



मीना समाचार MEENA News

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I. FROM THE RESEARCH FRONT

A Good Catch of Croakers

A good catch of 350 kg of Croaker (*Otolithes cuvieri* Trewavas, 1974) was caught in a single haul off Krishnapatnam



at a depth of 54 m during January 2011. The size of the fish ranged between 38 and 42 cm. *Otolithes cuvieri* is a major sciaenid species caught in trawlers. The species mature at a size of 17 cm and the obviously the catch represented only mature specimen, probably a spawning aggregation.

As indicated by their name 'drum' or 'croaker' these fishes produce a signature noise in a chorus to attract mates. The sound can be easily heard using passive acoustic techniques, allowing biologists to locate spawning aggregations with hydrophones. While this feature could be adding to the vulnerability of the fish, it could also be used to avoid spawning aggregations. This area needs in-depth studies.

(Communicated by Shri G.V.A Prasad, Sr. Scientific Assistant, FSI, Chennai)

A Bumper Catch of Catfish:

A bumper haul of around 3 t of catfish *Arius thalassinus* (Ruppel, 1837) was recorded on 28 March 2011 by the vessel

Matsya Nireekshani during her resources survey. This catch came in the first haul of the day in the morning while the vessel was operating in the Lat. 18° 22.6' N Long 72° 29.3' E at a depth of 54-55 m where bottom was muddy with shells.

The Length of the fish ranged between 27.5 to 38 cm. Along Northwest coast of India, *Arius thalassinus* was reported to mature at 31 cm and therefore most of the fish caught was juveniles. Most of the fishes were actively fed and the gut content revealed dominance of small bivalve shells. Minor quantities of horse mackerel, squid, Indian mackerel, carangids, seerfish and ribbonfish were also caught in the haul.

(Communicated by Shri D.E Uikey, Sr. Scientific Assistant, FSI, Mumbai)

Occurrence of Whale sharks off Tamil Nadu

M V Samudrika survey vessel attached to Chennai Base of FSI reported observation of two whale sharks off Tamil Nadu (Area 14°N/80°E, at 26.6 m depth) during her January 2011 cruise. Occurrence of whale shark along the coastal waters of East Coast of India was rarely reported (Peter, 1941). The presence of whale sharks is usually associated with the abundance of algae and zooplankton. The reason for occurrence of this protected species off Tamil Nadu could be understood only by further detailed studies.

(Communicated by Shri G.V.A Prasad, Sr. Scientific Assistant, FSI, Chennai)

II. OUTREACH AND TRAINING

a) A one-day regional workshop on Marine Fishery Resources of South Andhra Pradesh coast was

conducted at Nizampatnam on 18 March 2011. The workshop was organised jointly with the State Fisheries Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The programme was arranged at the fishing harbour, Nizampatnam. Shri M. Harinath Babu, Gram Sarpanch, Nizampatnam who was the chief guest, inaugurated the workshop. Shri Srivasa Rao, President, Boat Owners Association, Nizampatnam appreciated the efforts made by the Fishery Survey of India for conducting the workshop at Nizampatnam and requested that the fishermen may be given training on tuna longlining.

Dr. A. Anrose, Zonal Director in his keynote address, presented the scenario of Indian Marine Fisheries and explained about the overfishing of coastal fisheries resources. He suggested diversifying the fishing methods and to exploit the oceanic resources such as tuna, billfishes etc. to overcome this problem. He also suggested having multi gear onboard to harvest the seasonal resources in order to have additional revenue. Shri Basava Raju, Dy. Director, Dept. of fisheries offered a vote of thanks.

- b) An open house was conducted onboard *M.F.V. Blue Marlin* on 6 January 2011 by Port Blair Base of FSI Jointly with Dept. of Fisheries, A & N Admin and Govt. Sr. Secondary School, Havelock. This Open House was organized for the benefit of students, local fishermen and general public. Students, fishermen, officials and visitors were given information about biodiversity. In addition, posters on biodiversity were displayed in the Office of the Director, Zonal Offices, jetty gates, landing centers, fish markets under the Department of Fisheries and other Govt. Departments for wide publicity.
- c) A one-day open house was conducted by the Chennai Base on 11 March 2011 at St. Joseph High School, Pulicat. Around 1400 visitors including school students, graduate students, fishermen and public visited and got exposure on marine fisheries and activities of FSI.
- d) Chennai Base participated in exhibition "Aqua Aquaria India 2011" held at Chennai Trade Center, Chennai during 6-8 February 2011.
- e) Cochin Base of FSI participated in the *Fish Festival 2011, Kerala* during 24-28 February 2011 at Thiruvananthapuram organized by the Dept. of

Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala. Several fish specimens, charts, models etc. were exhibited in the FSI stall.

