

Oilsardine (*Sardinella longiceps*) landings by mini purse seiners at Jiwna and Bharadkhol-Divegar landing centres in Raigad District, Maharashtra

Ramesh B. Rao

Field Centre of CMFRI, Alibag

During the months of October 2012 to February 2013, about 80 – 100 gillnetters (24 to 45 HP, 2 to 3 cylinder boats) were engaged in mini purse seine operation and landed bumper catches of the oilsardine, *Sardinella longiceps* at Jiwna and Bharadkhol-Divegar landing centres in Raigad District (Fig. 1). Around 3 to 5 t of oilsardine were landed in single day operations. The fishing ground was about 10 to 15 km north-west off Jiwna landing centre at 8 to 15 m depth. During this season (October-February) every year, when the catch in other gears is poor, fishermen engage in mini purse seine operation and earn fairly good income from this.



Fig. 1. *Sardinella longiceps* landed in mini purse seine at Jiwna landing centre