

Bumper landing of juveniles of black pomfret *Parastromateus niger* at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

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About 39.5 t of juvenile black pomfret, *Parastromateus niger* (Bloch, 1795), was landed (Fig. 1 and 2), by 46 ringseine units operated at 20 m depth, at Mangamaripeta and Lawsons Bay landing centers, which are about 15 km from Visakhapatnam, during 23rd- 26th May, 2012. Black pomfret is locally called as *nalla chanduva* in Andhra Pradesh. Fishery for the black pomfret starts from post-monsoon months and dominates the pomfret fishery with maximum landings during November-February. The black pomfrets were exploited by ring seines having 450-525 m length, 50-60 m height and 6-15 mm mesh size, locally called as “maipuvala”, which mainly target oilsardine.

Biological investigations revealed all fishes to be immature, their length ranging from 91 to 204 mm



Fig. 1. Landings of black pomfret juveniles at Visakhapatnam



Fig. 2. Trucks with pomfret juveniles at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour

with a weight range of 28 - 171 g and were with empty to half filled stomachs constituted mainly by squids, medusae and prawns in fully digested to partially digested state. The black pomfrets were sold at a rate of ₹ 50 – 60/kg at Mangamaripeta on the first day. On second and third days prices fell to ₹ 30/kg because of the unavailability of sufficient ice. Since the landings were during the fishing ban period, it was a boon to the fishermen.

Irrational and unhealthy fishing of juveniles demands immediate action. The situation is to be checked by conservation of early part of their life cycles by implementation of mesh size regulations for ringseine units or complete ban on usage of ringseine units along the Andhra coast during the fishing ban period.