

Heavy landings of ribbon fishes

Heavy landings of ribbon fishes were observed at Rameswaram in March. Pair trawlers operating about 15 km North-east off Rameswaram ($9^{\circ}10' - 9^{\circ}20'N$ latitude and $79^{\circ}20' - 79^{\circ}35' E$ longitude) at about 12m depth, had landed an estimated 45.18 tonnes of ribbon fish at a cpeu of 21.8 kg. This observation is significant because in recent years ribbonfish landings had remarkably declined in the Mandapam region and there were practically no landings for several years between 1980 and 1991. This catch consisted of a single species *Trichiurus lepturus* (540 - 850 mm TL). All the individuals were in spent or spent recovering stages. The catch was sold at Rs. 4/- to 6/- per kg to Kerala traders.