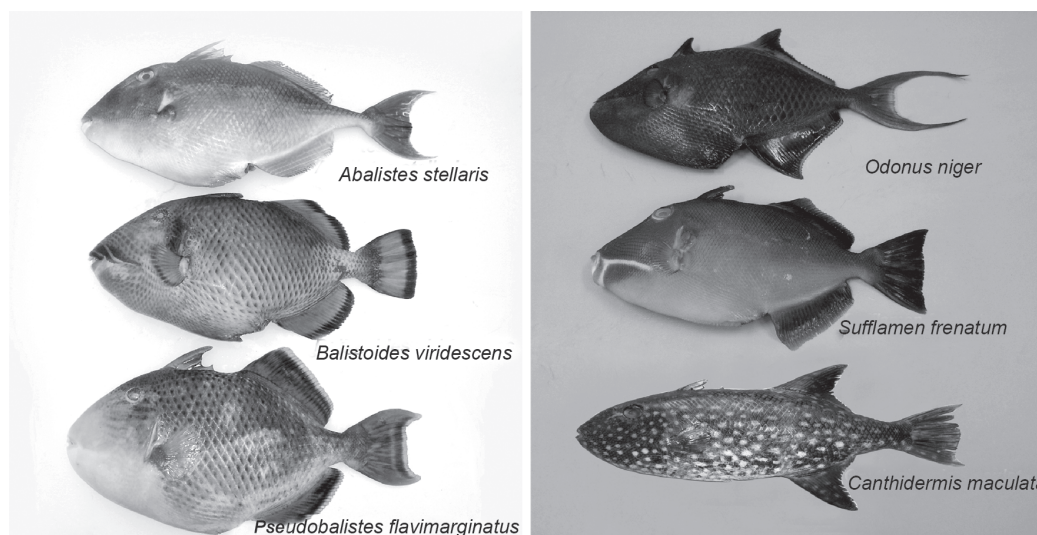


## Occurrence of trigger fishes at Chennai

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At Kasimedu Fisheries Harbour, Chennai the following trigger fishes belonging to Balistidae family were landed by mechanised multiday Thangal trawlers operated at a depth of 60-80 m:

- *Odonus niger* (Ruppel, 1840) - Red fang trigger fish
- *Canthidermis maculata* (Bloch, 1786) - Rough trigger fish



- *Abalistes stellatus* (Lacepede, 1798) - starry triggerfish
- *Balistoides viridescens* (Bloch & Schnider 1801) dotty trigger fish
- *Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus* (Ruppel, 1829) yellow margin trigger fish
- *Sufflaman fraenatum* (Latreille, 1804) - masked trigger fish

An estimated catch of about 1.8, 1.2 and 0.8 tonnes of trigger fishes were landed by multiday Thangal trawlers during July, August and September 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively. Among the trigger fish catches, *A. stellatus* dominated the catch (Table 1) followed by *O. niger* and *C. maculata*. The morphometric measurements of three species of trigger fishes are given in Table 2. Trigger fishes are sold @ Rs. 20-30/kg. Fishes are de-skinned and sold to local hotels for human consumption.

Table 1. Species composition, catch particulars and size distribution of trigger fishes landed at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour, Chennai

Species	Year			%	Size range (mm)	Weight range (g)
	2008	2009	2010			
<i>A. stellatus</i>	680	500	320	39.0	390-470	980-1600
<i>B. viridescens</i>	270	120	80	12.2	340-360	640-720
<i>P. flavimarginatus</i>	130	80	0	5.5	375-410	820-1140
<i>S. fraenatum</i>	110	50	0	4.2	300-350	520-680
<i>O. niger</i>	330	320	200	22.1	125-190	50-120
<i>C. maculata</i>	280	160	220	17.1	225-310	150-280
Total	1800	1230	820	100	-	-

Table 2. Morphometric measurements of trigger fishes (mm) landed at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour, Chennai

Parameters	<i>A. stellatus</i>	<i>B. viridescens</i>	<i>P. flavomarginatus</i>
Total length	410	355	378
Standard length	320	300	295
Snout to 1 <sup>st</sup> dorsal	120	125	120
Snout to 2 <sup>nd</sup> dorsal	205	200	200
Snout to pectoral	110	110	110
Snout to pelvic	192	190	195
Snout to anal	220	225	225
No. of teeth	8+8	8+8	8+8
Eye diameter	20	18	18
No. of grooves on caudal peduncle	5	6	6
No. of grooves below eyes	-	-	6
No. of grooves near snout	-	-	4