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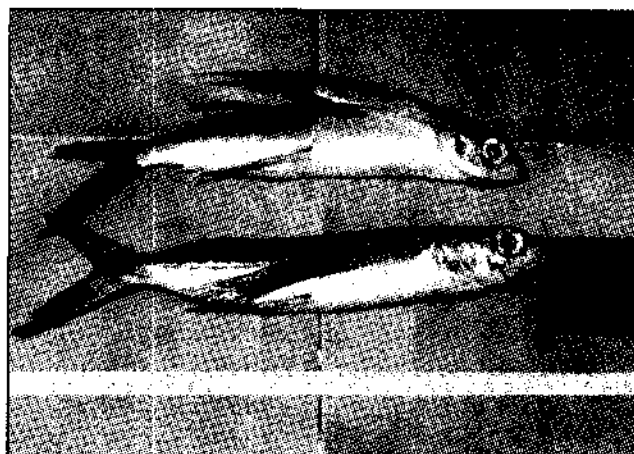
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

Unusual landings of flying fish *Cheilopogon furcatus* (Mitchill, 1815) in Veraval, Mangrol and Chorwad

Flying fish, locally called "Zeri" or Kunga" have been occasionally reported from different fish landing centres in Gujarat. They are tropical oceanic pelagic fish which migrate and aggregate in the near shore areas for spawning.

In December 1999 and early January 2000, unusual landings of the sportfin flying fish, *Cheilopogon furcatus*, was observed from gill net and trawl net operations off Veraval, Mangrol and from gill net operations off Chorwad (Table 1).

The smaller fish are usually caught in the commercial fishing gears during spawning period while the large ones are caught during the non-spawning period, using specially designed gill nets, hooks and lines. Tamil Nadu accounts for more than 75% of the flying fish catch of the country.



Cheilopogon furcatus

this coast and for initiating experimental gillnetting aimed at exploiting the fish during non-spawning periods, following the lines of BOBP's experimental gillnetting for flying fish of Madras in 1988.

Table 1. Flying fish landings from gill nets and trawl nets operated off Veraval, Mangrol and Chorwad (Dec. '99 & Jan. 2000)

| Date | Centre | Gear | No. of boats operated | | No. of boats with flying fish catch | | Flying fish catch (kg) | | |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|-------|
| | | | Gillnetters | Trawlers | Gillnetters | Trawlers | Gillnetters | Trawlers | Total |
| 16/12/99 | Mangrol | Gill net | 97 | 76 | 10 | 0 | 500 | 0 | 500 |
| 16/12/99 | Veraval | Gill net | 150 | 107 | 65 | 0 | 650 | 0 | 650 |
| 18/12/99 | Mangrol | Gill net & Trawl net | 169 | 183 | 70 | 47 | 2100 | 1410 | 3510 |
| 22/12/99 | Veraval | Trawl net | 5 | 126 | 0 | 92 | 0 | 3680 | 3680 |
| 23/12/99 | Mangrol | Gill net | 156 | 67 | 15 | 0 | 1650 | 0 | 1650 |
| 28/12/99 | Mangrol | Gill net | 38 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 510 | 0 | 510 |
| 28/12/99 | Mangrol bara | Gill net | 162 | 83 | 129 | 0 | 4773 | 0 | 4773 |
| 4/1/00 | Mangrol | Gill net | 124 | 82 | 15 | 0 | 555 | 0 | 555 |
| 4/1/00 | Chorwad | Gill net | 105 | 0 | 55 | 0 | 495 | 0 | 495 |
| 11/1/00 | Mangrol | Gill net | 132 | 107 | 15 | 0 | 105 | 0 | 105 |

Their landings along Gujarat coast was sporadic and exhibited a fluctuating pattern over the years. The present observation suggests the need for a close monitoring on the resource's availability along

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