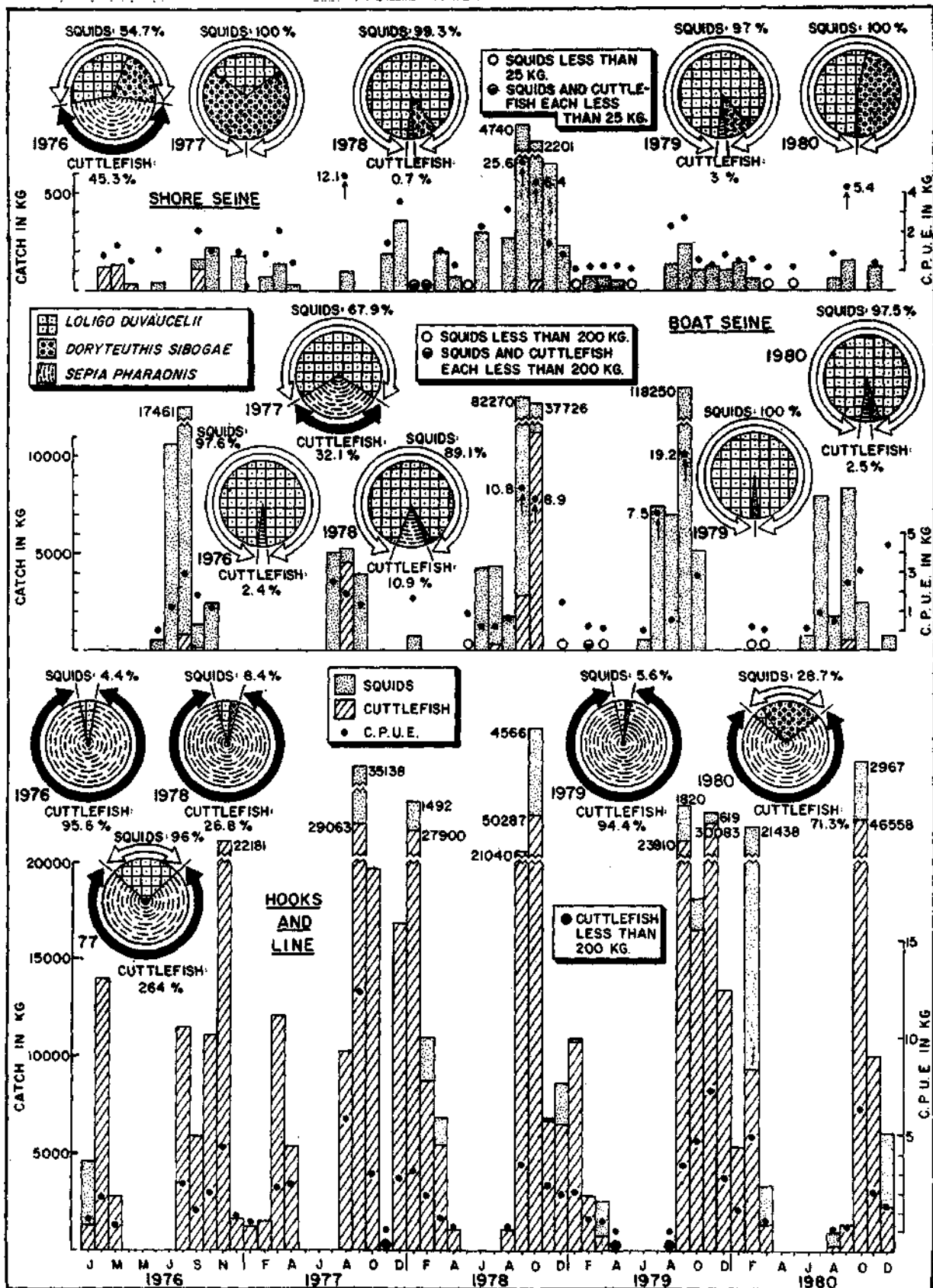
As in the cephalopod catches at Mandapam, in the landings at Rameswaram also, cuttlefishes dominated forming 92.1% to 93.4% and squids amounted to only 6.6% to 8.0% (Fig. 3). The best months for cuttlefishes were the same as those for total cephalopods.

