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THE MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE: Technical and Extension Series envisages the rapid dissemination of information on marine and brackish water fishery resources and allied data available with the National Marine Living Resources Data Centre (NMLRDC) and the Research Divisions of the Institute, results of proven researches for transfer of technology to the fish farmers and industry and of other relevant information needed for Research and Development efforts in the marine fisheries sector.

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OCCURRENCE OF POST-LARVAE OF *PENAEUS CANALICULATUS* OLIVIER AND JUVENILES OF *P. JAPONICUS* BATE AROUND KARWAR*

Regular samplings are being made as part of the programme for the assessment of seeds of prawns, and their seasonal abundance in the creeks of Palollem and Muduga and also in the estuaries of Kali, Belikeri and

Gangavali (Fig. 1). In all these places the common species of penaeid prawns viz., *Penaeus indicus*, *P. merguensis*, *P. monodon* and *Metapenaeus dobsoni* occur showing seasonal fluctuations in their abundance. However, during September, 1982 for the first time on this part of west coast, the presence of a few post-larvae of

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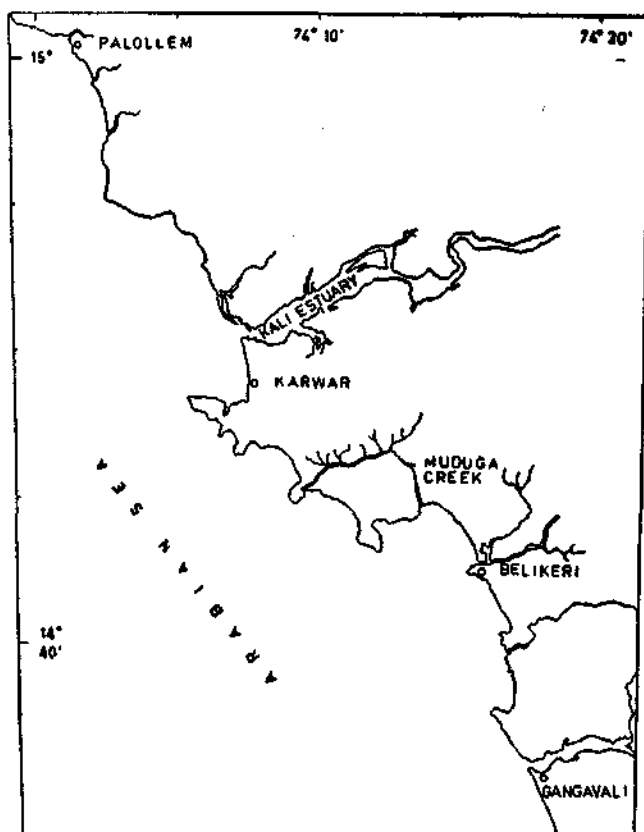


Fig. 1. Prawn seed sampling centres in Uttar Kannada District.

P. canaliculatus was noticed in collections made by velon netting in the Palollem and Muduga creeks. Subsequently, a few numbers of them were observed in April, 1983 in the estuary of Gangavali and again in June at the former place. The post-larvae measured in total length from 9 mm to 11 mm and their density varied from 3 to 165 numbers/100 m² area.

Another interesting observation on the occurrence of juveniles of *P. japonicus* of size range 20–50 mm, (3–47 numbers/100 m²) was made during October '83 for the first time in the estuaries of Kali, Belikeri and Gangavali. In the subsequent two months, they were observed in the Gangavali estuary only.

The occurrence of post-larvae of *P. canaliculatus* and juveniles of *P. japonicus* indicates that they have an extended distribution on the west coast and it appears that their spawning grounds may not be far off from the places indicated above. As these two species are fast growing, it is felt that vast stretches of low-lying estuarine and backwater areas in the Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka, could be utilised for their culture.

