

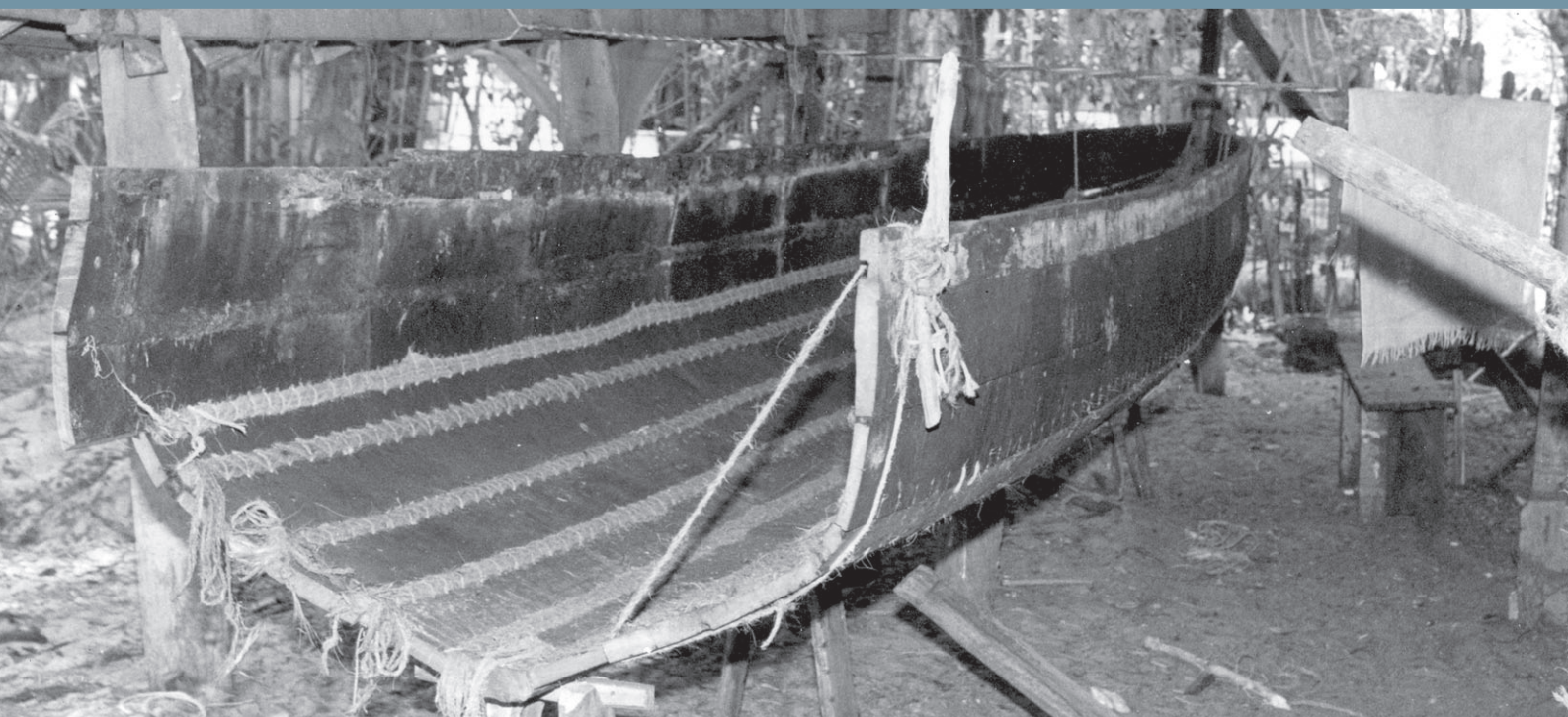
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1084 Unusual heavy landings of *Tachysurus dussumieri* by dol net at Arnala

Arnala is one of the major landing centres of Maharashtra for *dol* netters. The dominant groups caught by this net include Bombay duck, *Coilia* and nonpenaeid prawns. In addition to this net, large mesh sized *dol* nets are also used to catch silver pomfret at Arnala. In general, the operation is restricted to a depth of about 40 m and the catch is brought ashore after every one or two hauls.

On 22-01-04 at about 1600 hrs huge landings of catfish were observed from two *dol* netters at the centre. One of the units had a catch of 5,100 kg with 1300 number of fish and the other had 4,200 kg with 1100 specimens. Both the *dol* netters set out for fishing on 17-01-04 off Cambay region and operated 10-12 nets at the fishing

ground. The fishermen had actually set out for pomfret fishing and the catfish catch was much unexpected. In the last haul huge quantities of catfishes were caught with a catch per hour of 1329 kg.

The catfishes comprised of *Tachysurus dussumieri* (53-81 cm). Each fish weighed about 6 to 9 kg. 35% of the males were found to carry eggs in their buccal chamber, which indicates that the catfish could have migrated to the nearshore areas for breeding purpose.

The entire catch was auctioned at the landing centre for Rs.1,86,000 at a rate of Rs.20/- per kg. These fishes were in turn sent to Crawford market, Mumbai.