The species composition of cuttlefishes was similar to that in the Mandapam landings. During 1976 and 1977, *Sepia aculeata* amounted to 58,463 kg (82.5%) in total cephalopod landings and 73,936 kg (82.3%), *Sepia pharaonis* formed 5,332 kg (7.5%) and 6,082 kg (6.8%) and *Sepiella inermis* 2,348 kg (3.3%) and 2,617 kg (2.9%) respectively. The squid catches amounted to 4,685 kg in 1976 and 7,138 kg in 1977. In contrast to landings at Mandapam *Loligo duvaucelii* was the dominant species forming 54.7% to 62.6% among squid catches and *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* accounted for only 37.4% to 45.3%.

FISHERY AT KILAKARAI

The squid *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* is caught in the shore seines *Kara valai* and *Ola valai* and handlines. The annual landings of the species from *Kara valai* varied between 3,781 kg and 4,797 kg during 1973-75 but in 1977 the catches were very low, 329 kg. The fishing season for the squid extends from January to May or June in the area. In some years as in 1973 and 1974 it was caught in small quantities in the second half-year period also. The peak catches are got in the months January to March and June and high CPUEs ranging from 9.3 kg to 15.6 kg were noticed in the months of peak landings. *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* formed 5.5% to 9% of the total *Kara valai* landings during 1973-75 but accounted for only 0.5% in 1977. Apart from *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* stray numbers of *Sepia aculeata* were obtained rarely in March, 1974. In earlier decades the special type of shore seines *Ola valai* used to be employed regularly in the period January-June and *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* were caught in large numbers along the Ramanathapuram coast (Rao, 1954). But in the recent years this net is employed only occasionally even during the fishing season. The reason for this is that the fishermen owning the nets go to work in trawl fishing where they get better income. *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* landings of *Ola valai* varied from 213 kg to 761 kg during the fishing seasons of 1973-75 and the catch was 207 kg in 1977. This species was the predominant one in the catches of the gear forming 83.8% to 93.9%. The monthly CPUE of the species varied over a range of 3.8 kg to 11.6 kg.

Sepioteuthis lessoniana is caught in small quantities in handlines in the Mandapam area and around Rameswaram Island in the period October to March or April and sometimes up to June. The handlines are used by fishermen from a dug out canoe or standing in shallow coastal waters. The annual landings from this gear were meagre, 143 kg to 480 kg with monthly CPUEs



of 0.9 kg to 12.4 kg. In earlier times the squids were caught with hand jigs by fishermen squatting on a look-out pole called *machan* (Hornell, 1917).

FISHERY AT VIZHINJAM

Squids and cuttlefishes are obtained at Vizhinjam (Trivandrum) in shore seines, boat seines and hooks and lines. The total cephalopod production at Vizhinjam during the years 1976-'80 was 909.9 t and the three gears contributed 1.3%, 37.2% and 61.5% respectively. The average annual production was 181,783 kg and *L. duvaucelii*, *Doryteuthis sibogae* and *Sepia pharaonis* accounted for 41.7%, 4.1% and 54.2% respectively. 82.9% of total *L. duvaucelii* production were got in boat seines and 14.6% in hooks and lines. 84.7% of *Doryteuthis sibogae* were caught in hooks and lines, 10.3% in boat seines and 5% in shore seines. 95.8% of the cuttlefish *S. pharaonis* were obtained in hooks and lines and 4.1% in boat seines. Earlier, Radhakrishnan (1973) reported good annual catches fluctuating between 43,871 kg and 176,759 kg during 1965-67 in the period October-November to February-March.

