

## Heavy landing of barred seer fish *Scomberomorus commerson* (Lacepede, 1800) at Visakhapatnam fishing harbour, Andhra Pradesh

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Heavy catches of barred seer fish, *Scomberomorus commerson* was observed at Chintapalli fishing village, 67 km north of Visakhapatnam on the night of 24-01-2013. The fish were caught by motorized crafts operated at depth of 50-60 m by hook and lines using sardines as bait. The total landing estimated on that day was 1200 kg. The length of the fish ranged from 85 - 153 cm FL and weight from 7.4 - 28 kg. Landings were brought to Visakhapatnam fishing harbour and being a high valued fish, fetched a price of ₹ 410/kg. Normally these fish are purchased by local middlemen, which they ice pack and transport to Chennai from where it is repacked and exported to Hong Kong, fetching a price of \$ 12.5/kg. If proper infrastructure facilities are provided at subsidized rates to the fishermen/ fishermen societies for



Individual Seer Fish weighing 28 kg

processing these high valued fish, with air connection from Vizag to Southeast Asian countries, their income may increase substantially.



Landing of seer fish measuring 153 cm



Landings of seer fish ready for packing

In Andhra Pradesh, *Scomberomorus commerson* locally called as 'konemu' have a high commercial value next to shrimps. With an annual landing of about 4753 t, it contributes 1.5% to the annual landings of Andhra Pradesh. Peak fishing season for *S. commerson* along Andhra Pradesh coast is from October to January. Major part of the catch is contributed by gillnets (63%) followed by hook and line (30%) and trawls (7%). Gillnets with mesh size of 80 to 150 mm are used. Around 15-20% of the juvenile catch ranging in size from 30 to 50 cm and weighing 0.350 to 1 kg are reported as by-catch in gillnets and ring seine operations targeting mackerel and sardines. This will have detrimental effect on this high value stock. Hence as a management option for protecting the seer fish resources in Andhra waters against growth and recruitment



Ice packing to transport to Chennai

overfishing, stringent regulatory measures are required. To reduce overfishing, seasonal ban on usage of small meshed gill nets is an option. Harvesting by highly selective gear viz., hooks and line will conserve the juveniles of seerfish.