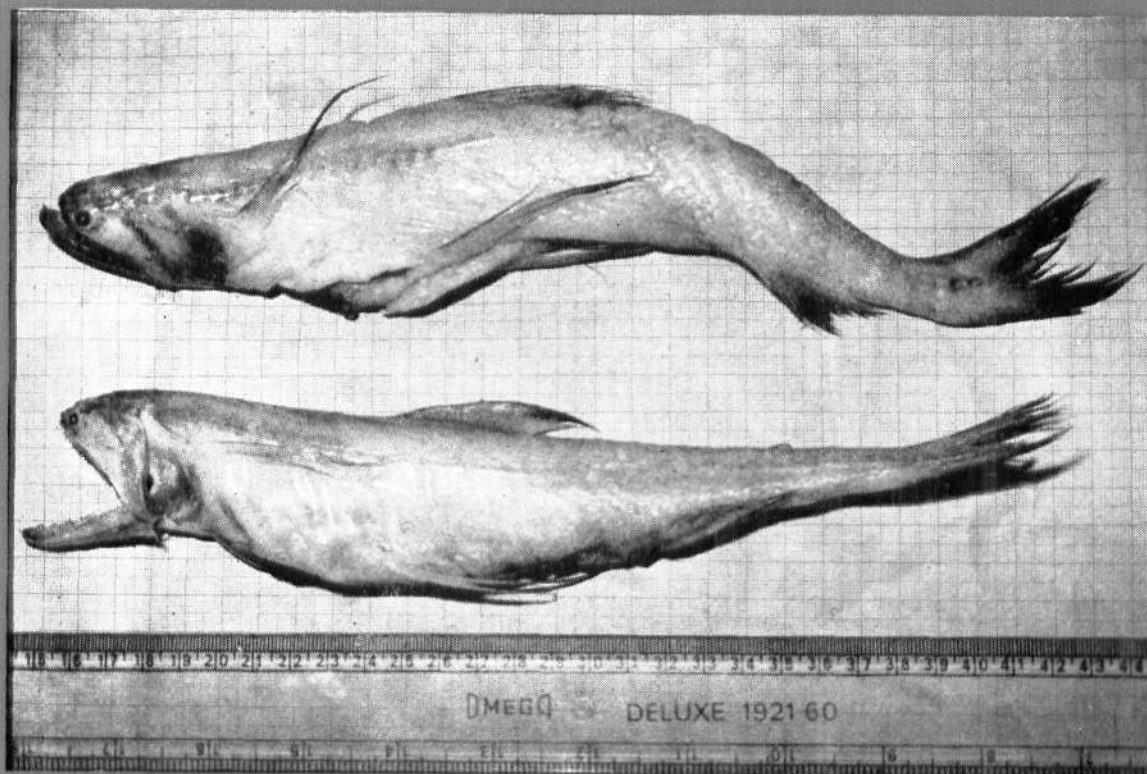




MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



No. 89
NOVEMBER 1988

Technical and Extension Series

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
COCHIN, INDIA

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

BUMPER CATCH OF 'KALARU' FROM DHANUSHKODI AND MOONDRURAYARCHATHIRAM (PALK BAY), RAMESWARAM ISLAND*

Five-spotted herring *Hilsa kelee* locally known as 'Kalaru' in Tamil occurs in small quantities in shore-seines ('Kara valai'), drift net ('Paru valai') and in bottom set gill net ('Disco valai') at Mandapam - Rameswaram region. In this area, the fishing season for the species extends from April to October in the Palk Bay and from November to March in the Gulf of Mannar. In the latter region the catch rate ranges from 5 to 30 kg per drift net unit. At Dhanushkodi, where relatively more intense fishing is observed, a catch rate of 380 kg per unit is obtained by the 'Kara valai'. In the bottom set gill net operated from this

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

Table 1. Details showing the bumper catch of *Hilsa kelee*

Date	Name of landing centre	No. of 'Kara-valai' units	Total catch in tonnes	Length range in (mm)	Dominant size in (mm)
7-4-'87	Moon-drurayar-chathiram	4	10.9	150-209	180-189
19-4-'87	-do-	1	36.0		
21-4-'87	-do-	1	5.0		
8-4-'87	Dhanushkodi	1	8.2	150-199	160-189
27-4-'87	-do-	1	1.5		
28-4-'87	-do-	3	4.75		

region, the catch rate of *Hilsa kelee* ranges from 1 to 5 kg per unit.

A bumper catch of *Hilsa kelee* was observed in the shore seines operated at the Palk Bayside at Dhanushkodi and Moondrurayarchathiram in the Rameswaram Island in April, 1987 and the details are presented in Table 1.

Mode of disposal of the catch

The offtake of fresh fish was found to be limited. The major portion of the catch was spread on the sandy beach and dried in the sun for 5 days, packed in gunny bags and sent to Nammakkal, Hyderabad and other places for preparing poultry feed. The price of fresh fish ranged from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2 per kg, and of the dried fish from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 3 per kg.

