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Unique landing of *Sardinella sirm* at Neendakara, Kollam

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The ring seines operating at Neendakara on 14.05.08 landed a record catch of *Sardinella sirm* (Fig. 1). Two types of crafts were operated; thanguvallams with 90 HP inboard engine and fibre boats with 19.8 HP outboard engine. The depth of operation was 32 - 44 m north-west of Neendakara. The catch range per unit of fibre boat was 800 to 1000 kg and that of thanguvallam was 2600 - 3900 kg. Due to Ekadashi, thanguvallam and fibre

boats did not operate on 15.05.2008. The following day a peak was observed with all the nearby thanguvallams targetting this fishery. The depth of operation had a slight variation with a range of 38 - 56 m off north-west and west of Neendakara. The fibre boats landed about 800 - 1800 kg/unit and thanguvallam with 1800 to 3900 kg/unit. This fishery was not observed on 17.05.2008 and for the subsequent two weeks, but reappeared on



Fig. 1. *Sardinella sirm*



Fig. 2. Catch of *Sardinella sirm* at Neendakara

02.06.2008 at a depth range of 32 to 36 m north-west and west of Neendakara. The catch per unit for fibre boats was 800 - 1300 kg and for thanguvallams, 1800 to 3850 kg. On 03.06.2008 the catch in 90% of fibre boats and 40% of thanguvallams at depth range of 30 - 36 m north-west and west of Neendakara landed *S. sirm* with per unit catch of 800

to 1100 kg in fibre boats and 2800 to 3600 kg in thanguvallams (Table 1).

The price of *S. sirm* was Rs. 5-6 per kg and length ranged from 16 to 19.2 cm. The fishery dwindled after 03.06.2008 with *Sardinella lengiceps* and other lesser sardines coming in.

Table 1. Approximate landings of *Sardinella sirm* and income realisation

Date	Crafts	Average catch (kg)	No. of units	Total catch (kg)	Rate (Rs./kg)	Craft-wise income (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)
14-05-2008	Fibre boat	950	16	15200	5/kg	76,000	401000
	Thanguvallam	3250	20	65000	5	3,25,000	
16-05-2008	Fibre boat	1200	36	43200	5/kg	2,16,000	918000
	Thanguvallam	2600	54	140400	5/kg	702000	
02-06-2008	Fibre boat	1000	33	33000	6/kg	1,98,000	6,66,000
	Thanguvallam	3000	26	78000	6/kg	468000	
03-06-2008	Fibre boat	1000	18	18000	6/kg	1,08,000	185832
	Thanguvallam	3243	04	12972	6/kg	77832	