

Bumper catch

Appreciable catches of the oil sardine *Sardinella longiceps* estimated at 2 tonnes each were landed on 6 and 20 September by 2 trawlers operating off Palk Bay. On 20th, an estimated catch of 3 tonnes of the species were caught by the gillnets operated by 50 country crafts in the Palk Bay.

In the 2nd week of November heavy catch of oil sardine *Sardinella longiceps* was landed by small mechanised vessels operating trawl nets from Thondi on the Palk Bay. On 5 November one of the vessels landed an estimated catch of 2 tonnes. On 9th November more than a tonne of oil sardine were landed at Solaikudi. The fish was caught from a depth of 13-14 m and the principal size group was 140-175 mm. This size was reported unusual in this area. Due to inadequate facilities for preservation and subsequent disposal, the catch was mostly thrown back to the sea.

In the third week of November heavy catch of oil sardine (4.7 tonnes) *Sardinella longiceps* was landed by trawlers operating at Rameswaram Verkottu Mechanised centre. The size was ranging from 138 to 197 mm. As there was no demand for fresh fish, all the catch was sundried for utilising as fish meal.

Appreciable catch of *Stolephorus sp.* amounting to 1.8 to 5 t per unit was landed by the

shoreseines operated during night at the fish landing centre at Dhanushkodi. The fishes were sun dried and marketed at cost of Rs. 1000/- per 120 kg.