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1025 Unusual landing of ghol, *Protonibea dicanthus* in dol net at Bassien Kolliwada (Vasai) landing centre

Bassein Kolliwada is an important landing centre in Thane district of Maharashtra, where traditional dol net fishing is carried out for Bombay duck and silver pomfret which are economically the most important resources in the region. But, landings of Bombay duck and silver pomfrets have declined considerably during past few years.

A dol net boat named 'Dayadhan' landed huge catch of ghol fish, *Protonibea dicanthus* at Bassein Kolliwada, on 19/10/2002 from a depth of about 40 meters off Jaffrabad in Saurashtra region of Gujarat. The total fish catch from the boat was estimated to be about 5.59



Ghol landed at Bassien Kolliwada

tonnes with ghol as major share. The catch of ghol was 5,255 Kg., which formed 94% to the total fish catch. Besides ghol, the catch included Kati (*Pellona ditchella*), silver bar *C. dorab*, seer fish (*S. guttaus*), catfishes and carangids. The boat operated three dol nets with cod end mesh size of 60 mm. The entire catch was taken from a single haul, which indicated that the fish moved in big shoal.

The catch consisted of 569 fishes, (ghol) ranging from 690-1210 mm and weighing 1.8-10.08 kg.

The entire catch was sold by auction at the landing centre at Rs. 62/Kg. for Rs. 3,16,617 after removing the air bladders which were sold separately. The air bladders of the fish were segregated into three categories depending on size, weight and condition and sold at the rates of Rs. 2200, 1550 and 1200 per kilogramme on wet weight basis. The amount realized (Rs. 3,43,107) was higher than the flesh, fetching a total revenue of Rs. 6,59724.

Although there was regular ghol-dara (*Protonibea dicanthus* and *Polynemus indicus*) fishery in the region with the help of 'Waghara jal' (large meshed gill net) in the past, the fishermen have stopped it on account of

poor availability of the fish. In dol net also ghol is rarely caught. However, such unprecedented catch of ghol in a dol net has generated lot of enthusiasm among the fishermen and fish merchants at such time when fishermen were deeply upset by the decline of catches of Bombay duck, silver pomfret and seer fish in the

region. It is perhaps the scarcity of fish that has led them to search for the new grounds for ghol, ribbonfish, koth (*O. biauritus*), and wam (*C. talabanooides*) in Gujarat waters.

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