

Unusual landings of *Satyrichthys laticeps*

An unusual landing of *Satyrichthys laticeps* was observed at Munambam Fisheries Harbour, Ernakulam on 9th April 2024. About 600 kg (20 boxes of 30 kg each) of *Satyrichthys laticeps* was landed by a multiday (6 days fishing trip) trawler operated at 120-150 m depth off Cochin, Arabian Sea. Other commercially important fish caught by the same trawler were *Synagrops* spp. (1200 kg) and *Plesionika quasigrandis* (660 kg). The sizes of the fishes ranged between 200-500 mm in total length and between 200-1500 g in weight. These fishes are locally called "*Helicopter meen*" as they resemble helicopters



according to local fishermen. They were sold at the landing center at ₹10-15/kg to fish meal units. The *Satyrichthys laticeps*, distributed from Ratnagiri to Vizhinjam on the southwest coast of India, is rarely observed in commercial fishery landings and occurs in few, stray numbers only.

Belonging to the family Peristediidae they are commonly known as 'Armoured gurnards' or 'Armored Sea robins'.

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