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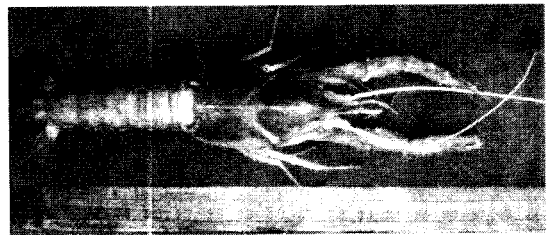
Report on the fishery of Indian Ocean Lobsterette, (*Nephropsis stewarti*) along Mangalore

Ever since deep-sea trawling started, Indian Ocean Lobsterette (*Nephropsis stewarti*) were landed regularly at Mangalore Fisheries Harbour. They were caught from a depth of 250-500 m. The meat of this lobster is considered as a delicacy and is procured by processing plants for export. Since the meat content is less, the price of the lobster is Rs. 20-25 Kg.

This lobster has a cylindrical pubescent body. Carapace is granular with median rostrum armed with one pair of lateral spines, a single spine behind each eye. Eyes are small. First three pairs of legs are ending in true pincers, first pair rather stout with hairy fingers. The colour of the body is brownish red. Females can be identified by its abdominal appendages, which are modified for egg bearing. In males ventral part of the abdomen is having a petasma like structure.

During the last five years (2000-2004), landing of this species was estimated at 17, 51, 44, 22t and 11 respectively. During first two years, they were caught only during November-December, but from 2002 onwards they were netted

throughout the year along with deep-sea shrimps. The highest landing of 51 t was recorded in 2001 and in the subsequent years the landing reduced progressively.



Nephropsis stewarti

Morphological examination showed that the overall length range of lobster was 90-124 mm (Total Length). Length of males ranged from 90 to 102 mm (CL 40 to 46mm). For Females the length range was 90-124 mm (CL 40 to 56 mm). Average weight of male with a length range of 90-95 mm was 16 g and those of 95-100 mm as 18g. Female of 90-95 mm size weighed 16 g and those of 115-120 mm weighed 42 g. During November-December, incidence of berried females was comparatively high.

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