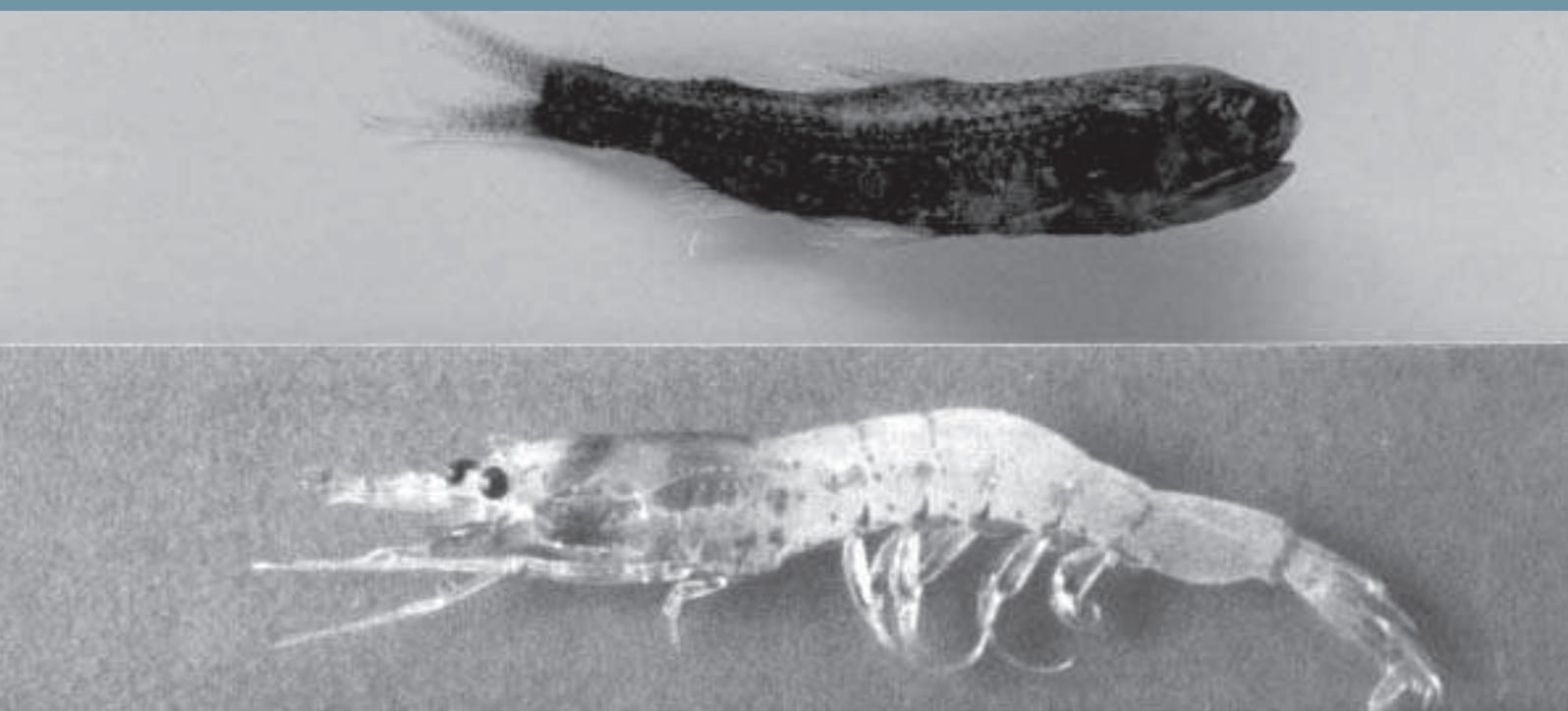




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**Bumper landing of *Arius dussumieri* (Valenciennes, 1846) by
purse-seine net at Sassoon Dock, Mumbai**

Sassoon Dock is one of the major landing centres for purse-seiners at Mumbai. On 02-11-04, an unusually heavy landing of 80 tonnes of the catfish *Arius dussumieri* was reported at the New Jetty of Sassoon Dock (Fig. 1). A purse-seiner made the entire catch in a single haul at 25-30 m depth, at a distance of 25-30 km off Mumbai Harbour. This unexpected bumper catch was unloaded at the landing centre by four carrier boats.

The catch was sold at Rs. 15/kg to a single wholesale merchant and marketed to northern states such as Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. The air bladder was removed by cutting open the abdomen at the landing centre itself and was sold separately (Fig. 2). The price structure of the air bladder depended on the size of the fish.



Bumper catch of *Arius dussumieri* at Sassoon Dock, Mumbai

Fish size (mm)	Rate per wet weight (Kg) of air bladder	Rate per dry weight (Kg) of air bladder
Above 600	Rs. 450/-	Rs. 750/-
450-600	Rs. 300/-	Rs. 500/-
Below 450	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 350/-

On enquiry at Karanja Fishermen Society, it was reported that a similar bumper catch of approximately



Fig. 2 Air bladder of *A. dussumieri* being removed by cutting the abdomen at the landing centre.

120 tonnes was reported on 30-10-04. The size ranged from 464.5 to 934.5 mm with a dominant mode at 784.5 mm.

A catch of such magnitude by purse-seiners is reported for the first time from Mumbai waters. The catch fortunately did not have any brooding specimens.

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