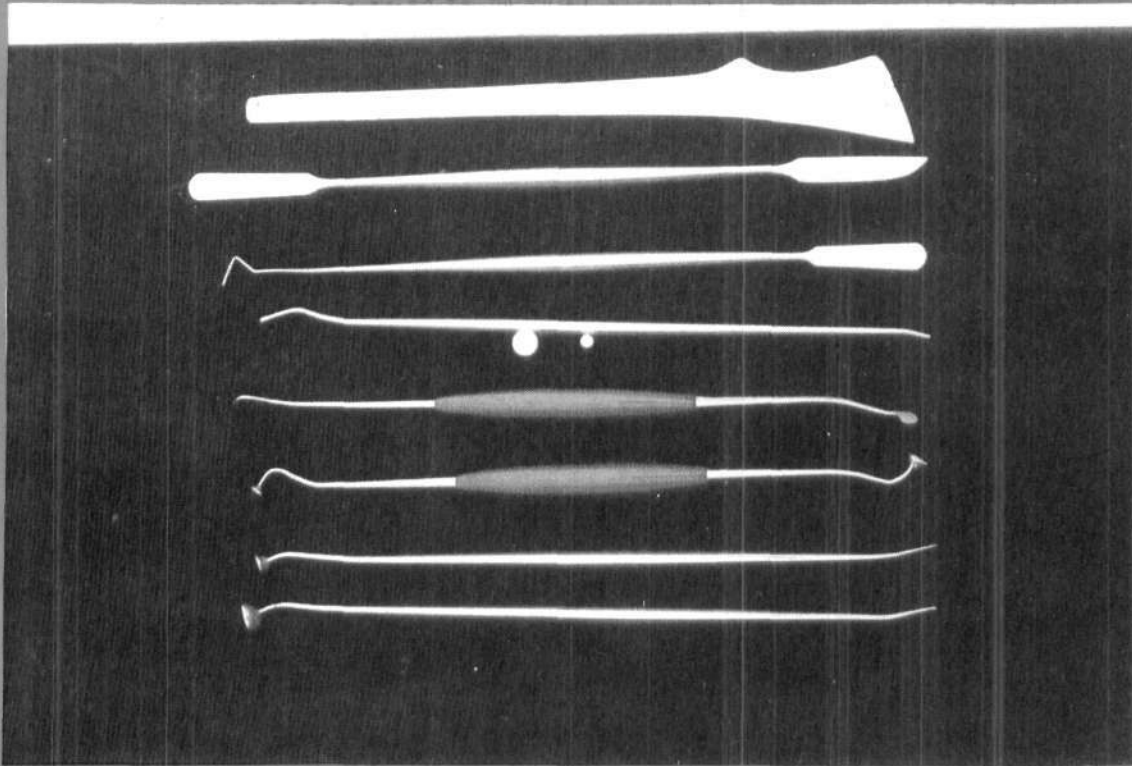




समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 112

JUNE 1991



तकनीकी एवं TECHNICAL AND
विस्तार अंकावली EXTENSION SERIES

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

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

UNUSUALLY HEAVY LANDINGS OF JUVENILE CATFISHES AT RAMESWARAM*

At Rameswaram landing centre in the south-east coast of India, 26.7 tonnes of juvenile catfishes in the total length range of 85 - 230 mm were landed by mechanised trawlers at a C. P. U. E. of 35 kg. These units have operated about 30 km south-east off Rameswaram in the Palk Bay (9° 15' N; 79° 35' E) at a mean depth of 8 m, where the ground is muddy. Of the three species occurring, *Tachysurus tenuispinis* (107 - 215 mm TL) formed about 70%, *T. maculatus* (85 - 148 mm TL) 21% and *T. thalassinus* (150 - 230 mm TL) 9%. The length frequency distributions of *T. tenuispinis* and *T. maculatus* are given in Fig. 1. On no other occasion, such heavy catches of juvenile catfishes have occurred during 1988 - 1990 in the entire Rameswaram Island and Mandapam landing centres.

Besides the above observation in trawl landings, on 14- 12- 90 and 15- 12- 90, 250 kg of juvenile catfishes at a C. P. U. E. of 5 kg were caught, in 'Disco nets' operated at about 10 km south-east off Mundrurayarchathiram (near Dhanushkodi) in the Palk Bay in approximately the same ground, at 10 - 14 m depth, which is rather unusual in this gear. *T. tenuispinis* formed 80% and was in the range of 110 - 190 mm TL.

Considering the fact that *T. tenuispinis* and *T. maculatus* form only about 2 and 1%, respectively of all catfishes landed by commercial trawlers and drift gill netters in this region, these observations are noteworthy. *T. tenuispinis* is known to be a migratory species and occurs in

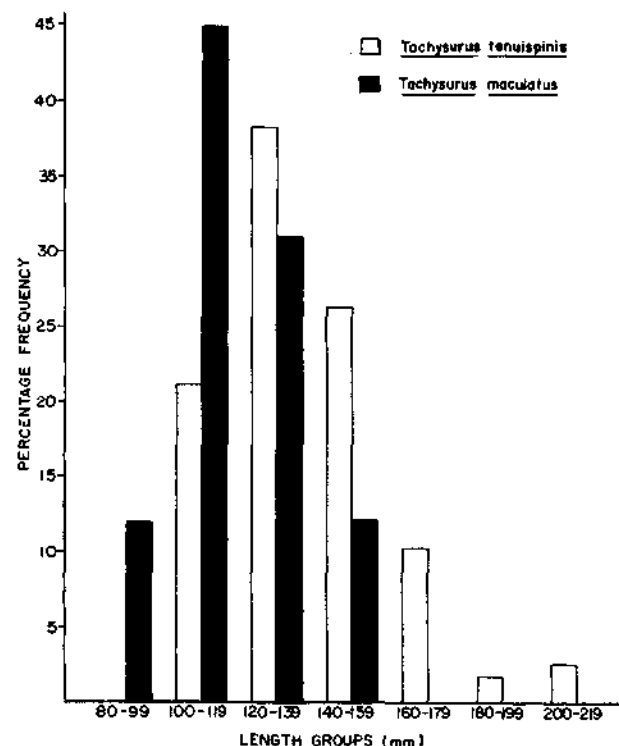


Fig. 1 Length frequency distribution of *Tachysurus tenuispinis* and *T. maculatus* among the juvenile catfish landings at Rameswaram during 7-12-90 to 12-12-90 by mechanised trawlers.

abundance during different periods in Visakhapatnam, Calicut, Cochin and Goa. It is apparent that the heavy landings of the juveniles of *T. tenuispinis* and *T. maculatus* during the present observations would have migrated to this region from elsewhere.

* Prepared by P. Jayasankar and M. Bose, Regional Centre of C. M. F. R. I., Mandapam Camp - 623 520.