

### **UNUSUAL HIGH CATCH OF 'GHOL' AT BASSEIN KOLLIWADA, THANE DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA\***

Locally known as 'Ghol' *Protonibea diacanthus* (Lacepede) is a highly priced fish occurring along the northwest coast of India. The swim bladder of this fish is of the best quality. This species is landed in Bombay both by trawl and 'dol' (bag nets) in small quantity. However, on October 19, 1992 a catch of 3480 kg of ghol was landed at Bassein Kolliwada situated about 66 km from Bombay. This landing centre is very important from the point of view of 'dol' netters.

The details of craft, area, depth of operation etc. are presented in Table 1.

Length frequency study could be carried out on 20 specimens with length range of 81 to 156 cm. The other catch included only 180 kg of *Pampus argenteus*, 20 kg of *Pellona* spp. and miscellaneous fish.

A good fishery of this species existed along the northwest coast of India. Though regularly occurring in both trawl and 'dol' nets this species is present in minor quantity only. Chakraborty and Dias (*Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T & E Ser.*, No. 70, 1986) have reported bumper catch of 5432 kg of this species from around Versova

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Fig. 1. The catch of 'Ghol' landed at Bassein Kolliwada, Bombay.

landing centre of Greater Bombay in Nov. 1984. This is also an important 'dol' net centre of Maharashtra. The sudden occurrence of this fish in such large quantity suggests a possible potential fishery ground. Revival of this once flourishing fishery can be confirmed only by further records of such bumper catch in the near future.

TABLE 1. Details of the catch and fishing details

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Nets operated              | 'Dol' nets |
| No. of nets operated       | 02         |
| Length of vessel           | 15 m       |
| Gross tonnage              | 26 t       |
| No. of crew                | 20         |
| Distance from shore        | 20/25 km   |
| Depth of operation         | 25/30 m    |
| Mesh size of the cod end   | 60/70 mm   |
| Period of absence          | 96 hrs     |
| No. of the hauls           | 06         |
| Total catch of 'Ghol' (kg) | 3480       |
| Catch per haul (approx.)   | 580 kg     |