



समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 98

AUGUST 1989



तकनीकी एवं TECHNICAL AND
विस्तार अंकावली EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
अनुसंधान संस्थान RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कोचिन, भारत COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

SQUALLY WEATHER DISRUPTED FISHING ACTIVITIES ALONG MAHARASHTRA COAST IN SEPTEMBER, 1988*

The fishing activities along the Maharashtra coast were severely disrupted when sudden fury of the sea caught several fishermen in the sea with wind speeds up to 55 kmph on September 23rd, 1988, off many fishing villages of Greater Bombay, Bassein, Satpati and Arnala. The weather experts attributed the phenomenon to a pressure gradient becoming 'Steep' and moving into a well marked low pressure area causing strong winds to blow.

Though 131 fishermen on board eight crafts were feared to be missing in the beginning, returned safely. Four fishermen lost their lives. The timely rescue operations by the Indian Navy saved many lives or otherwise the death toll could have been much more.

Lives lost, endangered and rescued

One young fisherman of Worli died when his 'toni' overturned in the sea off Napean Sea Road. Three other bodies, possibly of fishermen from Gujarat were washed ashore off Carter Road, Bandra on 26th September. A fisherman and his three sons suffered injuries when their boat was buffeted in the rough seas off Worli. Two other fishermen of Koliwada village were drifted three km away when their 'toni' overturned but were washed ashore near Searock Hotel.

Naval personnel responding to distress call rescued at least 30 people from the sea and a helicopter made several sorties in search-and-rescue operation. Four fishermen were rescued by another vessel from the sunken boat 'Mahamanorama'.

Prepared by V.V. Singh and S.G. Raje, Bombay Research Centre of CMFRI, Bombay.

Loss of property

The estimated loss of property was about Rupees one crore. At least six boats sank and many were badly damaged. Some boats returned safely but lost their gear.

Prominent among the sunken boats was the trawler 'Mahamanorama' which was operating from Sassoon Docks. It sank 25 km off Nurud. Three boats sank near Mudh resulting in heavy financial losses. A customs boat 'Angohsia' sank near Vasai creek. The trawler 'Dnyaneshwari Prasad' also sank.

Fishermen demand change in weather warning system

The course of storm was monitored by the Colaba Weather Bureau and fishermen warning was in force since September 21 for the entire Maharashtra coast. Local cautionary signal number three was hoisted at all parts of the Maharashtra coast at 12.30 p.m. on September 23. The warning to fishermen continued on September 24 also. The warning was broadcast over radio.

The fishermen of Maharashtra demands a more effective warning system in the emergency situation because they go out at sea normally for three to five days of fishing. They also ask for the establishment of a district level machinery to save lives at sea during rough weather.

Relief measures

The State Administration extended immediate help to the fishermen in distress through various agencies and a total sum of Rs. 21,000 was announced for the families of the deceased Maharashtra fishermen.

