

Marine Fisheries Information Service



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On the rare landing of the deep water band fish *Acanthocephala abbriciata* (Bleeker) at Chennai Fisheries Harbour

During September – November 2006, the deep water band fish *Acanthocephala abbriciata* was landed in large quantities by multiday trawlers at Chennai fisheries harbour. Multiday trawlers are operated 80-100 km off Chennai at a depth of 40-60 m in the direction of northeast. A total of 620 kg, 350 kg, and 200 kg were landed on 7-9-2006, 7-10-2006 and 16-11-2006 respectively. There has been an earlier report on the landings of the *Acanthocephala* sp. in large quantities at Panayurkuppam, Chennai

from shallow waters in the month of August – September 1987. Fishermen opined that on 7.9.2006, the sea water turbidity increased and became black in colour due to water current locally called “Vandalthanni”. At that time deep water fish like red bait and band fish were caught along with other fish. About 80 kg of red baits also landed on the same day. The size range of band fish was 140 - 330 mm with dominant mode at 230 - 239 mm. The weight range was 12 - 66 g with a mean weight of 35.4 g.

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