

Emerging fishery of unicorn leather jacket, *Aluterus monoceros* at Chennai

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Since 2005 onwards, at Chennai Kasimedu Fishing Harbour, an emerging fishery for the unicorn leather jacket *Aluterus monoceros*

(Linnaeus, 1758) locally called as “cheruppu meen”, belonging to the family Monacanthidae has been observed. Landings of unicorn leather jacket

is increasing from year to year. During the period from September to December 2010, about 35 t of unicorn leather jackets were landed at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour. In November 2010, about 15 t were landed by mechanised trawlers operated at a depth range of 60-80 m. The length range of *A. monoceros* recorded in the landings was 380 to 590 mm with dominant mode at 490-499 mm. The weight ranged from 550 to 1400 g. The fishes were sold @ ₹ 50 per individual fish. The fish vendors remove the skin of the fishes at the landing centre itself and the skinless fishes are sold in the local markets and hotels in and around Chennai.



Aluterus monoceros landed at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour