females and 131-175 mm with modes at 150-155 mm for males. Females dominated (60%). Most of the females were found with late maturing and matured gonads. The catch was composed mainly of fairly large sized shrimps and the head on count varied from 30 to 40 per kg for females and 35-45 for males. The total value realized was Rs. 68.4 lakhs. The present observation on the bumper catch of Indian white shrimp (P. indicus) off Chennai during the post north-east monsoon period may be a part of moving shoals from north to south utilizing the prevailing southern water currents.

Unusual fishery of Chank along Puducherry coast

A modified trawl net exclusively made for gastropod chank fishery was deployed along the Puducherry coast during October 2008 to February 2009. For chank fishery, a new bed has been located off Pudupattinam at a depth of 10 to 25m where the sea bottom is loose muddy with chanks buried underneath. The length of trawl net deployed for the fishery was 300 m wherein the foot rope was attached with the additional sinkers weighing around 300 kg to sink the net to the muddy bottom and scoop the gastropods present in the bottom of the sea. The gastropods Xancus pyrum and Hemifusus sp. were caught along with some bottom fish. Each haul landed around 15 to 25 chanks weighing around 300 kg to sink the net. A modified trawl net exclusively made for gastropod chank fishery was deployed along the Puducherry coast during October 2008. For chank fishery, a new bed has been located off Pudupattinam at a depth of 10 to 25m where the sea bottom is loose muddy with chanks buried underneath. The length of trawl net deployed for the fishery was 300 m wherein the foot rope was attached with the additional sinkers weighing around 300 kg to sink the net to the muddy bottom and scoop the gastropods present in the bottom of the sea. The gastropods Xancus pyrum and Hemifusus sp. were caught along with some bottom fish. Each haul landed around 15 to 25 chanks weighing around 300 kg to sink the net.

Sputr in the landings of crabs along northern Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts

For the first time, heavy landings of P. sanguinolentus and other portunid crabs along the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts were recorded during the last week of October 2008. The total landings of crabs varied from 0.04 to 48.75 t at Chennai (Kasimedu) with CPUE 0.14 – 125.0 kg/hr. In Puducherry, the catch ranged from 0.6 to 29.4 t with CPUE 1.4 – 76.7 kg/hr. At Cuddalore, it varied from 1.9 to 17 t with CPUE 6.1 – 35.4 kg/hr. At Chennai, the estimated crab landing during the period from 29th to 31st October, 2008 was 95.75 t, recording 3-fold increase when compared to 31 t of crabs landed during October, 2007. The usual constituent portunid crab species, namely, Portunus pelagicus was completely absent in the trawl catches landed at all the three centres.

Totally 10 species (9 portunid and 1 xanthid) were represented at Chennai, of which, P. sanguinolentus dominated (42.5 %), followed by C. lucifera (10.4 %), C. variegata, C. natator, G. bispinosa, C. feriata, P. gladiator, G. bispinosa, C. lucifera, P. sanguinolentus (10.4 %), C. feriata, and Xancus pyrum. The usual constituent portunid crab species, namely, Xancus pyrum and Hemifusus sp. were caught along with some bottom fish. Each haul landed around 15 to 25 chanks.