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अनुसंधान संस्थान RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कोचिन, भारत COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद्
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

862 Unusual heavy landing of the toli shad, *Tenualosa toli* in some centres along the palk bay near mandapam

Most of the earlier observations on the bumper catch of fishes of Mandapam area along the Palk Bay were recorded exclusively from the landings of mechanised trawlers. It was interesting to observe an unusually heavy landings of the toli shad, *Tenualosa toli* locally called 'Ullam' by the shoreseine units on 14-3-'97 from four landing centres along the Palk Bay viz., Darhavalasi, Alagathanvalasat, Irument and Chokkapillaimadam. In the first week of March '97 the species was sporadic in the shoreseine catches. Subsequent week witnessed a steep increase in the landings with the catch ranging between 1 to 3 tonnes per shoreseine units. On 14-3-'97 a total of 20 shoreseine unit were operated from the four landing centres which brought large quantities of toli-shad with an estimated catch of 2 to 3 tonnes per unit. The total estimated landings of the species on that day were nearly 50 tonnes.

Shoreseines are commonly operated along the coast during this season mainly for the oil sardine fishery. Such heavy landings of this species by shoreseines is unheard of in the recent past. About 90 % of the catch was sold in fresh condition at the rate of Rs. 5-8 per kg and was transported to places outside Tamil Nadu.

Reported by K. Muthiah, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI., Mandapam camp.