

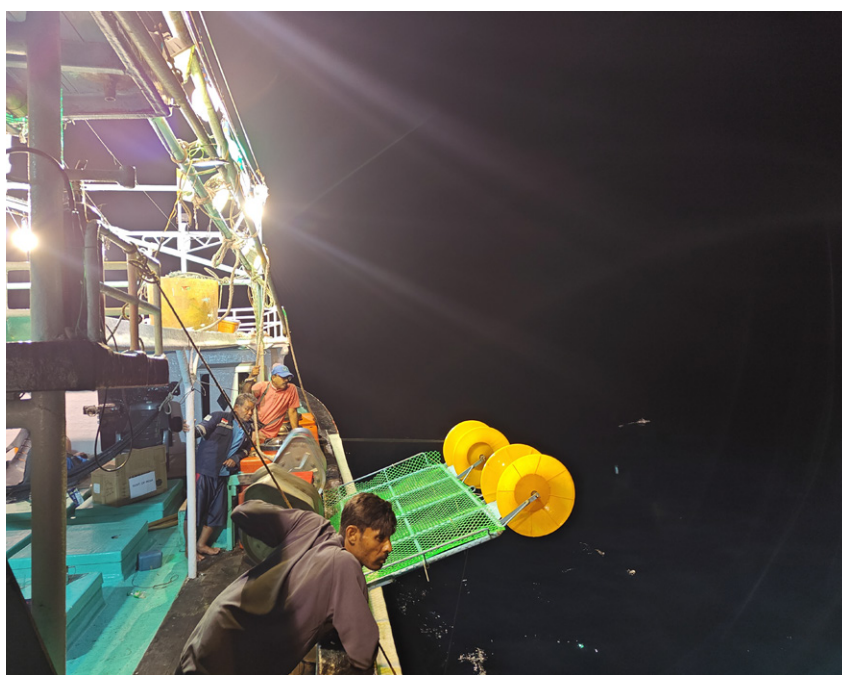
Installation of automatic squid jigging unit for experimental squid jigging in the Lakshadweep waters

The Arabian Sea, considered one of the richest regions of the Purpleback flying squid *Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis*

(Cephalopoda: Ommastrephidae), continues to be an untapped resource. Previous studies by ICAR-

CMFRI, under the World Bank-aided NAIP Scheme (code: 2000035101) "Utilization Strategy for Oceanic Squid from the Arabian Sea," estimated the mean abundance in the area was 4.21 tonnes/km² and the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) at 0.63 million tonnes. Recently, a fisherman (Abdul Aziz Salahudeen) from Kavaratti Island of Lakshadweep purchased a fishing vessel "White Pearl" (IND-LD-KV-MM-251) from Indonesia. The vessel has an OAL of 20 m and a width of 7 m. The vessel is equipped with a *Hino* Marine diesel engine (750 HP) and a 24 kVA AC generator. The vessel is equipped with 20 (10 on each side) 1500-watt metal halide lights and 10 (5 on each side) 200-watt LED lights with light falling net (20 mm mesh). Squids are attracted to artificial light and they aggregate close to the illuminated area. The fisher expressed interest in squid jigging and based on his request, a team of scientists and technical officers of Shellfish Fisheries Division, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, successfully installed an automatic squid jigging machine (Hamade, my-3DP) on the fishing vessel "White Pearl". The automatic squid jigging machine is installed in the middle of the starboard side of the vessel. After installation, successfully completed the cruise off-Agatti waters. The fishers have agreed to share the catch data from the fishing cruises with ICAR-CMFRI, which will facilitate the monitoring of catch, catch efficiency, and abundance in the Lakshadweep waters.

P. Laxmilatha*, A.P. Dinesbabu, Mohammed Koya, T. Rethesh and K.K. Sajikumar | ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi



Installation and working of automatic squid jigging machine in the Light fishing vessel