

Monsoon shrimp fishery at "Gangoli Light House"

Gangoli light house landing centre of Udupi District along Karnataka coast locally known as 'Gangoli madi' is an important indigenous fish landing Centre. During monsoon season, this centre is having advantage for safe landing and berthing facilities for indigenous crafts and the fishermen from nearby fishing villages move to this centre for their fishing operations. Monsoon fishery is carried out by wooden/fibre glass canoes fitted with outboard engines of power ranging from 9.9 to 25 hp. The major gears in operations are ring seines locally known as "matubala" or ranibala, monofilament gillnet known as 'beenibala' and cast net known as beedubala. "Matubala" usually has a mesh size of 12-22 mm and "beenibala" with a mesh size of 55 mm, are generally operated within a depth of 15 meters.

During this season under report, though the monsoon fishery at "Gangoli madi" started on 22-06-2001, bad weather conditions interrupted and regular operations started only from 27-6-2001. The shrimp catch was very good in the start with *Penaeus indicus* forming the major catch for almost all the boats. On 28-6-2001, 126 "beenibala" units were put into operation and each boat landed an average of 25 to 30 kg of *P. indicus*. Along with shrimps, croakers, white fish, *Thryssa* spp and *Scomberomorus commerson* were the other con-

stituents of the catch. *P. indicus* caught were large sized and fetched a rate of Rs.350 to 375 per Kg. The size range was between 145 and 165 mm and the majority in 160-165 mm. This trend of good catch of *P.indicus* continued till 30-6-2001. Even though the *P. indicus* landings declined slowly, the total shrimp landing at this centre was good throughout the season. The major constituent of shrimp catch during the later half of the monsoon season was *Metapenaeus dobsoni*. The catch of the species was very good during August with unusually heavy landings on 2-8-2001. On this day 160 "matubala" units were operated from this centre and most of them landed about 120 to 800 Kg. of *M.dobsoni*, with an average of about 450 Kg. per boat. The other constituents of the catch were *Caranx* spp, *Thryssa* spp., *Terapon* sp., white fish, croakers and lesser sardines. The shrimps landed were large sized with a size range of 100-110 mm and fetched Rs.90 per Kg. The auctions were conducted by local fishery co-operative society, ensuring a good price. This trend of good landing of shrimps in the monsoon fishery was reported from many other centres along Udupi District.

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