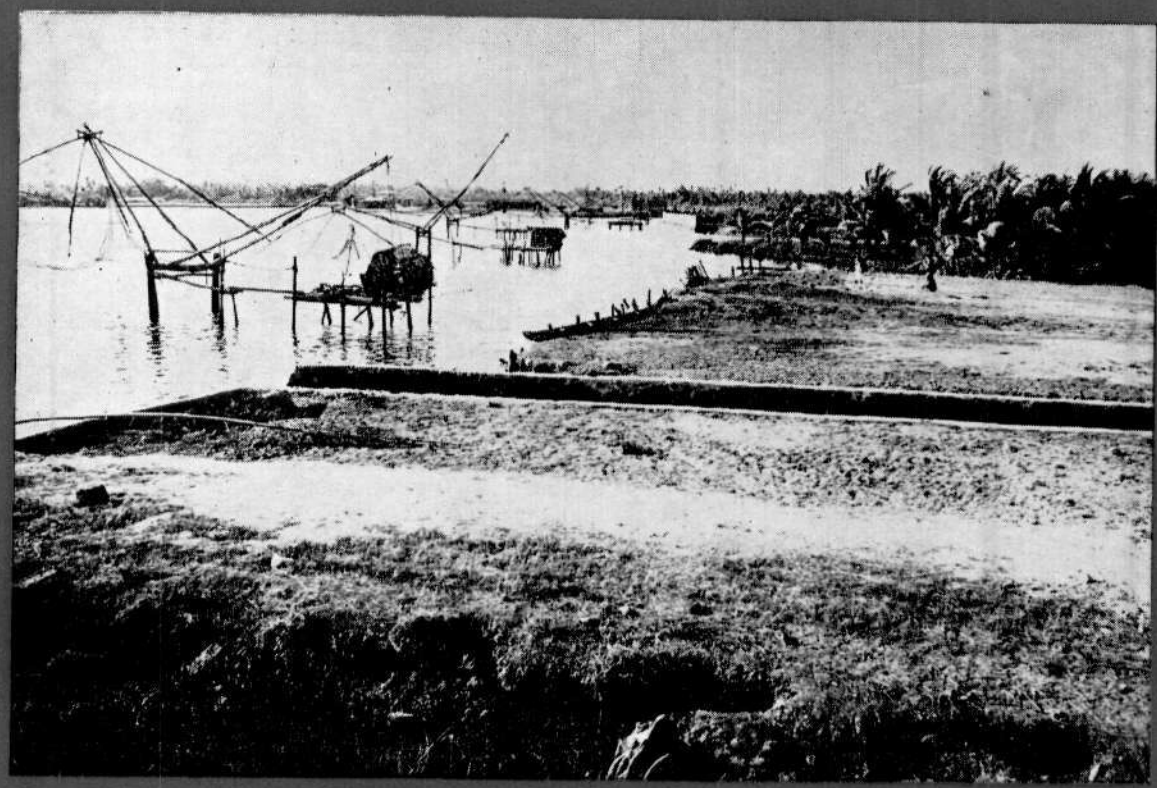




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BOMBAY DUCK LANDINGS BY TRAWLERS AT SASSOON DOCK, BOMBAY DURING 1983-'84*

The 'Bombay duck' *Harpodon nehereus* Hamilton constitutes an important fishery in the state of Maharashtra. The fishery and biology of this species have been studied. This resource is exploited mainly by 'dol', a kind of bagnet. The trawlnets are not very effective in the fishery of Bombay duck. In 1983-'84 three trawlers belonging to Fishery Survey of India namely *Meenatharangini*, *Meenapradata* and *Meenayojak* landed good quantities of Bombay duck during almost every month of their fishing operations. *Meenayojak*, however, landed the species only during September, 1983. The details of the landings are presented in Table below.

Name of the vessel	Fishing area	Depth range (m)	Catch (kg)	Percentage in total fish
<i>Meenatharangini</i> (200 H.P.)	18-72, 19-71,			
	19-72 & 17-72	27-64	2,597	14.60
<i>Meenapradata</i> (200 H.P.)	18-72, 19-72 & 19-71	28-68	2,307	5.07
	18-72	25-50	390	12.90

*Prepared by M. Aravindakshan and J. P. Karbhari, Bombay Research Centre of CMFRI, Bombay.

The gear employed in these operations was the 24 m fish trawl. The size range of Bombay duck caught in trawl net operated beyond 30 m depth was 68-380 mm. Very few mature specimens were noticed.

The appearance of Bombay duck regularly in the trawl landings is significant. It is indicative of the existence of Bombay duck populations outside the traditional operational limits of 'dol' (28 m). Larger size groups may exist in deeper regions as fully mature size groups are rarely landed by 'dol'. Absence of eggs and newly hatched larvae in the inshore plankton suggests that this species breeds in deeper waters. Presence of Bombay duck in the inshore regions and creeks such as Arnala and Marve during monsoon months may be attributed to the fact that they follow the penaeid and non-penaeid prawn population to the inshore regions, as crustaceans form a major percentage in the food of Bombay duck during the initial stages of its growth.

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