and updating. Towards harnessing maximum benefit out of such updated information a software routine has been developed at DPU, Chennai Centre of CMFRI. The programme, CHKSPC, which is compatible with the existing data format can scan the entire set of files and check for the redundancy or inadmissibility of the four digit species code. From the out put the erroneous entries can be pinpointed and corrected.

(Fishery Resource Assessment Division)

Successful spawning and larval rearing of whelk
Mass laying of egg capsules by whelk *Babylonia spirata* has been reported from Tuticorin Research Centre hatchery. Out of 245 egg capsules, 18 lakh larvae were released on the 9th day and are being reared.

(Tuticorin Research Centre)

A rare specimen of roundel skate landed at Pamban, Gulf of Mannar
On 20th July, a roundel skate weighing 760 g was landed at Pamban therkvadi along the Gulf of Mannar coast by fish trawler. This specimen was identified as *Raja texana* (Chandler, 1921).

(Mandapam Regional Centre)

Record size of *Sardinella albella* landed
A few specimens of lesser sardine *Sardinella albella* (Valenciennes, 1947) with a total length of 20.1 cm, weighing 60 g each were landed on 24th August at Pamban landing centre. The specimen were caught in Chooda valai (sardine gillnet) operated at 14 m depth in the Palk Bay. The maximum size of this species recorded so far is of 16 cm total length.

(Mandapam Regional Centre)

Cage culture demonstration at Visakhapatnam
Cage culture of finfish was launched at Visakhapatnam for the first time on 30th April 2006. The cage was stocked with 8500 juveniles of sea bass (*Lates calcarifer*). Due to rough weather the cage developed problems and the experiment was terminated. However, it was recorded that the fish attained a mean weight of 50 to 450 g. The growth of the fish was very good. In continuation of the experiment, the second cage was launched on 29th of September 2007 with better mooring to withstand the rough sea conditions along with several modifications (Photo). The experiment is in progress. This is the maiden attempt made in cage culture in our country.

(Visakhapatnam Regional Centre)

Crab menace at Calicut
On 24th August, a drift net full of *Auxis thazard* and *Charybdis edwardsi* was landed at Puthiappa (Kozhikode) landing centre. The meat of most of the fishes had been eaten away by the crabs. As a result of the delay in removing the fish from the net, these fishes were in partially decayed state. Therefore, the entire catch had to be discarded along with the crabs. The fishermen are of the opinion that shoaling and entanglement of crabs has become a common phenomenon during the post monsoon season.

(Calicut Research Centre)

Heavy landing of penaeid shrimps by ringseiners at Gangoli
During July at Gangoli “Light House” landing centre, bumper catches of shrimps, constituted by *Fenneropenaeus indicus*, *Metapenaeus dobsoni* and *Penaeus semisulcatus* were landed. (Mandapam Regional Centre)

Culture of *Penaeus semisulcatus* in recycling system at Mandapam Regional Centre
An experiment was set-up to study the growth of *Penaeus semisulcatus* in a recycling system. This system consists of a 2-t capacity rectangular rearing tank, 1.5-t capacity seaweed biofiltration tank and biological filtration unit. The water from the rearing tank is pumped by air pressure to the biofiltration tank where the sea weed *Kappaphycus alvarezii* is Recycling system stocked. Then the water is pumped to biological filtration unit and back to rearing tank. Totally 210 PL 25 were stocked in the rearing tank at the stocking rate of 170 nos/m³.

(Mandapam Regional Centre)