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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

**REPORT ON THE SET BACK SUFFERED BY MARINE FISHING SECTOR
ON DAKSHINA KANNADA COAST, KARNATAKA,
DUE TO THE CYCLONE DURING NOVEMBER 1992***

Cyclones which are common along the east coast of India during October-December period, rarely occur along the west coast. However, the recent cyclone which hit the west coast in the third week of November, 1992 left a trail of damages and destruction to the fishing craft along the Dakshina Kannada coast of Karnataka. It originated in the southern Bay of Bengal and moved along Kerala towards Karnataka coast in a north-easterly direction. On 16th November, it centred about 60 km off Mangalore, and on 17th it crossed Honnavar in North Kanara District.

On 14-11-1992 a country craft (plank-built boat, 10.8 m long and 1.8 m broad) with 25 people onboard on a routine fishing trip (*katrampani* operation) hit against the sand dunes due to the high waves off Suratkal and was broken to pieces (Fig 1). The fishing crew, however, escaped unhurt. The total loss was estimated to be Rs 80,000.

One trawler of overall length 10.8 m and breadth 3.3 m fitted with 88 BHP engine was caught in the high waves and it hit against the sand bar of the bar mouth at Manglore and sank on 16-11-1992. Two of the five crew in the boat who

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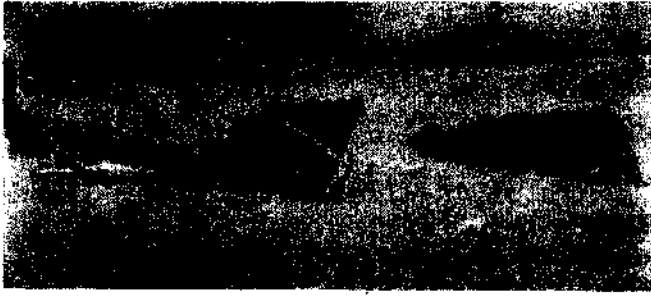


Fig. 1. A country craft damaged due to the cyclone at Suratkal (*Udayavani*, dated : 15-11-1992).

were seriously injured died later. The other three persons onboard were rescued by the fishermen in the vicinity. Besides human life , the financial loss on the vessel, gear and fish catch was estimated at about Rs.7 lakhs. On the same day at Polipu, a fishing village about 50 km north of Mangalore, another trawler of the same type hit against rocks due to high waves and was broken to pieces. The loss in this case was about Rs. 5 lakhs.



Fig. 2. A view of the fishing boats anchored at Mangalore Bunder due to cyclone. (*Udayavani*, dated : 18-11-1992).

The total loss due to loss of fishing craft, gear and fish catch and due to non-fishing (Fig. 2) during the short period of 4 days along the Dakshina Kannada coast was estimated to be about Rs. 25 lakhs.