



# समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES  
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## IMPROVEMENT IN NON-MECHANISED FISHING USING 'MORAVALA'\*

### Introduction

Ampalam, Pukkalapeta, Ganagallapeta and Narasaiahpeta are some of the major fish landing centres in Srikakulam area, where a new type of gear called *Moravala* has been introduced recently. It is observed that the catch by this net is very much higher than any other gear operated by non-mechanised crafts and is roughly estimated to be in the ratio of 2:1.

The *Moraval* is a large net of 34 x 34 m<sup>2</sup>. It is considerably light in weight, of about 40 to 45 kg and hence it can be easily transported and operated quickly. Thereby facilitating more hauls a day. Only eight men are needed to operate this net from a catamaran.

The dominating fish caught in *Moravala* include Mackerels, Sardines, Mulletts, Silverbellies (Ponyfishes), penaid prawns.

### Description of the gear

It is a large squar type net made of nylon twine of three different sizes. In the middle of the net the mesh size is 4 mm and the twine size is No. 2. At the sides, the mesh size is 15 mm and the twine size is No. 1. At the edges the twine size is No. 6. A support rope runs from one end to the other on all four sides. Weights (stones) of about 10 to 12 kg are suspended at the centre and at the four corners to ensure sinkage of the net flat in the water. At four corners ropes of 55 m long are provided to allow the net to sink in water to that depth.

The expenditure incurred for introducing this net is :-

1. Cost of the Net	Rs. 10,000
2. Cost of 4 catamarans	Rs. 12,000
3. Cost of the Rope	Rs. 1,000
Total	Rs. 23,000

### Operation of the gear

The net is carried by a catamaran followed by three more catamarans, each manned by two men. After reaching the desired area, each catamaran holds on to one corner of the net and starts moving away and anchor at suitable position so that the net is fully spread on the water. The net is then lowered into the water flat simultaneously by all the catamarans through the ropes provided at the corners duly connecting the loose ends of the ropes to the catamarans. After allowing the net completely into the water, one of the two men in each catamaran makes notice with the spades to drive the fish into the net. After few minutes the net is pulled out by all the catamarans simultaneously, moving them closer and closer to each other. This operation takes about 45 to 60 minutes.

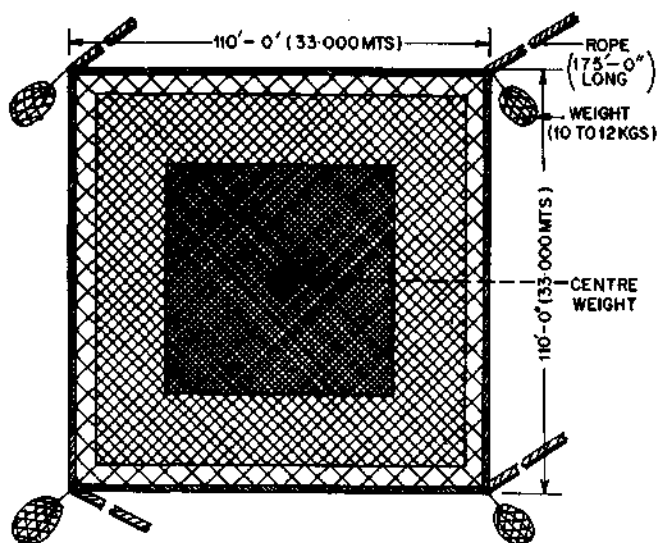


Fig. 1. Dimensions and rigging of 'Moravala'.

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