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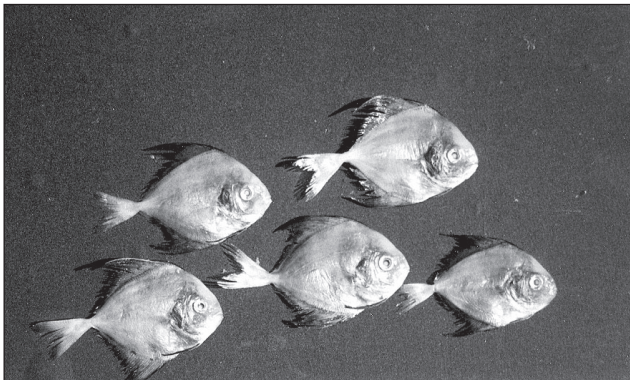
COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

## On the occurrence of juveniles of pomfrets in dol net catches at Trombay, Mumbai

Dol net is the main traditional fishing gear of Maharashtra and Gujarat. This bag net is operated when the water current is strong enough to keep the net in horizontal, expanded and opened position. The net is operated by anchoring it to the poles fixed to the sea bottom. Dol net operation is mainly confined to a depth range of 10 to 30m.

Trombay landing centre is an exclusive dol net fishing centre where about 40 units are operated daily. They are operated in Thane creek and at the mouth of the creek near the mangrove area. The catch mainly consists of penaeid and non-penaeid prawns, mullets, white



Juveniles of *Parastromateus niger*

sardine, sciaenids, catfish, crabs, Bombay duck and juveniles of prawns, fishes and crabs. Juveniles of *Parastromateus niger* landed during December '03 to February 2004. The size ranged from 50-80 mm in total length. Juveniles of *Pampus chinensis* were also landed from second half of January to February 2004. Its size ranged from 45-75 mm in total length.

Pomfrets are usually found in the shelf waters off Mumbai. The occurrence of juveniles in shallow waters up to the mouth of the creek near the mangrove area indicate a coastward movement due to change in current pattern or availability of food components. The gut content analysis of juveniles revealed the presence of detritus to a large extent and some zooplankton groups. The effect of fishing juveniles can cause recruitment over fishing and resource depletion in the long run. The observation demands strict measures to regulate capture of juveniles.

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