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Post Box No. 1603, Cochin - 682 018, Kerala, India

WWW.cmfri.org.in

Bumper catch of *Pampus chinensis* (Euphrasen, 1788) landed at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai

THAKUR DAS, SUJIT SUNDARAM, C. J. JOSEKUTTY AND B. B. CHAVAN

Mumbai Research Centre of CMFRI, Mumbai

Pomfrets are considered a valuable seafood delicacy and enjoy great market demand in Maharashtra. An unprecedented high catch (Plate 1) of *Pampus chinensis* commonly known as 'Chinese pomfret' was landed by trawlers at New Ferry Wharf on 20-10-07. The fishing ground was towards north-west at a depth of 30-40 m. About three trawlers landed 1.6 t of Chinese pomfrets and the total income generated from this catch was about Rs. 3,87,200/-.

A total of 57 specimens were measured and the fork length ranged from 218 mm to 369 mm with a mode in the length-group of 270-279 mm (Fig. 1). The

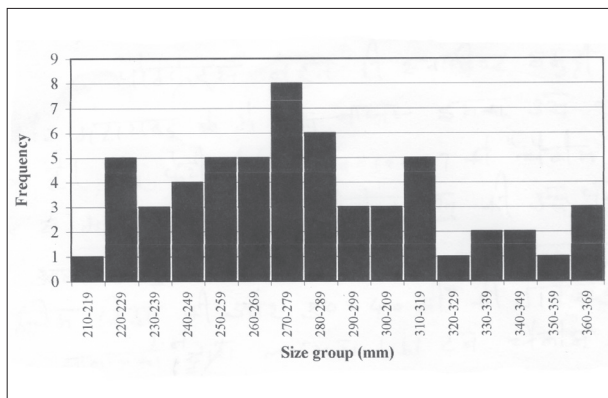


Fig. 1. Length frequency of *Pampus chinensis* landed at New Ferry Wharf

grading and price of Chinese pomfrets at New Ferry Wharf are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Grading and price of Chinese pomfrets at New Ferry Wharf

Weight of pomfret (g)	Grade	Price per kg (Rs.)
Above 500	Number 1	317
400 to 499	Number 2	267
300 to 399	Number 3	142



Fig. 2. Heavy landing of Chinese pomfret at New Ferry Wharf

Chinese pomfrets are found in the shelf waters at 80 m depth off Mumbai and in the Gulf of Kutch. Abundance of this species varies from year to year and generally they are not caught in such large numbers. Such an unprecedented catch of adult specimens is reported for the first time.