These units were operated at a depth of 5 m. Average length of fishes was 10 cm and average weight was 20 g. Landing centre price of the species was Rs.15/- per kg.

*Pempheris moluca* comes under the family *Pempheridae* (sweepers). It generally lives among the coral reefs in rocky areas and feeds mainly on crustaceans.

**A report on the olive ridely turtle eggs found at Janjira Murud region of Raigad, Maharashtra**

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The olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is one of the smallest species of sea turtles. They have a high domed shell, with carapace having a dark olive green colour with yellowish underside. The carapace margins are smooth and is made up of five pairs of costal scutes, with occurrence of up to 6-9 divisions per side. The head is large.

The ridley turtles have a peculiar habit of mass arrival to the shore known as “arribada” (arrival). They make four to seven nests having a large number of eggs per nesting season. A recent case of poaching on turtle eggs was noticed in Janjira Murud region of Raigad district of Maharashtra, where one out of three number of nests each bearing about 100 -115 eggs, was destroyed overnight (Fig. 1). Conservation efforts by the local NGOs of Janjira Murud and Chiplun region of Ratnagiri District, helped to protect the remaining nests by erecting wooden fence and mounting nylon nets on them. These NGOs are also taking care of other endangered reptiles and marine mammals like dolphins and whales in that area. The plight of the olive ridley and other sea turtles has been recognized around the world, and many organizations and governments are working to preserve these ancient creatures.

**Unusal landings of *Xancus pyrum* in trawlers at Sakthikulangara, Kollam**

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A unique catch of *Xanus pyrum* was observed on 13.06.2008 at Sakthikulangara during morning landings. The catch of *X. pyrum* was exceptionally high ranging from 15 to 150 kg per unit. The trawlers (multi-day) targeted for cephalopods had a surprise catch of *X. pyrum* at a depth range of 60-240 m.

The catch was auctioned and the lowest price obtained was Rs. 7,000/unit and the highest was Rs. 17,000/unit. The catch range of multi-day trawlers were 70-140 kg/unit and that of single day trawlers were 15-150 kg/unit.