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UNUSUAL LANDINGS OF GOAT FISHES BY TRAWL NETS AT VISAKHAPATNAM*

It was observed that during April–May, '88, unusually heavy quantities of goat fishes were landed by private trawlers off Visakhapatnam operated at a depth of 25–35 metres. The total catches of goat fishes are 130.8, 232.3 and 178.2 t in April, May and June respectively. Among the goat fishes *Upeneus vittatus*, *U.*

sulphureus and *U. molluscans* are the species which 25% and 5% respectively. In April and May heavy landings of *Upeneus* spp. are reported with C.P.H. values 7.6 and 14.17 kg/hr respectively.

U. vittatus ranged in size from 82 to 111 mm in total length. The average size is 105 mm and the weight is 12 gm. The fishes were immature and stomachs were found to be empty or filled with remnants of crustaceans.

*Reported by T. Appa Rao, K. Narayana Rao and M. Chandrasekhar, Visakhapatnam Research Centre of CMFRI, Visakhapatnam.