- f) Fishermen from Urur Kuppam, Alakaat Kuppam and Power Kuppam, Chennai were given training onboard the vessel *Matsya Drushti* on the latest technologies of tuna longline fishing with the financial assistance of NFDB, Hyderabad during her January and March 2011 voyages
- g) Eleven students of Diploma in Marine engineering, Central Polytechnic college, Tharamani, Chennai, underwent training on vessel maintenance and repair works at Fishery Survey of India, Chennai
- h) Thirty students of final year M.Sc. Zoology, Shia Post Graduate College, Lucknow, UP and Sixty students of final year B.Sc, Zoology, Quaid-E-Millath Govt. Arts College for women, Anna Salai, Chennai along with faculty members visited Chennai Base during March 2011. Fishery resource survey methods, activities of FSI and information on marine fishery resources of India were briefed to the visitors by the scientists of the Base.

III. ANNUAL ROSA MEETING

The annual Review of Operational and Scientific Activities (ROSA) was held at Mormugao Base of FSI during 23-24 February 2011. Dr. K Vijayakumaran, Director General, FSI chaired the meeting. The Officer in-charge along with the Mechanical /Service Engineer from each Base attended the above meeting. Quantitative and qualitative performance of vessels were reviewed and found that overall performances of the vessels are good. Prolonged dry-docking repairs of some vessels affected the periodic data collection in some areas, this need to be overcome during the coming months.

Problems and bottlenecks in implementation of the fishery resource survey programme were discussed during the meeting. The Scientific activities carried out by the scientists of each Base were reviewed and necessary corrective measures to overcome the lacunae in scientific research were discussed. The members also discussed various administrative and accounts matter connected to the programme implementation.

The Meeting finalized the draft fishery survey programme 2011-12 and decided to effectively implement the programme with scientific orientation. Dr. Paul Pandian, Deputy commissioner (Fy), Ministry of Agriculture presented *The vision twelfth five year plan and Ministry's perspective on role of FSI*. The Director General assured that the comments

and suggestions put forward by the Deputy Commissioner (Fy) will be taken care of for implementation.

IV. TDA CONSULTATION WORKSHOP OF BOBLME PROJECT

Fishery Survey of India organized Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis Consultation Workshop (TDA-CWS) of Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) at Megapode Nest, Port Blair on 24 January 2011. The one day event, organized



in association with the Department of Fisheries A & N reviewed the major trans-boundary issues flagged by the BOBLME Project. The Workshop was attended by a cross section of the stakeholders including senior officials of the A & N administration, Indian Coast Guard and CARL as well as fishermen's representatives, NGOs, traders and environmentalists.

A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis Consultation



workshop (TDA-CWS) of Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project at Puducherry on 7 February 2011. Dr. K.

Vijayakumaran, DG, FSI and National Coordinator, BOBLME Project coordinated the workshop attended by stakeholders from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The Workshop was inaugurated by Thiru K Sellamuthu, IAS, Commissioner of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu in a Session Chaired Shri Mathew Samuel IAS, Special Secretary, Fisheries and Industry, Government of Puducherry. Thirumati G Ramalakshmi, Director, Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, Government of Puducherry chaired the technical session.

V. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The consultative group meeting was held by Chennai Base of FSI on 22 March 2011 at Chennai Base. Shri K.

Chellamuthu, IAS, Commissioner of Fisheries, Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of Tamil Nadu Chaired the meeting and the proposed survey programme 2011-2012 of Chennai Base was approved by the Consultative Committee.

VI. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IMPLEMENTATION

Hindi Workshop

1. A one day Hindi workshop was organized on 04 February 2011 for officers at FSI, Mumbai (HQ) in association with Hindi Teaching Scheme, Navi Mumbai, Dr. Sunita Yadav, Assistant Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme delivered the lecture on Hindi. Overcoming the difficulties encountered while writing Hindi noting was the task of the workshop. Eleven officials actively participated in the workshop.
2. Hindi Workshop on implementation of official Language was conducted on 02 February 2011 at Mormugao Base of FSI. Shri Rajendra Singh, Hindi Officer, Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Hindi Officer, NIO, Dona Paula, Goa, Shri R. C. Mehto, Assistant Director (OL), Central Excise, Panjim and Shri Intaze Ali, Supervisor (OL), Air Port Authority of India, Doboileim, Goa were invited as resource persons on those occasion. Officers and staff members participated in the workshop.
3. Hindi House Magazine "Matsya Dwani" was published during March 2011 by Kochi Base of FSI
4. Hindi workshop was organized on 20 January 2011 at Kochi Base of FSI.