About six shore seines operate at Vizhinjam and the total cephalopod production of shore seines during 1976-'80 was 11,898 kg with an average annual landings of 2,380 kg which form 2.4% of total shore seine landings. The annual cephalopod catch of shore seines increased steeply by more than ten times from 859 kg in 1976 to 8,698 kg in 1978 following a rise in effort by 54% but decreased to 565 kg in 1980 with fall in effort by 37.5% (Fig. 4). Cephalopods form 0.7% to 5.9% of total shore seine catches (average 2.4%). The peak season is September to November. Squids were predominant or occurred exclusively forming 54.7% to 100% and cuttlefishes accounted for 0.7% to 45.3%. In the landings of the five year period 1976-80 *Loligo duvaucelii* formed 80.1%, *Doryteuthis sibogae* 15.9% and *Sepia pharaonis* 4%. At times stray individuals of *Sepioteuthis lessoniana*, *Sepia aculeata* and *Sepiella inermis* occurred in the catches.

About 200 boat seines are operated at Vizhinjam and in recent years in addition to these, boat seines belonging to neighbouring fishing villages also operate and land at Vizhinjam. This net is used from April to October and in some years up to December or March. The total cephalopod production of boat seines during 1976-80 was 338,352 kg with an average annual production of 67,670 kg accounting for 2.3% of total landings. The squid and cuttlefish production increased over four times from 33,092 kg in 1976 to 138,211 kg in 1979 with increase in effort by 54% and exhibited a

sharp decline to 21,738 kg in 1980 following a fall in the number of units by 52.5% (Fig. 4). July to September or October is the peak period of boat seine cephalopod fishery when highest catches were got. Squids were the dominant cephalopods constituting 67.9% to almost 100% while cuttlefishes formed only 0.01% to 32.1%. Among the squids *Loligo duvaucelii* formed 88.4% to 100% and *Doryteuthis sibogae* 0.5% to 11.3%. Solitary individuals of *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* occurred occasionally. High values of CPUE of *L. duvaucelii* were observed in September and October. *Sepia pharaonis* was the only cuttlefish species obtained in boat seines and its CPUE varied over a low range of 0.01% kg to 2.6 kg.

Hooks and lines are the gear in which the major part of the squid and cuttlefish catches are obtained along Vizhinjam coast. About 150-200 catamarans go out for fishing with this gear. The estimated cephalopod production of hooks and lines during 1976-'80 was 558,668 kg with an average annual landings of 111,734 kg. The annual cephalopod catches increased from 73,601 kg in 1976 by nearly 100% to 141,029 kg in 1978 although the effort decreased by 9.5%. In 1980 the landings were less, being 107,735 kg even though there was an increase in the effort put in by 8.3% as compared to 1978 (Fig. 4). The cephalopods formed 7.1% to 16.6% (average 11.5%) of the total annual hook and line fishery landings. The best months for cephalopod catches were February-March and September-October, sometimes extending up to December.

In the cephalopod catches, squids formed only 4.4% to 28.7% (average 14.8%) whilst the cuttlefishes represented by a single species *S. pharaonis* accounted for 71.3% to 95.6% (average 85.2%). *L. duvaucelii* formed 69.3% to 100% during 1976-'79, but in 1980 it accounted for only 14.6% of the squid landings indicating large variations in the contribution to the fishery. *Doryteuthis sibogae* amounted to 30.7% to 31.1% of the landings in 1978-79 and as much as 85.4% in 1980. The peak months for *L. duvaucelii* was September when the CPUE was high. *Doryteuthis sibogae* occurred in the catches only during some months, January to February or March and October and was obtained in good quantities in February, 1980. The peak catches of *S. pharaonis* were obtained in the months September to January in Vizhinjam area and high CPUEs were noticed in the months August to November and in some years, in January also.

