

Good Catches of mackerel and sardine

An encircling net, Edavalai operated in the early hours off Madras coast, brought good landings of mackerel, *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (C/unit 450-600 kg) during the first and third weeks of July. The catch rate of oil sardine, *Sardinella longiceps* in this net varied from 750-1 300 kg/unit. Very interestingly, both the species were never caught together in the net at a time.

The mackerel *Rastrelliger kanagurta*, the oil sardine, *Sardinella longiceps* and the mullet *Mugil*

cephalus were obtained in large quantities in the encircling net Edavalai discontinuously in August along the Madras coast. The catch per unit of mackerel varied from 310-600 kg, oil sardine, 600-1050kg and that of mullet, 310-650 kg. The high catches are attributed to migration of the fishes to coastal waters for feeding in the productive area.