



On the Landing of Giant Rock Cod *Promicrops lanceolatus* (Bloch 1970) at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai

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The giant rock cod, *Promicrops lanceolatus* (*Epinephalus lanceolatus*) is found off the entire coastline of the Western Indian Ocean, in the waters of Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Australia (Fischer and Bianchi, 1984).

The catches of this species are very rare, as seen from the fact that there are only a very few records of landing of this species. On 16 Dec 2006 a very large specimen of *Promicrops lanceolatus* was landed by a trawler at New Ferry Wharf landing centre, Mumbai (Figs 1-2). The fish measured 253 cm in total length and

weighed approximately 415 kg. The fish was grayish brown in colour with dorsal fin having 11 spines and 15 soft rays. Dark spots were found on all the fins. The fish was transported from the landing centre to Chatrapathi Shivaji wholesale market of Mumbai for sale.

The earlier reports of the species from Indian waters were from Cuddalore and Chennai in Tamil Nadu (Mahadevan Pillai 1991). Another specimen was recorded at Paradeep, Orissa. The total length of the fish was 202 cm and the weight was 150 kg (Sukdev, 1998), as reported.

The landing now reported in this communication seems to be the first record of capture of the species from the waters of the West Coast of India. It also seems to be the largest recorded one from the Indian coast. According to Fischer and Bianchi (1984), the maximum total length of the species so far recorded was 270 cm and maximum weight recorded was 400 kg. This species is accorded protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, of India, 1972.

References

FISHER, W. and BIANCHI, G. 1984. FAO species identification sheets for fishery purposes, Western Indian Ocean (Fishing area 51), Vol IV.

MAHADEVAN PILLAI, P.K., 1991. On the landings of a giant rock-cod, (Bloch) at Cuddalore. *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T and E ser.*, No. 108: 16.


SUKDEV, B. 1998. On the landing of a giant grouper at Paradeep and standings of dead turtles along Puri coasts, Orissa. *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T and E ser.*, No. 156: 22. 




Fig.1: Dorsal view of *Promicrops lanceolatus* (Bloch,1970) landed at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai on 16.12.2006



Fig.2: Ventral view of *Promicrops lanceolatus* (Bloch,1970) landed at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai on 16.12.2006

Sri Lankan Built Indian Owned LoP Longliners



These are Sri Lankan Built and Indian owned two Fibre glass (16 & 18m OAL) LoP Tuna Longliners of M/s Continental Fisheries, Visakhapatnam (The first and the last one of the three shown above). The vessels were introduced about 6 months back. The middle one (16 m OAL) was built in wood in Kakinada, in A.P and has been in operation since around 12 months back. 

Sri Lankan Fishing Boats seized in Indian EEZ

Sri Lankan fishing boats are reported to be frequently engaged in illegal fishing in the Bay of Bengal, part of Indian EEZ. Recently three of these Sri Lankan Fishing boats have been apprehended by the Indian Coast Guard in the EEZ.



Apprehended Sri Lankan boats
by Indian Coast Guard 

