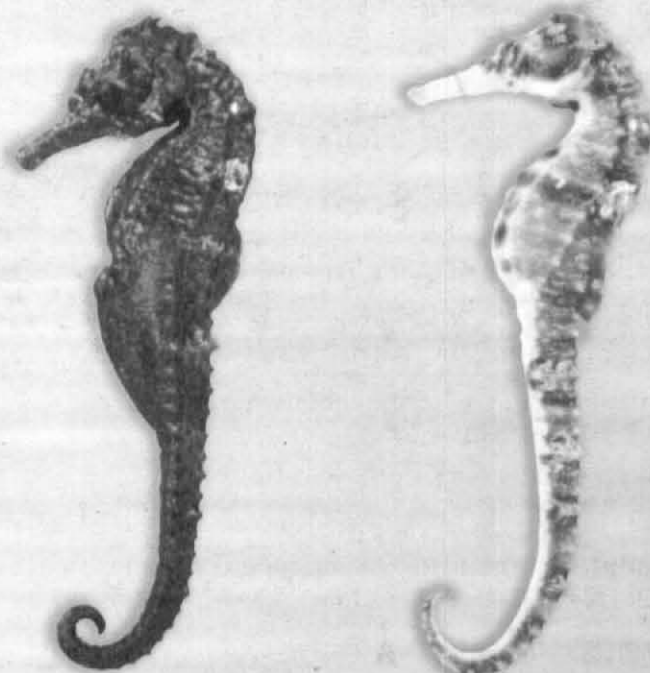




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Unusual landings of "blue spotted job fish", *Pristipomoides filamentosus* (Val.) by the hand operated hooks and lines at New Ferry Wharf

New Ferry Wharf landing centre is one of the major landing centres in Maharashtra where about 95% of total annual fish catch is landed by mechanised trawlers and the remaining by gill

netters, dol netters and purse seiners. It was unusual to note that two hand operated hooks and liners landed huge catch of "blue spotted job fish" on 22/03/2002. On enquiry it was understood that

the fishing crafts namely Vijayannam and Yeconia with 11 and 10 crew respectively had set out for fishing about 12 days and 7 days earlier to reach fishing ground off Ratnagiri at a depth of 120-150 metres. The catch comprised exclusively of *Pristipomoides filamentosus*. The total catch was about 6 t from Vijayannam and 4 t from Yeconia with a catch per hour of 41.67 and 27.20 kgs respectively. The number of hooks operated were 250 and 200 respectively. The

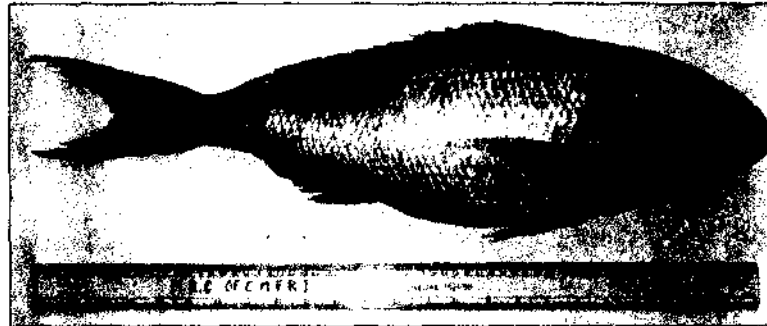
operations were carried out during the day time only. The bait used were mainly small pieces of cuttle fish, squids and tuna. The weight of the fish ranged from 1.850 to 3.450 kg. Length measurements were taken for 72 fishes which ranged from 58 to 74 cm. About 70% of gut content consisted of cephalopods. Unidentified digested matter and mud constituted the remaining 30%.

Male : Female ratio was 1:0.6. Out of 27 females examined 20 were in resting stage and the remaining in developing condition.

The entire fish catch was sold by auction at the landing centre for Rs.3,00,000/- at a rate of

Rs.30/- per kg. The fishes caught by hooks and lines are mainly sharks, rays, skates, catfishes, eel, tuna etc. However, sudden catch of this species by hand operated hooks and lines has generated interest

among the fishermen and fish merchants. Presently 12-15 hand operated hooks and lines, mechanised crafts from Knyakumari, Tamil Nadu are engaged in fishing at Ratnagiri, Shrivardhan and Mumbai region.



Pristipomoides filamentosus

Reported by: **K.B. Waghmare and Thakurdas,**
Mumbai Research Centre of CMFRI, Mumbai