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, *Colia* 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.

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1085 G.M.C. Balayogi fish landing jetty, Savithri Nagar, Yanam, U.T. of Pondicherry

The Pondicherry Government took initiative to construct a fish landing jetty for the benefit of Savitri Nagar and Bhairavapalem fishers in 1999 and was completed in 2001 at an estimated cost of Rs.65 Lakhs. The jetty was named as GMC Balayogi fish landing jetty. The jetty was designed to accomadate 50 fishing trawlers, fish drying yard and a road for conveyance. There is no ice plant, power, water supply, shelter, bus stand facilities in the jetty. At an average about 140 Trawlers utilize this facility for berthing and sale of fish.

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1086 On the stranding of sea cow *Dugong dugon* at Mandapam along the Gulf of Mannar coast.

In the seas around India, sea cows are distributed in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kutch and Andaman islands. On 18.9.2003, a dead male sea cow *Dugong dugon* (Muller) measuring 194 cm in total length and about 125kg in weight was stranded along the Gulf of Mannar coast at Mandapam, Tamil Nadu. The animal had external wounds in the posterior side of body and a part of alimentary canal was found protruded outside the body near the genital region. It appeared that the injury might have caused by a propeller of in-board engine vallams operating in the near shore waters. The morphometric measurements of specimen are given in Table 1.