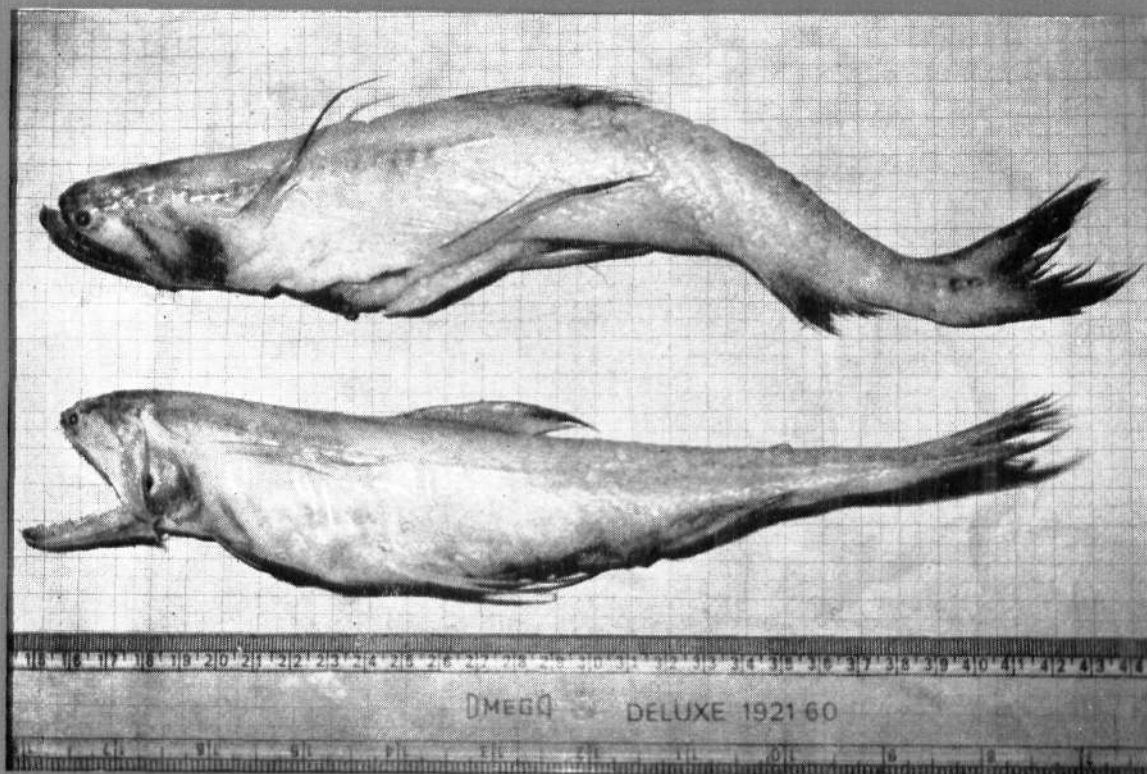




MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



No. 89
NOVEMBER 1988

Technical and Extension Series

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
COCHIN, INDIA

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

UNUSUAL LANDING OF CAT FISH *TACHYSURUS DUSSUMIERI* AT MADRAS*

About 2,000 numbers of cat fish *Tachysurus dussumieri* weighing approximately five tonnes were landed on 25-11-1987 by shore seine operation at Nochikuppam landing centre in Madras. The entire catch was realised from a single operation which is an unusual phenomenon along Madras coast. The catch was sold for Rs. 30,000 at the landing centre itself.

A sample of 69 specimens of the fish was collected from the catch for biometric and biological observations. The total length ranged from 611-710 mm. The maximum frequency of 18.8% was observed in the length group of 651-660 mm. Of the 69 specimens, 46 were males (66.7%) and 23 were females (33.3%). All the females were in stage V of gonadial development.

Large shoals of cat fish are usually reported from the west coast. Recently, heavy landings of cat fish

have been reported from the east coast also, especially at Pondicherry (bag net) and Mandapam (trawl net).

Spawning migration of *T. thalassinus* and *T. tenuispinis* towards shallow waters of less than 10 m depth has been reported during southwest monsoon (May - July) from the west coast. Considering the fact that all the female specimens analysed were in advanced stage of gonadial maturity, it appears that *T. dussumieri* also tends to migrate towards shallow waters during northeast monsoon (October - December) along the east coast.

Cat fish do not form a major fishery along the Madras coast. The annual average landing is about 2.9 tonnes from trawlers, 0.6 tonne from mechanised gill netters and 0.5 tonne from non-mechanised gill netters during 1980-'86. The present unusual heavy landing was observed for only one day and it was confirmed from the fishermen that the shoal was moving from south to north and that they could get only about 25% of the haul while the rest escaped.

* Prepared by S. Srinivasarengan, Madras Research Centre of CMFRI, Madras.



The author names of Fish Calendar VI for Tuticorin (MFIS No. 84, June, 1988) may be read in the order S. Mahadevan, P. Sam Bennet, K. M. S. Ameer Hamsa, Pon. Siraimetan and H. Mohamed Kasim. The name of Shri Pon. Siraimetan was left out inadvertently during consolidation of the article.

—EDITORS