

# Unusual catch rates of cuttlefish in a multiday trawler

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Cuttlefish is one of the commercially important group of cephalopods caught by multi-night trawlers along the coast of Karnataka. The catch rate of cuttlefish in multiday trawlers varies from <5 kg/haul

during December-April period to 50-300 kg/haul during the peak fishing season in August-September. On December 8, 2008, a multi-night trawler (15 m overall length) landed record catch of

19.8 t of cuttlefish, *Sepia pharaonis* at Mangalore Fisheries Harbour with an average catch rate of 990 kg<sup>-1</sup> haul. The trawling was done at a towing speed of 2.5 knot between 5 am and 6 pm. The resource was hauled from fishing grounds off Kaup from 55-60 m depth in rocky areas. The bottom trawl was modified by providing 90-100 numbers of rubber sinkers of 75 mm diameter in the footrope. The catch predominantly consisted of cuttlefish weighing above 1 kg (grade 1). Due to poor export demand, the cuttlefish auction rate was only Rs. 70/ kg earning a revenue of Rs. 13.8 lakhs for the catch.



Cuttlefish landings in multiday trawler at Mangalore Fisheries Harbour