

Pair trawling at Sakthikulangara

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In 2011, the medium sized fishing boats operating from Sakthikulangara opted for a different mode of fishing. During this period, usually they used to have a good catch of *Parapenaeopsis stylifera* and other prawns but the catch existed for a shorter period. This prompted these fishermen to opt for a different mode



Fig. 1. Net used for pair trawling at Sakthikulangara

called pair-trawling (local term *Nikathipani*), in which two boats operate as a single unit with 10-12 crew members. The gear used is a trawl net of mesh size 200-160-120-80-40-15 mm (code end mesh size). This gear is characterised by large floats tied towards the mouth part and towards the bottom three stones are



Fig. 2. *Pampus argenteus* landed by pair trawling at Sakthikulangara

tied - the big one called the *thalla kallu* and two smaller ones on either sides locally called *pilla kallu* employed for weight balancing purposes (Fig. 1). In some gears, smaller stones are also used in addition to these three stones. Care is taken so that the gear does not sink much due to the weight as in the trawl net. The average length of the gear is 135 m. The depth range of operation was 6 to 7 m.

While trawling, the two boats run parallel to each other with the gear in between (hence the name

pair-trawling). Each trawler will be holding one end of the mouth part of the gear. Both the trawlers will have uniform speed and distance between them while hauling. A single haul may last for 2-3 h in accordance with the availability of the fish.

On 25th August 2011, by pair-trawling heavy landing was observed comprising *Pampus argenteus*, *Loligo* spp., *Pellona ditchella*, *Thryssa* spp. and *Johnius* spp. (Fig. 2). Eighty units operated on this day and the details are as follows:

Table 1. Details of landings by pair trawling at Sakthikulangara on 25th August 2011

Species	Average catch/unit (kg)	Rate per kg (₹)	Amount realised (₹)
<i>Pampus argenteus</i>	400	160	64,000/-
<i>Loligo</i> spp.	207	165	34,155/-
Others	10	10	100/-
Average amount realised/unit			98,255/-
Average amount for 80 units			7,86,0400/-