

## **Record landings of the catfish, *Osteogenelous militaris* (Linnaeus) at Rameswaram**

During January-April 1992, 368t of Catfishes were landed (CPUE 52.2 kg) at Rameswaram fished by Pair trawlers in the area 9°20' - 9°30'N latitude and 79°20' - 79°30'E longitude, west of Katchativeu, which is a record catch. *Osteogeniosus militaris* formed 62% (228t) of catfishes; such heavy landings of this species have never been reported earlier from this area. The total length range was 220-419mm with dominant size range of 320-339mm. Female to male ratio was 2:1 and 88% of the females were mature (25% fully ripe condition). Feeding intensity was poor. Bivalve shell pieces, remnants of crabs and brittle stars were the main food. It fetched a price of Rs. 5/- to Rs. 7/- per kilogram. This was reported by Dr. P. Jayasankar, Scientist, Mandapam Regional Centre.