FISHERY AT COCHIN

Cephalopods are caught by shrimp trawlers off Cochin coast between Lat. 9°50' and 10°10' N and Long. 75°15'

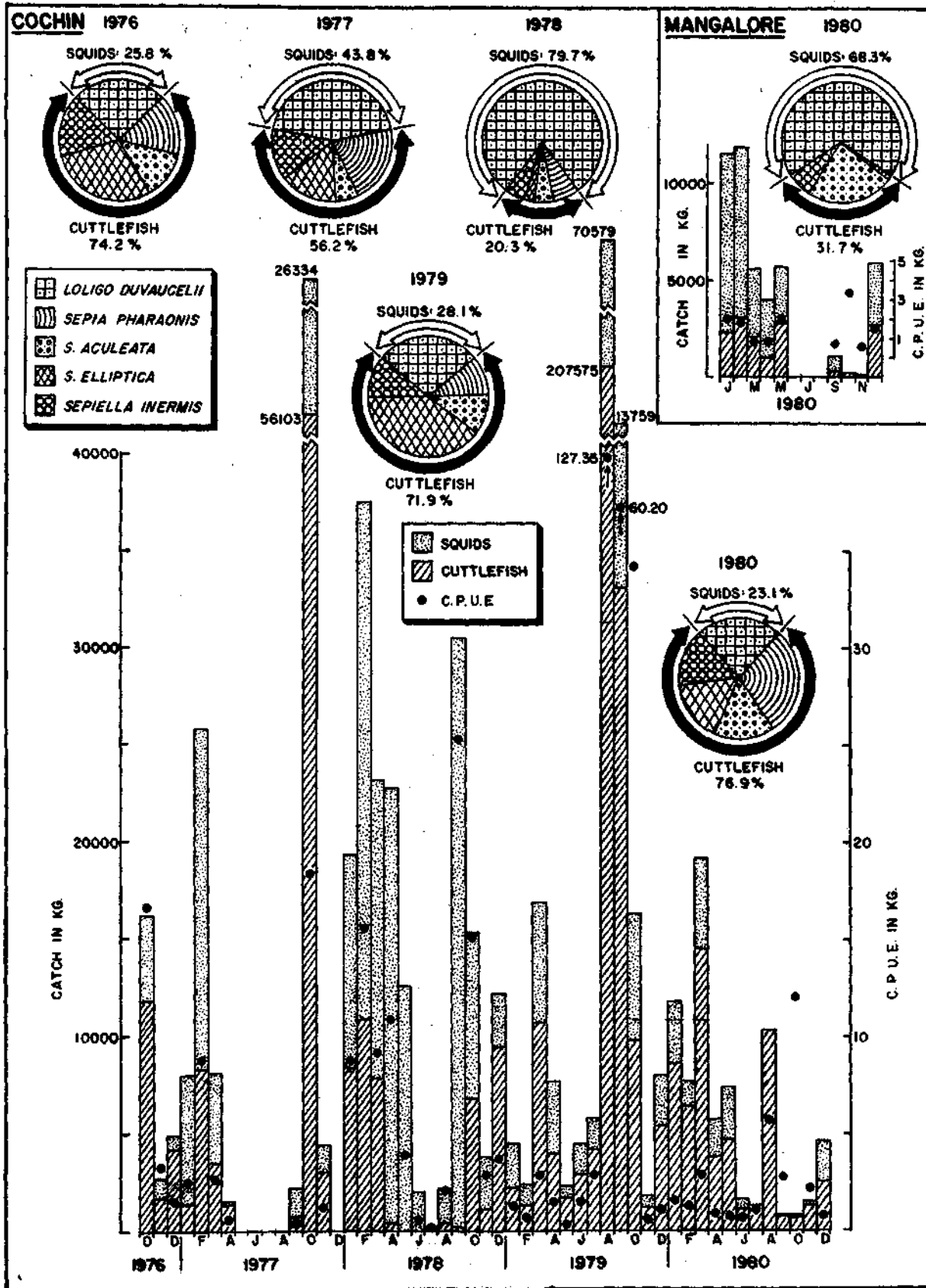


FIG. 5. Monthly total cuttlefish and squid catches, CPUE and annual species percentage composition of cuttlefish and squid landed by trawlers at Cochin during 1976-80, and at Mangalore during 1980.

