



# FISHING CHIMES

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# Fishing for Kuruma Shrimp *Penaeus japonicus* Bate off Maharashtra Coast

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Kuruma or Bamboo Shrimp, as it is called, *Penaeus japonicus* is a shrimp highly sought after. It is dear to Japanese. They particularly enquire about the fishery of this particular shrimp. The author along with J.P. Karbhari (1983) were the first to report a fishery for this shrimp from Maharashtra coast.

Though the fishery was dominant only during monsoon and post-monsoon months, the price that the shrimp fetches in foreign markets induce the fishermen to venture further and land hitherto not noted size groups, mostly ranging from 225-240 mm. Period of intensive fishing remains the same as before, though smaller size groups are landed in other months also. Holthuis (1980) recorded a maximum size of only 225 mm for females of this species. This was the case till 1993 in

Bombay landings also. But during November 1993-94 larger sizes were noted which could be the highest record at least in India. Though this species is known to attain 300 mm (Holthuis's personal communication) these shrimps of such a size are still to be recorded from Indian waters.

Maharashtra seems to be fortunate in landing this highly priced shrimp fetching more than Rs.400 per Kg. However its position is not fully understood and needs further investigation.

## References

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