VII. PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING/ SEMINARS/ SYMPOSIUM/ MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES

- Dr. A. Anrose, Zonal Director attended policy document verification meeting of the BOBLME project on 27 and 28 January 2011 at hotel Shelter, Chennai.
- Shri S. M. Patil, Sr. Fisheries Scientist attended *Krishivani* meeting on 12 January 2011 at Akashwani Kendra, Mumbai.
- S/Shri Ashok Kadam, Jr. Fisheries Scientist, S.K. Dwivedi, Sr. Scientific Assistant and Hitesh Patil, Sr. Research Fellow, attended the training programme on *Stock Assessment* organized by CMFRI, Cochin under NAIP Project from 07 - 11 March 2011.
- Dr. A.K.Bhargava, Sr. Fisheries Scientist attended a regional training on RTI Act at Institute of Government Accounts And Finance at Chennai during 14-15 March 2011.

- Shri D.M. Ali, Sr. Fisheries Scientist attended Expert Committee meeting on Tuna Longline & Fish Hold Subsidy Scheme at MPEDA, Ernakulam.
- Shri Vishal K. Kharat, LDC/Hindi Typist participated in a one day Unicode training on computer held at Western Railway Hqrs, Churchgate, Mumbai on 17 March 2011.

VIII. DIRECTOR GENERAL'S PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS/ SEMINARS:

DR. K. VIJAYAKUMARAN, Director General, Fishery Survey of India, participated in the following programmes:

- NNRMS SC-OM Meeting at NIOT, Chennai on 04 January 2011
- Meeting convened by Joint Secretary (Fisheries) on 12 January, 2011 at New Delhi to discuss issues vis-à-vis Agenda of the COFI Session.
- Inter- Ministerial meeting on India- Sri Lanka Fisheries Co-operation held on 8 February 2011 in Agriculture Department Conference Hall, Secretariat, Chennai.
- Inter- Ministerial Empowered Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture, DAHD & New Delhi on 14 February 2011.
- IOTC Special Meeting on Allocation Criteria at Nairobi, Kenya during 16-18 February 2011.
- Annual Review of Operational and Scientific Activities (ROSA) meeting of FSI at Mormugao during 23-24 February, 2011.
- Review of Progress of IWIN project and discussions about collaborative programme at NIO on 25 February 2011.
- Committee meeting to discuss the reactivation/closure of Porbandar Base of FSI on 01 March 2011.
- IOTC Meeting of the Compliance Committee at Colombo on 14- 16 March 2011.
- Meeting of the Consortium Advisory Committee of the NAIP projects at CMFRI, Kochi.

IX. ACADAMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Shri M.Vinod Kumar, Jr. Fisheries Scientist, FSI, Mumbai (HQ) was awarded with the Ph.D degree in Zoology



on 21 February 2011 by the University of Mumbai for his thesis entitled *Dynamics of fishery, biology and utilization of coastal tunas occurring in North-western Indian EEZ*. He worked under the guidance of Dr. V.S.Somvanshi, the former Director General, FSI.

Shri S.K. Dwivedi, Sr. Scientific Assistant, FSI, Mumbai (HQ) was awarded with the Ph.D degree in Zoology on 10 March 2011 by the University of Mumbai for his thesis entitled *Sea catfishes occurring along north-west coast of India with studies on biology and stock assessment*. Shri Dwivedi worked under the guidance of Dr. V.S. Somvanshi, the former DG, FSI.



X. ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

Appointment, Transfer, Promotion...

- Shri P. Ahmedjan, Netmender of Mormugao Base was transferred to Chennai Base.
- Shri T.K. Suresh, Sr. Deckhand of Mormugao Base was transferred to Cochin Base.
- Shri J. Raj, Sr. Deckhand of Cochin Base transferred to Port Blair Base.
- Smt. R. Malathi was appointed to the post of Hindi Typist (LDC) at Cochin Base w.e.f. 20 January 2011
- Shri Josh Asokan C was appointed to the post of Superintendent (PSC) at Cochin Base w.e.f. 24 February 2011.

Retirements:

- Shri D. Krishna Kumar, Stenographer Gr. III of Chennai Base retired from service superannuation on 31 January 2011.
- Dr. M. E. John, Zonal Director of Mormugao Base retired on superannuation on 28 February 2011.
- Shri M. Chellappa, Sr. Deck-hand of Cochin Base retired on superannuation on 31 March 2011.
- Shri V. K. Dhumal, Sr. Deck-hand of Mormugao Base retired on superannuation on 31 March 2011.
- Shri K.K. Jose, Mechanic of Cochin Base retired on superannuation on 31 March 2011.