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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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1151 Heavy landing of *Upeneus taeniopterus* along Chennai coast

During the period from 20-06-2005 to 28-06-2005, there was unusually heavy landing of goatfish by trawlers at Chennai Fisheries Harbour. In June 2005 alone 388 tonnes of goatfish were landed from depths of 60-80m with a catch rate of 5.4 kg per hour. The landing was constituted mostly by *Upeneus taeniopterus*, which contributed 66% of the goatfish catch in June 2005. The total length of *U.taeniopterus* ranged from 90-162 mm with modal lengths at 110-119 mm and 120 – 129 mm. The estimated number per hour was 266.

Similar landings were recorded in June 2004 to the tune 164.2t at a catch rate of 3.1 kg/ hour. The size of *U.taeniopterus* in the catch ranged from 120 – 159 mm with a mode at 130 –139 mm and the estimated number per hour was 45.

Despite heavy landings of *U. taeniopterus*, there was no demand for human consumption. It was sold at a very low price

of Rs. 10 to 20/- per basket (15 kg) for making poultry feed, prawn feed pellet etc.

Though the reason for the spurt in the landings of *U. taeniopterus* is not known, fishermen are of the opinion that tsunami made considerable changes in the course of underwater currents, which replenished nutrients in fishing grounds. This phenomenon called “vandal thanneer” in Tamil is interpreted as responsible for spurt in the landings.

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