



MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



No. 70

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER
1986

Technical and Extension Series

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
COCHIN, INDIA

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

ON THE UNUSUAL CATCH OF *PROTONIBEA DIACANTHUS* (LACÉPEDÉ) AT VERSOVA, BOMBAY*

Protonibea diacanthus (Lacépède) locally known as 'Ghol' is one of the most commercially important fishes of northwest coast of India. In Bombay it is landed by both 'dol' netters and trawlers. Versova which is one of the major landing centres for 'dol' (bag) net boats, recorded a bumper catch of about five and a half tonnes

of this fish. The catch was unloaded on 5th November, 1984 at about 0800 hrs from by a vessel named 'Jal Vihar' Details of the operation are given below.



Fig. 1. 'Ghol' being landed by 'Jal Vihar' at Versova landing centre.



Fig. 2. 'Ghol' kept in the cold storage at Versova.

The boat which departed for fishing on 2-11-'84 stayed offshore for about four days. The catch of the first three days was brought by another carrier boat. The bumper catch of 'Ghol' was obtained only on the fourth day.

Sixteen 'Kodis' of 'Ghol' (one Kodi = 22 Nos.) were caught totalling 352 in number. The length frequency study showed that the size varied from 70 to

Name of the vessel	Gross tonnage	No. of nets operated	Depth of operation (m)	Time net shot (hr)	Time net hauled (hr)	Total catch (kg)	Catch per hour (kg)
Jal Vihar	11	2	30	2030	0100	5,432	1,207

*Prepared by S.K. Chakraborty and J.R. Dias, Bombay Research Centre of C.M.F.R.I., Bombay.

90 cm with an average weight of 15.43 kg. Majority of the fishes had their stomach gorged out. Other biological studies could not be done as the fishes were immediately despatched to Crawford Market where they were sold at a price ranging from Rs. 60 to 80 per fish realising about Rs. 4 to 5 a kg.

A very good fishery existed for 'Ghol' earlier which was declined sharply in the seventies.

The sudden appearance of bigger sized 'Ghol' off Bombay in relatively shallow water suggests the possibility of a potential bed in this area.

