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The Marine Fisheries Information Service : Technical and Extension Series envisages dissemination of information on marine fishery resources based on research results to the planners, industry and farmers and transfer of technology from laboratory to field.

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## 1145 A report on puffer fish and red crab along Kollam coast

Over the years, during the post-monsoon period, moderate quantity of puffer fish, mainly *Tetrodon inermis* used to appear along Kerala coast. It appeared in big shoals in and around the sea off Kollam during 2005. The shoal was entrapped in the trawlers operating along the shore at a depth of 60-90 meters, targeting *Loligo duvaucelli*. The puffer fish become a menace as they often not only cut away the gears but also injure the cephalopods caught in the net. Some trawlers discarded them into the sea. Gear had to be repaired frequently, besides the catch of puffer bitten cephalopods realized only lesser price in the market. *Loligo duvaucelli* which normally fetched Rs.100 per kg, if bitten was rejected by exporters; and hence fetched a lesser price of Rs. 70-80 per kg.

The menace was noticed in the Quilon Port area comprising of Pallithottam, Quilon Port, Junopuram Moothakara, Wadi landing centers and Thankassery Fisheries Harbour.

The other gears damaged by the mass entanglement of puffers are discovala, chala vala and drift nets made of polyfilament thread. The estimated loss to the gear is around Rs.15000-25000/ per net.

In addition to this, the occurrence of red crab *Charybdis smithi* towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of August, 2005 also caused concern to coastal fishers as they get entangled in the net. While removing them from the net the webbing often get torn off.

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