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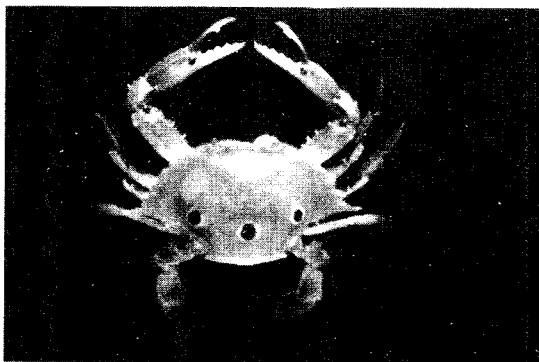
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

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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1148 Unusual trend in landings of *Portunus sanguinolentus* in Mumbai

Crab landings by trawlers in Mumbai consist of three major species namely *Charybdis feriatus*, *Portunus sanguinolentus* and *P. pelagicus*. Of these *C. feriatus* has traditionally been the dominant species at all landing centers forming approximately 60-70% of the landings, while *P. sanguinolentus* has stood at second place (15-20% of the landings). The landings of *P. sanguinolentus*



showed an unusual upward trend in September '04. Though this trend was not sustained for two following months, the landings again showed a marked increase in late December and by early January '05. *P. sanguinolentus* became the dominant species at both New Ferry Wharf and Versova landing centers. This unprecedented trend continued up to the close of the fishery in June '05. There was a corresponding decline in the landing of *C. feriatus*. At Versova *P. sanguinolentus* replaced *C. feriatus* as the dominant species when annual landings were computed. No change in fishing grounds, gear or effort was seen at either landing centres. Landings of *C. feriatus* revived in June '05 once again. The unusual trend in landings of these crabs at New Ferry Wharf and Versova landing centers are evidenced in the Tables appended below:

Crab landings by trawlers at New Ferry Wharf

Month	Total crab landings (t)	CPUE (Kg) <i>P. sanguinolentus</i>	CPUE (Kg) <i>C. feriatus</i>	% in catch <i>P. sanguinolentus</i>	% in catch <i>C. feriatus</i>
September '04	96.6	11.4	15.6	35	48
October '04	44.1	1.6	12.2	10	74
November '04	60.4	3.1	14.6	15	69
December '04	26.6	3.6	5.9	30	50
January '05	158.4	28.9	16.1	45	24
February '05	25.6	6.4	3.2	50	25
March '05	44.3	11.9	1.9	60	10
April '05	53.4	11.1	2.9	52	13.8
May '05	32.2	11.1	6.1	55	30
June '05	10.6	1.8	14	10	80
September '05	80.5	5.1	25.4	14.6	73.6

Crab landings by trawlers at Versova

Month	Total crab landings	CPUE <i>P. sanguinolentus</i>	CPUE <i>C. feriatus</i>	% in catch <i>P. sanguinolentus</i>	% in catch <i>C. feriatus</i>
September '04	12.4	2.1	2.9	32	49
October '04	8.7	0.6	4.1	10	75
November '04	17.7	1.3	6.2	15	70
December '04	22.3	2.9	4.9	30	50
January '05	27.9	12.3	6.8	45	25
February '05	43.5	15.5	7.7	50	24
March '05	54.2	18.8	3.1	60	10
April '05	17	8.6	2.5	48.5	14.3
May '05	18.5	9.2	5	55	31
June '05	4.3	0.7	5.3	10.1	79
September '05	1.4	0.3	0.4	34	48.9

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