

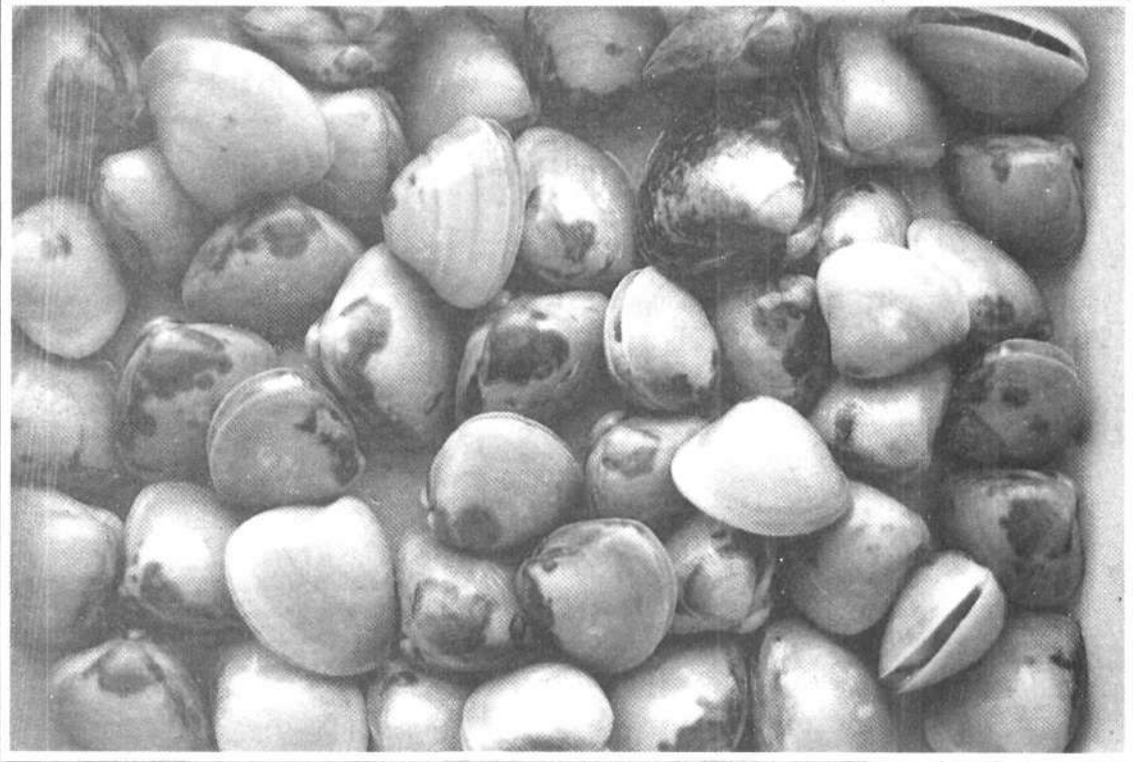


समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा

MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 145

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1996



तकनीकी एवं TECHNICAL AND
विस्तार अंकावली EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
अनुसंधान संस्थान RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कोचिन, भारत COCHIN, INDIA

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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Turtle export from the southeast coast of India during 1945-'64 period*

The Green turtle *Chelonia mydas* called 'Peramai' in Tamil, a protected reptilian wildlife which constituted about 89% of the five species of marine turtles caught in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay were regularly exported to Sri Lanka from Pamban and Kilakkarai Port Offices of the Gulf of Mannar coast from 1945 to 1964. The particulars of export are given in Table 1.

The total weight of the turtles was converted to number based on the average weight of a turtle i.e. 51.136 kg obtained by weighing 2,186 specimens during 1971-78 at the Mandapam and Mandapam camp railway stations.

The turtle meat, shells and oil were exported to U.S.A., U.K., Germany, Bahrain, Singapore-Netherlands and Belgium.

The author is grateful to Mr. H. Ramachandra Rao, Port Conservator and Mr. S. Balasubramaniam, Assistant Port Conservator of Pamban Port Office for helping him to collect the turtle export data from their records and to the Port Conservator of Kilakkarai Port Office for permitting him to collect the turtle export data from their records.

TABLE 1. Quantity and number of turtles exported from Pamban and Kilakkarai during 1945 to '64

Year	From Pamban (t)	From Kilakkarai (t)	Total (t)	*Number of Green turtles (estimated)
1945-'46	33.50	-	33.50	655
1946-'47	16.10	-	16.10	315
1947-'48	36.17	-	36.17	707
1948-'49	2.16	-	2.16	42
1949-'53	Data not traceable			
1953-'54	117.00	41	158.00	3,090
1954-'55	91.50	21	112.50	2,200
1955-'56	88.00	61	149.00	2,914
1956-'57	106.00	57	163.00	3,188
1957-'58	65.00	33	98.00	1,916
1958-'59	87.00	24	111.00	2,171
1959-'60	101.50	28	129.50	2,532
1960-'61	72.00	30	102.00	1,995
1961-'62	79.00	43	122.00	2,386
1962-'63	37.50	47	84.50	1,652
1963-'64	655.00	37	692.00	13,533
Total	1,587.43	422	2,009.43	39,296
\bar{X}	105.83	28.13	133.96	2,620

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