

Unusual heavy landings of dolphinfish, *Coryphaena hippurus* at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour

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Heavy landing of the dolphinfish, *Coryphaena hippurus* was observed in hooks and lines at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on 12th October, 2012 (Fig 1a & b). Around 7,245 kg of *C. hippurus* was landed by 90 units on that day. This is the first instance of such huge landing of the dolphinfish at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbor. In addition to *C. hippurus*, other species landed were *Thunnus albacares* (3717 kg), *Makaira indica* (1710 kg), *Megalaspis cordyla* (1692 kg), *Euthynnus affinis* (1170 kg), *Katsuwonus pelamis* (828 kg) and *Scomberomorus guttatus* (351 kg). On an average 30 to 40 fishes were landed by each catamaran operating hooks and lines. The catamarans sailed out at 03 00 hrs in the morning and landed their catch by 17 00 hrs in the evening. Fishing ground was southward near to Pudimadaka. Different length classes ranging from 400 to 919 mm were observed

in the catch. Several modes were observed in the length frequency distribution. The primary mode was at 590 mm and the secondary modes were at 709 and 499 mm which perhaps may represent individual cohorts in different age groups. Few females in the higher length classes were found to be mature with fecundity ranging from 329540 to 1357007 and ova diameter varying from 0.68 to 1.27 mm. In many of the individuals, carangids were found to be the most preferred food item with an index of relative importance (IRI) of 47.4% (*Decapterus* – 26.9%, *Selar* – 9.2% and other carangids – 11.3%), followed by *Auxis thazard* (IRI of 13.8%) and *Remora remora* (IRI of 13.3%). Gastropods in substantial quantities and digested matter were also encountered in the stomachs. *C. hippurus* was sold at a price ranging from ₹ 70 – 80 per kg. The total revenue earned from sale on the single given day amounted to ₹ 5,43,375/-.



Fig. 1a & b. Dolphinfish landed by hooks and lines at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour