

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS – FISHER FOLK CORNER

- The vessel MFV Matsya Shikari sailed out for her “Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Programme in the Bay of Bengal” on 14.08.2021 and covered four transects (14 sampling stations) and concluded her voyage on 31.08.2021.
- The survey strategy was mainly the visual observations of the mammal shoals aggregating near the vessel.
- Every day the mammal observation were made during morning 0700 hrs to evening 0700 hrs.
- Desired photography & videography was made. Sighting of sea turtles as well as seabirds & environmental conditions were also recorded.
- During the survey the sea surface temperature, salinity and surface water samples were collected at sampling stations for nutrient analysis.
- The plankton sampling was carried out from sub-surface waters (5 M) for qualitative and quantitative analysis.
- Three species of dolphins i.e. *Stenella longirostris* (Spinner dolphin), *Stenella attenuata* (Pantropical spotted dolphin) and *Tursiops truncatus* (Bottlenose dolphin) were sighted during the voyage.
- A total of 390 numbers of dolphins were encountered at 29 sightings. In addition to that, sea turtles (13 Nos) as well as sea birds (15 Nos) were sighted.

The details of the productive fishing grounds are as follows:

NIL

Other observations:

The vessel MFV Matsya Shikari was deployed for Marine Mammal Stock Assessment programme in the Andhra Pradesh coast from 14.08.2021 to 31.08.2021. A total of 390 numbers of Dolphins were sighted during the above period. Three species of dolphins i.e. *Stenella longirostris* (Spinner dolphin), *Stenella attenuata* (Pantropical spotted dolphin) and *Tursiops truncatus* (Bottlenose dolphin) were sighted during the voyage (Fig. 1).

(Photo by: Dr. Annada Bhusan Kar, Fisheries Scientist).





(a)



(b)



(c)



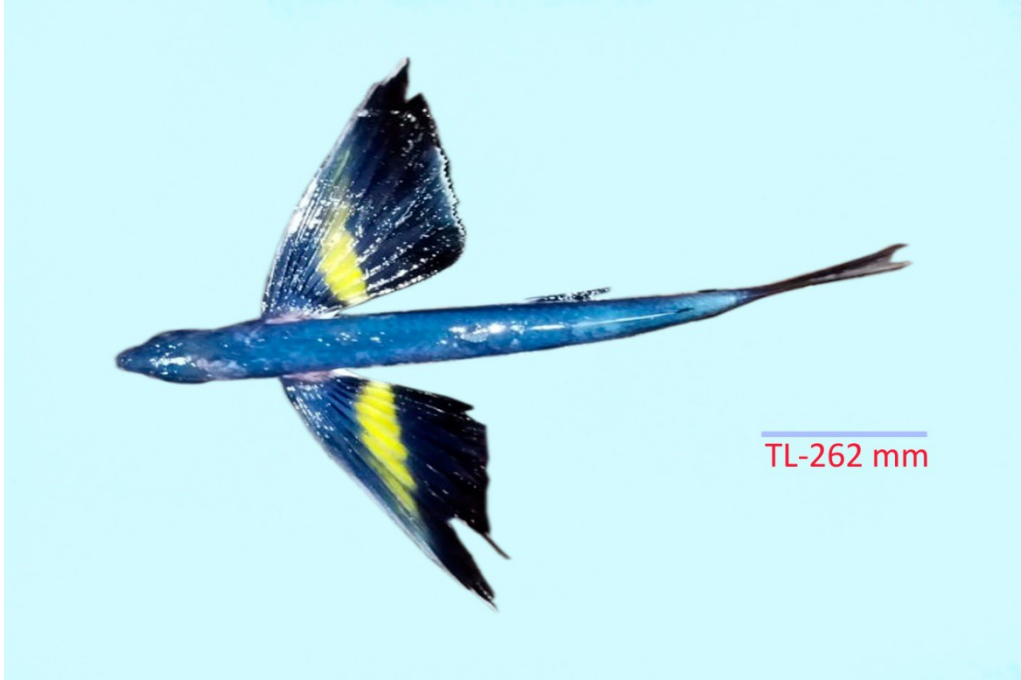
(d)

- (a) gillchamber completely distortion (b) one side gill chamber blurred
(c) normal condition of gill chamber (d) both side of gill chambers are normal

During the survey period gill infection was noticed in the little tuna *Euthynnus affinis* from hand line operation. For further confirmation on the infection the histopathological studies and PCR analysis will be carried out.

