

ISSN 0254-380 X



# MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 179

January, February, March, 2004



TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

**CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

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, *Coilia dusumeri* constituted 17% of the total catch followed by non-penaeid prawns (10%) and *Acetes* spp. (9%). Penaeid prawns contribute 2% of the total catch. Other fish, which include, catfish, ribbonfish, sharks, flatfishes, *Pellona* spp. etc together contributed to 5%.