



MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 179

January, February, March, 2004



TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

An unusual fish and amphipod mortality was observed in about 1-km area between Funhilool and Kudehi villages of Minicoy Island between 06-14hrs on 09.01.2003. The mass mortality was confined to a smaller area where the shore is protected with finger

jetties and tetrapodes. Seaweeds, tuna wastes, fishes were washed ashore (Fig. 1). Asphyxia and low oxygen seems to the cause for the mass mortality.

Except the atherinids, all other fishes affected were

Table 1. Hydrographic parameters at the affected area

| Station | Time | Salinity ‰ | Temperature °C | | pH | | D.O ml/L | |
|-----------|------|---------------|-------------------|------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| | | | Air | SST | Av.Jan. | Present | Av.Jan. | Present |
| Funhilool | 1210 | 30.36 | 30.0 | 30.2 | 8.35 to 8.39 | 7.75 | 4.16 to 4.72 | 2.6 |
| Kudehi | 1300 | 28.70 | 32.0 | 30.5 | 8.35 to 8.39 | 7.57 | 4.16 to 4.72 | 0.5 |



juveniles. A total of about 10-12 kg of different size groups were found washed ashore and almost equal quantities were found settled up to waist deep depths all along the affected area. *Polynemus sexifilis* of 6-8 cm in total length were the worst affected species, followed by *Atherinomorus lacunosus* (6-10 cm-25%); *Trachinotus bailloni* (10-14 cm-15%), *Acanthurus mata* (2-5 cm-10%) and *Lujanus* spp. (3-5 cm-10%). The seaweed species found in the area were *Hypnea musciformis* (70%), *Acanthophora specifera* (30%) and *Laurencia papillosa*. The hydrographic parameters in the area are given in Table 1. All the parameters indicated low values.