



समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा

MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 95

MAY 1989



तकनीकी एवं विस्तार अंकावली TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी अनुसंधान संस्थान
कोचिन, भारत CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

ON A BUMPER CATCH OF CAT FISH, 'MANTHAN KELARU' LANDED AT VERKOTTIL CENTRE, RAMESWARAM ISLAND*

Arius caelatus locally known as 'Manthan kelaru' in Tamil occurs in small quantities in trawl net and pair trawl net operations off Rameswaram-Mandapam region almost throughout the year. In February and March, 1988, a bumper catch of this species was obtained in the high opening pair trawl net operated in the Palk Bay off the Verkottil centre in the Rameswaram Island at 10 to 12 metres depth range. An unprecedented catch of 37.7 tonnes was landed by 10 units operating in the fishing area 9/79-3C on 26-2-1988. In the subsequent days of operation, however, the catch rate decreased, fluctuating between 0.2 and 5.5 tonnes. The fishery disappeared from the area by 23-3-88.

The size of *Arius caelatus* landed during this period ranged from 300 to 640 mm in total length. The dominant size of the population was at 450-540 mm. The gut content analysis of 10 specimens revealed the remnants of crabs, bivalve shells and brittle stars. The examination of the maturity condition of the fishes showed that most of them were in advanced stage of

maturity with ripe ovaries. A few specimens carried eggs in the mouth.

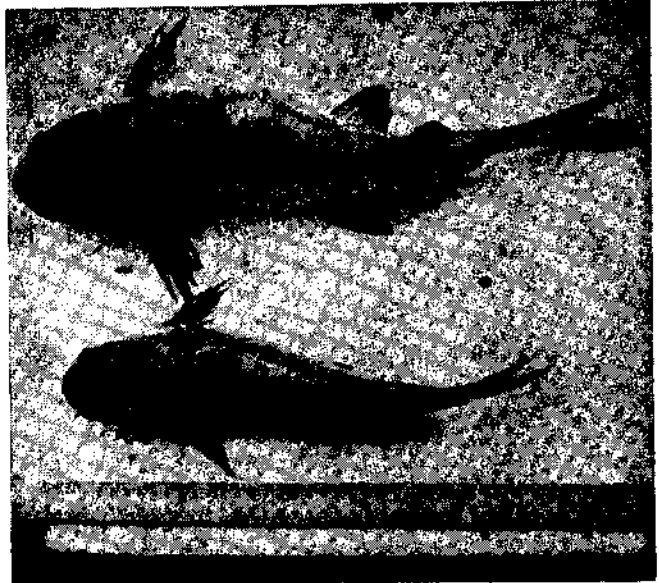


Fig. 1. 'Manthan kelaru' a species of cat fish.

* Reported by C. Kasinathan and M. Bose, Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp.