and 76°10' E at 15-50 m depth. On an average about 140 trawlers do otter trawling in the area for prawns, and cephalopods are caught as by-catch. In the period 1977-'80 the estimated total cephalopod production was 781.9 t with an average annual production of 195.5 t. The total squid and cuttlefish landings rose from 132,313 kg in 1977 to 395,104 kg in 1979 although there was a marginal decrease in effort by 10.2%. In 1980 there was a sharp decline in the landings to 72,560 kg although there was an increase in the fishing effort by 7.2% (Fig. 5). The drastic decline in the landings in 1980 was due to the operation of much reduced number of trawlers in the months July to November owing to the non-availability of prawns. Cephalopods formed 0.8% to 3.5% of the total annual trawler landings at Cochin and were obtained throughout the year. The landings showed two distinct peaks one during January to February or March and another from August to October. The CPUE varied widely in different months. Very high CPUEs were recorded in October 1977 (18.4 kg), February, 1978 (16.6 kg), September, 1978 (25.3 kg), October, 1978 (15.1 kg), August, 1979 (127.4 kg), September, 1979 (60.2 kg), October, 1979 (34.2 kg) and October, 1980 (12.0 kg). The total squid landings increased from 57,974 kg in 1977 to 144,943 kg in 1978 when they formed 79.7% of cephalopod catch but later showed a downward trend and in 1980 they accounted for only 16,759 kg. The peak periods for squids were the same as for cephalopods as a whole. The cuttlefish landings were highest, 284,065 kg (71.9%) in 1979 but decreased to 55,801 kg in 1980.

The squid landings consisted almost entirely of *L. duvaucelii* which formed 99.9% to 100%. *Loliolus investigatoris* were caught in small quantities in the months July-August in 1978 and 1979. The monthly CPUE of *L. duvaucelii* fluctuated over a wide range of 0.1 kg to 32.3 kg, the highest values being in the months of peak catches. The cuttlefish catches consisted of four species viz., *S. aculeata*, *S. pharaonis*, *S. elliptica*, and *S. inermis* the landings of all of which showed an ascending trend with peak catches in 1979 and sharp decline in 1980. The relative contribution of the four species varied very much. The dominant species were *S. pharaonis* and *S. elliptica* in 1977, *S. aculeata* and *S. pharaonis* in 1978 and 1980 and *S. elliptica* in 1979. The landings of *S. aculeata* were low, 7,701 kg in 1977, rose steeply to 41,918 kg in 1979 and underwent sharp decline to 12,006 kg in 1980. *S. pharaonis* catches were highest, 42,402 kg in 1979 and decreased by as much as 50.2% in the next year. *S. elliptica* exhibited wide yearly fluctuations, the catches decreasing from 20,235 kg

in 1977 to 4,701 kg in 1978 shooting upto 1,58,354 kg in 1979 and declining by 92% in the succeeding year. The catches of *S. inermis* were highest, 41,391 kg in 1979 and fell to 11,326 kg in the next year. Corresponding to the trend of the landings, the CPUE of all the four component species exhibited an increase in 1979 and a sharp fall in 1980. The best months for all the four cuttlefish species were August to October.

FISHERY AT MANGALORE

Cephalopods are caught by about 200 trawlers off Dakshina Kannada (South Kanara) coast between Lat. 12°30' and 13°10' N and Long. 74°30' and 74°45' E at depths of 9 to 40 m. The estimated annual cephalopod catches in 1980 amounted to 45,897 kg (Fig. 5) and they formed 0.2% to 1.7% of the total trawl catches in the various months except in October when for 52 boat trips 177 kg of cephalopods were landed, and since in that month, the total trawl landings were poor (363 kg) cephalopods accounted for 47.97%. The best months for cephalopods in 1980 were January and February. In March, May and December moderately good catches were got and the catches were lowest in September and October.

