

Unusual landing of Blue ring angel fish *Pomacanthus annularis* (Bloch, 1787) at Mirkarwada landing centre, Konkan Coast, Maharashtra

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On 07.05.2013, unusual landing of the Blue ring angel fish *Pomacanthus annularis* (Bloch, 1787) was observed at Mirkarwada fish landing centre, Ratnagiri (Fig. 1). About 15-20 specimens of



Fig. 1. Unusual landing of *P. annularis* at Mirkarwada landing centre on 07.05.2013.

P. annularis were caught in the bottom set gill net (locally called Budi) with mesh size measuring 7.5 cm, while being operated for lobster fishing. The *P. annularis* locally known as “Kombda” was about 7-8 m at 4-5 km north-west caught at Ratnagiri. The total length of the specimens landed ranged from 250-400 mm weighing from 0.5-1.25 kg. The fish was sold at ₹ 10-20/- per kg. The *P. annularis* may have migrated from Angria bank, a shallow sunken atoll, on the continental shelf off the west coast of India close to Ratnagiri.

The morphometric and meristic characters of the specimen were as follows, dorsal spines: 13; dorsal soft rays: 20-21; anal spines: 3; anal soft

rays: 20. Juveniles black with alternating white and blue, curved well-spaced stripes on the sides. Adults golden brown or orange with well-spaced curved horizontal stripes radiating from the pectoral-fin base area, running along the sides towards the posterior portion of the dorsal fin. Two similar blue stripes run horizontally across the face, one running through the eye, from above the snout to the edge of the operculum. A blue ring is behind and slightly above the edge of the operculum. Caudal fin is white with bright yellow margin.

Earlier, fishermen from Versova fishing village at Mumbai found a live Blue-ringed angel fish, *P. annularis* in their trawl catch. The fish was caught at a depth of about 40-50 m off Versova on 15.11.2009. The fish measured about 300 mm in total length and was in a very healthy condition.

P. annularis is distributed in the Indo-West Pacific: East coast of Africa, throughout Indonesia and New Guinea to New Caledonia, north to southern Japan. They are observed mostly in coastal reefs up to the depth of 30 m with Juveniles settle in very shallow inshore habitats with short filamentous algae growth on rock or dead coral substrates (Kuitert and Tono-zuka, 2001). It feeds on sponges and tunicates (Pyle, 2001) and undergoes a complete color transformation from the juvenile to adult stage. The IUCN Red List Status is “Least Concern (LC)”.