Heavy landings of the Giant sized lesser devil ray *Mobula diabolus* by gillnets at Chennai

36.2 t, 160.6 t and 149.4 t of unusually giant sized lesser devil ray *M. diabolus* was landed at Chennai Fisheries harbour by gill net operated at a depth of 80-100 m off Nagapattinam in January, February and March 09 respectively. On 10.2.09 and 20.2.09 the landing was high as 22 t and 18 t respectively. The disc width range was 230 cm to 320 cm and the weight range was 250-450 kg. In addition to this, the devilray *Manta birostris* of about 700 kg - 1200 kg weight was also observed in the landing. The gillnet operation was at a depth of 80-100 m off Nagapattinam area.

Heavy landing of Smooth Golden Pufferfish *Lagocephalus inermis* (Temminck & Schlegel, 1847) at Chennai

During July to December 2008 heavy landing of the Smooth Golden Pufferfish (*Lagocephalus inermis*) was noticed at Chennai Fisheries Harbour. Nearly 3-5 tonnes of *L. inermis* was caught by a single trawler on July 2008. Normally the pufferfish landed are dried and sold as an ingredient for poultry/prawn feed. But this time the entire catch of pufferfish was salted and dried after deskinning and cleaning, for export purpose. The local agents paid Rs.10-20/- per kg for fresh pufferfish; after processing, it was worth about Rs.100/- per kg. With increasing demand in local markets, the price of *L. inermis* now ranges (based on size) from Rs.10/- to 50/- per kg.

An unusual catch of shrimps by indigenous gears in Nochikuppam, Chennai

Bumper catch of shrimps to a tune of 22.8 t was recorded during 10th to 14th December 2008 by trammel nets operated off Nochikuppam, Chennai. The number of units operated varied between 100 and 180 and the CPUE ranged from 3.6 to 61.3 kg. The catch exclusively consisted of penaeid shrimps, of which, *P. indicus* formed 95% followed by *P. monodon* (3%) and *P. semisulcatus* (2%). The size ranged from 115-180 mm with the dominant modes at 141-145 and 161-165 mm for

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*P. indicus*