Squids represented by a single species *Loligo duvaucelii* were predominant component of cephalopods and they formed 68.3% of the catches. The rest of the catch of 31.7% comprised of three species of cuttlefishes *Sepia aculeata*, *S. pharaonis* and *Sepiella inermis*. The estimated annual catch of *Loligo duvaucelii* was 31,353 kg and that of the next common species was 11,126 kg accounting for 24.2%. *Sepia pharaonis* and *Sepiella inermis* were obtained in very small quantities and formed only 0.6% and 7% of the cephalopod landings. The average CPUEs of *L. duvaucelii* and *S. aculeata* were 0.99 kg and 0.35 kg whilst those of *S. pharaonis* and *S. inermis* were very low. The best months for *L. duvaucelii* were December to March and the peak periods for *S. aculeata* were December to March and May.

FISHERY AT BOMBAY

Cephalopods are caught mainly by trawlers off Bombay coast between Lat. 18° and 20° N and Long. 72° and 73° E at depths of 30-50 m. In *dol* nets operated in the area for Bombay duck, squids and cuttlefishes occur in stray numbers. About 100 to 150 trawlers land at two centres Sassoon Duck and New Fishery Jetty at Bombay. During 1977-'80 the trawlers landed a total of 4,580.8 t of cephalopods with an average annual catch of 1,145.2 t which formed 3.9% of total