(Photo by: Dr. Annada Bhusan Kar, Fisheries Scientist).





During the survey period stained flying fish *Cheilopogon spilopterus* (Valenciennes, 1846) was recorded in offshore waters of Andhra Pradesh coast.

(Photo by: Dr. Annada Bhusan Kar, Fisheries Scientist).

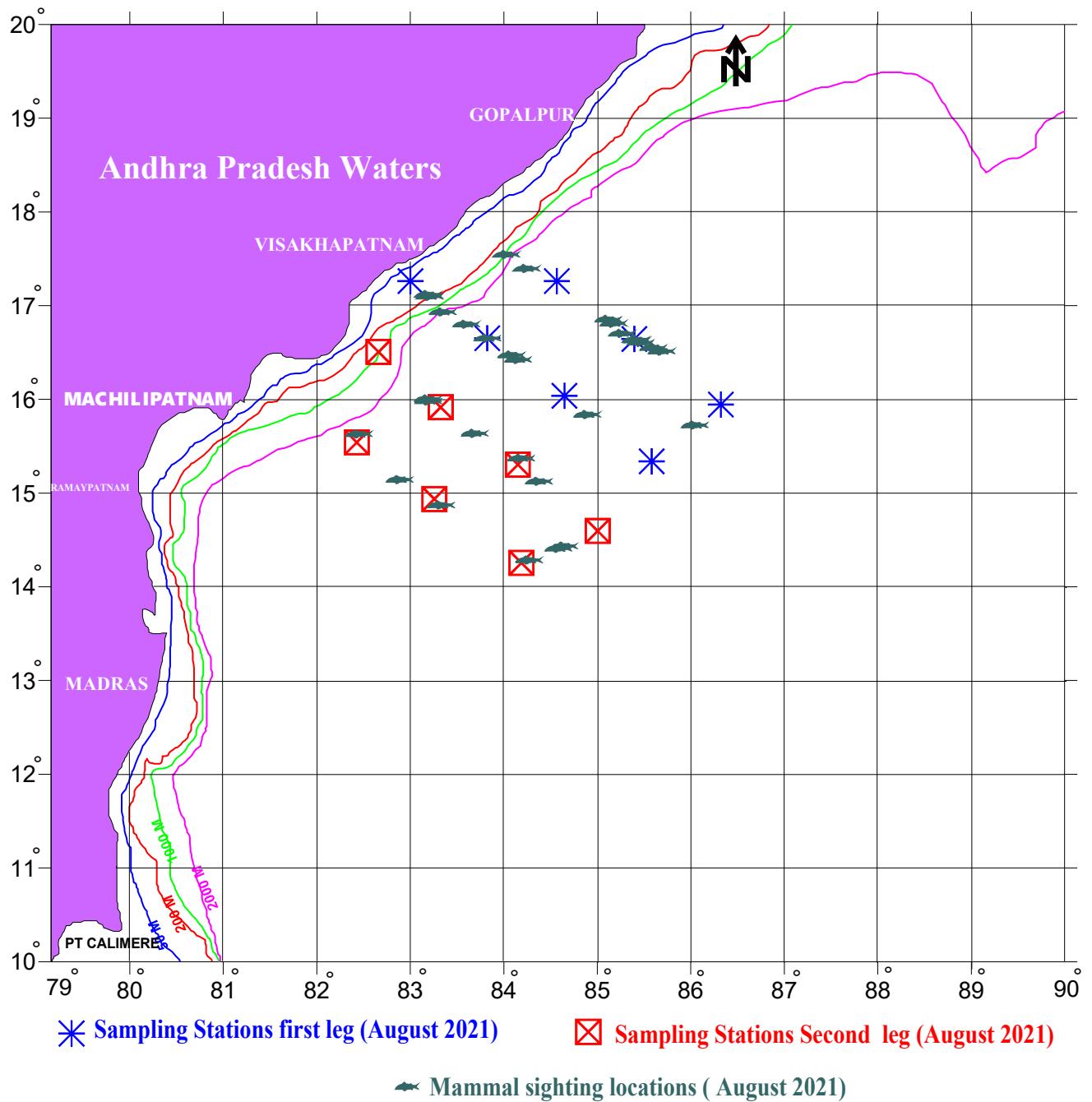


Fig. 1. Sampling stations & dolphin sighting locations in first leg & second leg of “Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Studies” during August 2021.