Table 1. Hydrographic parameters at the affected area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Salinity (%)</th>
<th>Temperature °C</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>D.O ml/L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funhilool</td>
<td>1210</td>
<td>30.36</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>8.35 to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kudehi</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>28.70</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>8.35 to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of about 10-12 kg of different size groups were found washed ashore and almost equal quantities were found settled up to waist deep all along the affected area. *Polynemus sexfilis* of 6-8 cm in total length were the worst affected species, followed by Atherinomorus lacunosus (6-10 cm-25%); Trachinotus bailloni (10-14 cm-15%), Acanthurus mata (2-5 cm-10%) and Lujanus spp. (3-5 cm-10%). The seaweed species found is the area were *Hypnea musiformis* (70%), *Acanthophora specifera* (30%) and Laurencia papillosa. The hydrographic parameters in the area in given in Table 1. All the parameters indicated low values.

Fig. 1 Fish mortality at Minicoy lagoon

1056

First record of unicorn sole, *Aesopia cornuta* (Kaup,1858) along the Malabar coast

Flatfishes are very important demersal fishery resources contributing 4% of the trawl landings along the Malabar coast. They are highly relished table fishes in fresh and dried condition along this region. Flatfishes of the family cynoglossidae support the commercial flatfish fishery of Malabar region, but the occurrence of flat fish of the family soleidae is not common. In May,2003 a few specimens of unicorn sole, *Aesopia cornuta*, belonging to the family soleidae were observed in the trawl landings at Beyapore by the multi day vessels operated off Malabar coast at a depth of 120 m. This benthic species has not been recorded so far from this region.

The distinguishing character of this species is that it is brown in colour with 14-16 dark bands edged with black, with some pale spots. Body scales are smooth.
Pectoral fins small with 12-16 soft rays. Dorsal and anal fin rays branched. First dorsal ray thickened and elongated. Caudal fin completely joined with dorsal and anal fin, caudal rays 14-16. Ventral fin separated from anal and genital papilla, each with soft rays. Lateral line scales are counted from above upper end of gill opening to base of caudal fin. Scales are smooth and cycloid. Both eyes are on right side of head. Dorsal fin originates before eyes. No fin spines. The specimens measured 109 to 160 mm and weighed 18 to 35 g.

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1057 A note on dol net fisheries at Arnala

Arnala is one of the major dol net landing centres in Thane district of Maharashtra. This landing centre has three multipurpose co-operative societies.

Dol net is a gear commonly used in Maharashtra and Gujarat. In Maharashtra dol is anchored to poles fixed to the sea bottom. At Arnala the gear is operated from August to May in the depth ranging from 18 m - 22m. Approximately 375 dol netters operate from Arnala as the base.

During the period of observation (Jan ‘02 to Dec ‘02) an estimated catch of 1383 t were landed by 12,850 dol net units in 44,532 hauls. Minimum catch of 13 t was landed in July ‘02 and a maximum catch of 648 t was recorded in Oct ‘02.

The number of units have increased gradually from 7, 214 in 1997 to 9,691 in 2000 and 12,850 in 2002. The total dol catch in 1997 was 2216 t, which gradually increased to 2984 t in 2000 but drastically decreased to 1383 (by about 50%) in the year 2002.

Of the total fish catch 60% is sun dried and the rest sold in fresh condition. Bombay-duck catch is thoroughly washed and viscera removed for quick sun drying. The sun-dried fish is sold through three outlets viz. petty merchants (70%), dry fish market (25%) and retail market (5%).

Bombay-duck is the mainstay of dol net fishery at Arnala. Maximum catch of Bombay-duck was observed in Oct ‘02. During the period of observation Bombay-duck formed 57% of the total dol net landings. Apart from Bombay-duck, Collia dusumeri constituted 17% of the total catch followed by non-penaeid prawns (10%) and Acetes spp. (9%). Penaied prawns contribute 2% of the total catch. Other fish, which include, catfish, ribbonfish, sharks, flatfishes, Pella spp. etc together contributed to 5%.

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1058 Small toothed saw fish, Pristis microdon landed alive at Cuf e parade, Mumbai

A female sawfish, Pristis microdon of 575 cm in total length which was entangled in gill net of 100 mm mesh size landed alive on 15/08/2003 at Cuf e parade, Mumbai. The fishing ground was about 21 km. south-west of Cuf e parade at a depth of 20 meters. The rostrum was 115 cm in length and had 17 pairs of teeth. The flesh weighed 520 kg, liver 140 kg. and the total weight was about 750 kg. The fish was sold for Rs. 20000/-. The fisherman had a loss of Rs. 4000/- due to the damage of the net. As the fish was entangled immediately after paying the nets other catch was very poor.

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