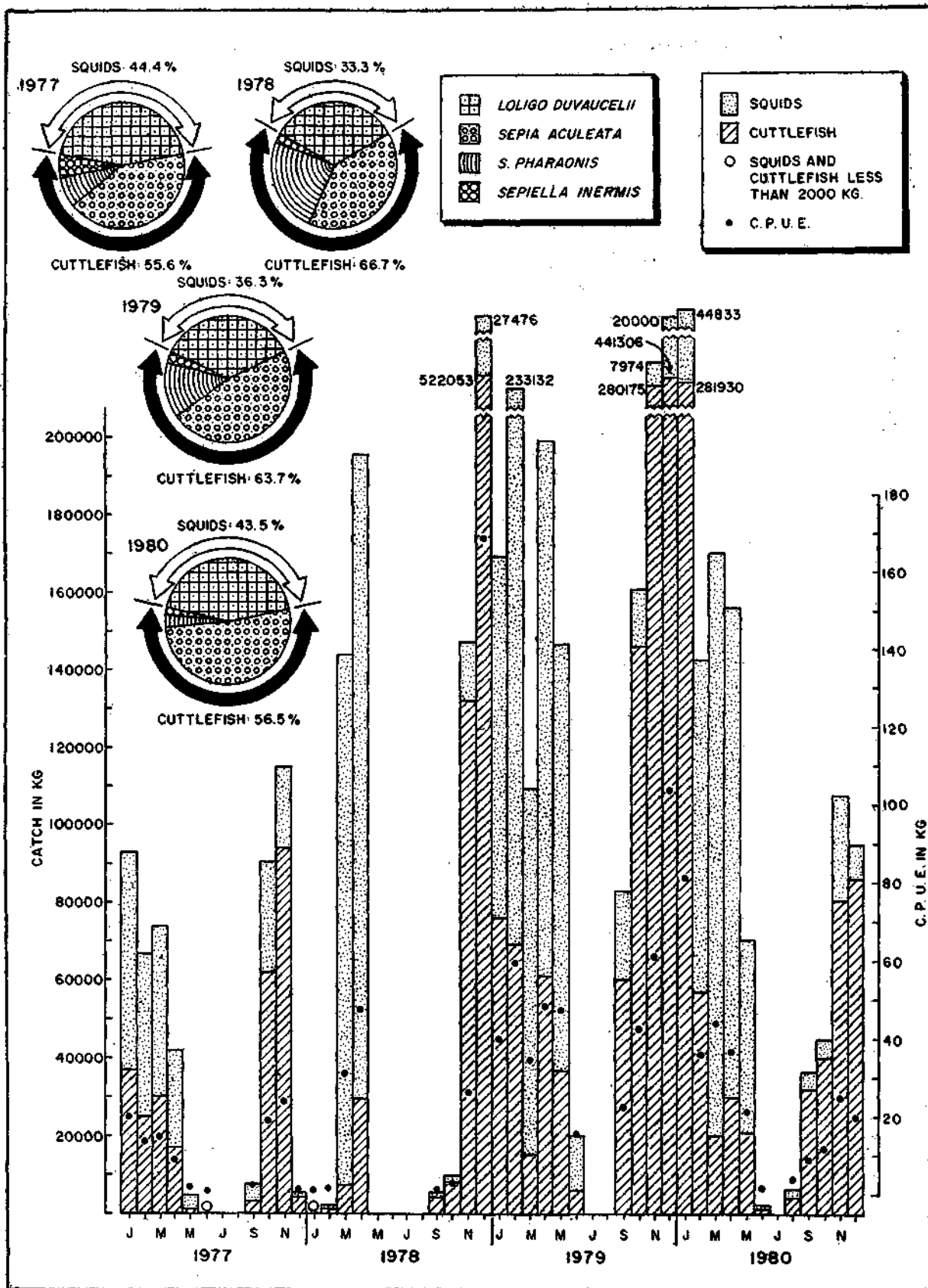


Fig. 6. Monthly total cuttlefish and squid catches, CPUE and annual species percentage composition of cuttlefish and squids landed by trawlers at Bombay during 1977-80.

trawl catches. The annual estimated cephalopod catches at both the centres together show a gradual rise from 494,553 kg in 1977 to a maximum of 1,872, 142 kg in 1979 and thereafter a decrease by as much as 38.1% to 1,158,471 kg in 1980 though there was an increase in effort by 5% (Fig. 6). The CPUE showed a trend similar to that of the catches and it was highest, 47.56 kg in 1979.

Squids formed 33.3% to 44.4% of cephalopod catches and the rest consisted of cuttlefish. The annual squid catches varied from 219,686 kg (in 1977) to 680,296 kg (in 1979) and cuttlefish catches between 274,687 kg in 1977 and 1,191,846 kg. When the total squid and cuttlefish catches in the four year period are considered it is seen that cuttlefish are dominant forming 61.7% and squids account for 38.3%. A very interesting seasonal pattern is seen in the occurrence of squids and cuttlefishes in Bombay area. Squids are common in the period January to May or June and cuttlefishes are abundant in the period September-December.

When the total cephalopod landings of trawlers during the period 1977-'80 are considered together,

it is seen that *Sepia aculeata* was the dominant species forming 46.3%, *Loligo duvaucelii* was the second dominant species (38.3%) and the others obtained were *Sepia pharaonis* (13.7%) and *S. inermis* (1.7%).

The annual landings of *L. duvaucelii* varied from 219,686 kg (1977) to 680,296 kg (1979). The catches of the squid were especially good in the periods March-April, 1978, January-May, 1979 and February-April, 1980 when the CPUE varied from 21.9 kg to 41.6 kg. The annual catches of *Sepia aculeata* ranged from 208,062 kg (1977) to 878,432 kg (1979) and decreased to 606,933 kg in 1980. *S. pharaonis* showed a similar trend of catches with a rise from 38,261 kg in 1977 to 286,826 kg in 1979 and a fall to 34,070 in 1980. Peak landings of *S. aculeata* were obtained in the period September to December and maximum catches of *S. pharaonis* during October-December, when the CPUEs were also high. The yearly total landings of *S. inermis* varied between 5,550 kg (1978) and 28,544 kg (1977), and the best months for this species were November to January.

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