

Fishing activity affected by swarming of jellyfish along the Sindhudurg coast of Maharashtra

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Unusual heavy swarming of jellyfishes were noticed along the Sindhudurg coast of Maharashtra during the months of October and November 2012. The jellyfishes, locally known as zhar/belaka, had dark yellowish gelatinous umbrella shaped bell and trailing tentacles. On 6th November 2012, a total of 1000 kg of jellyfishes were landed in two rampan (shore seine) operations along with oilsardine (Fig. 1). Rampan as



Fig. 1. Jellyfish landed in rampan operation

well as gillnet operations were severely affected due to these blooms damaging the nets, and the fishing activity by these gears almost came to a standstill on certain days. Though jellyfishes generally occur along this area in small numbers, during October-November 2012, thousands of jellyfishes were observed in the fishing area of rampan and gillnets, upto a depth of 35 m.

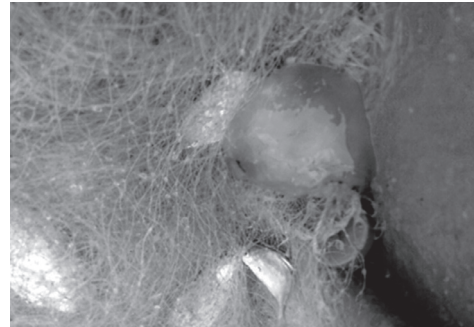


Fig. 2. Jellyfish entangled in gillnet