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I. FROM THE RESEARCH FRONT

New record of Sharptail sunfish *Masturus lanceolatus* (Lienard, 1840) in Lakshadweep Sea.



A Sharptail sunfish *Masturus lanceolatus* (Lienard, 1840) belonging to Family: Molidae was caught from waters near Byragmore reef in Lakshadweep Sea. The occurrence of this species in Indian seas is uncommon and its taxonomy is still in controversy. The species was hooked in a sub-

surface long-line hook during an exploratory survey for oceanic tuna and allied fishes within the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in Lakshadweep Sea in the area, Latitude (Lat.) 12°05.04'N Longitude (Long.) 72°12.32'E at a depth of 1005m, by the survey vessel *MFV Yellow Fin* (Multifilament tuna longliner) attached to the Mormugao Base Fishery Survey of India. It is reported to be the first *Masturus* sp. from Lakshadweep Sea. The specimen weighed 100 kg with a total length of 147 cm. *Masturus* sp. are large pelagic fishes, preferring a temperature of more than 20°C. They have well developed grotesque rounded bodies with gigantic size ordaining the position of the world's heaviest marine teleosts. *Masturus* sp. prefer marine environment wherever reefs are abundant, because the reefs help in cleaning off the ectoparasites. *Masturus* sp. occurrence from Indian waters reported by earlier authors were based on specimens collected from various fish landing centers with no records on actual geographical locations. In India, maximum occurrence was reported from the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. Although, Lakshadweep Sea is known to have beautiful dense coral reefs, this is the first record

of *Masturus* from Lakshadweep Sea. A detailed manuscript was communicated and got accepted for publication in *Marine Biodiversity Records*.

(Communicated by Shri Pratyush Das, Sr. Research Fellow and Shri Raju S. Nagpure, Sr. Scientific Assistant, Mormugao Base of FSI)

Jelly fish bloom along the North Andhra coast

MFV Matsya Shikari, survey vessel attached to the Visakhapatnam Base of Fishery Survey of India reported bloom of jelly fishes off Visakhapatnam to Kalingapatnam (North east coast of India). This phenomenon was recorded during March 2014 voyage of the vessel. The vessel was carrying out demersal fishery resource survey in the area 17°N and 18°N. A total of 500 Kg caught in a single haul from the area 17°53.2' N / 83°37.7' E at 40m depth is an indication of their abundance in the said area during the season. The jellyfish was identified as *Crambionella stuhlmanni* (Chun, 1896). Abundance of jellyfishes during pre-monsoon period (January – March) was reported by several studies in this line. Jellyfish (Medusa) represents short lived plankton phase of some invertebrates and they also occur as holoplankton. They are important consumers of zooplankton and hence form a major competitor for fishes in their food chain. The outbreak of jellyfishes normally follows phytoplankton bloom and increase in zooplankton population. Jellyfish bloom is an indication of coastal eutrophication, overfishing and ecosystem degradation. Blooming of jellyfishes results in clogging of fishnet and thereby causes interference to the fishery. Upenoids, Nemipterids and Decapterids caught along with jellyfishes throughout the haul indicate their close association in the ecosystem. However, an in-depth study is the need of hour in order to understand the causes of jellyfish bloom and their effect on the coastal fishery of India.

(Communicated by Shri A. Siva, Senior Scientific Assistant, FSI, Visakhapatnam)

II. OUTREACH AND TRAINING

(a) Regional workshop at Visakhapatnam Base

A Regional Workshop entitled *Marine Fishery Resources of Andhra Pradesh Coast* was conducted at MPDO office, Pusapatirega on 23 January 2014. The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr. K. Phaniprakash, Asst. Director of Fisheries, Vizianagaram. Dr. S.K. Naik, Zonal Director delivered the Key Note address. Besides, one Street Play on *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* was organized at fishermen village, Barripeta, Vizianagaram District on the later part of the day. Street Play performed by the professional Television artists was very much effective in conveying the message among fisher folk. The workshop was beneficial to the local fisher folks, fishery entrepreneurs and State fishery officials.



(b) Training cum workshop on *Strengthening of Data collection and fish Taxonomy in Marine Fisheries*

A two-days training cum workshop on *Strengthening of Data collection and fish Taxonomy in Marine Fisheries* was organized by Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai (Hq's) in collaboration with the Port Blair Base of Fishery Survey of India and the Directorate of Fisheries, Andaman and Nicobar (A and N Islands) on 30- 31 January 2014. The workshop was organised for the benefit of the officials of the Directorate of Fisheries, A and N Administration at Fisheries Training Centre, Marine Hills, Port Blair. Shri J. Chandrasekhar, Director of Fisheries, A & N Administration inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp.

Shri. S.C. Dey, Asst. Director of Fisheries (extension and training) A & N Administration briefed the existing methodology of data collection being followed by the department. Shri. P. Chalapati Rao, Statistician, FSI, Mumbai, (Hqs) described the methodology for marine catch assessment survey's and description of data collection formats. Shri. H.D. Pradeep, Fisheries Scientist and Dr. S.K. Dwivedi, Fisheries Scientist explained the broad classification of fishes and their identification. Participants visited the Junglighat Fish Landing Centre for hands-on training on field identification of marine fishes.

(c) Regional workshop at Cochin Base

The Cochin Base of Fishery Survey of India has organised a one day Workshop on *Marine Fishery Resources of Kerala Coast: Sustainable Exploitation* at the Fishing

Harbour, Chellanam, Ernakulam on 6 February 2014. Shri D. K. Gulati, Zonal Director delivered the key note address. He briefed the purpose of the workshop and the activities of Fishery Survey of India.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Shri K. J. Leenus, Member, *Zilla Panchayat*. Shri K.P. Thankachan, President, *Chellanam Gram Panchayat*, Chellanam presided over the function.

During the Technical Session, papers on Safety and precautionary measures, Maintenance of Marine Engines, Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), Eco-friendly fishing methods, Results of Marine fishery resource survey along the Kerala coast and Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) were presented by the Scientists/Officials of the Base and Marine Engineering Division.

(d) Regional workshop at Port Blair Base

A one day Regional Workshop on *Marine Fishery Resources of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Eco-friendly Fishing Methods* was organized by the Port Blair Base of Fishery Survey of India in association with the Directorate of Fisheries, Andaman and Nicobar Administration at Guptapara, South Andaman on 5 March 2014. The Workshop was aimed to create an awareness among the local fishermen on optimum utilization of fishery resources, eco-friendly fishing methods, oceanic resources, perch resources, safety measures at sea and the CCRF.

The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Mohammad Safiq, Pramukh, Panchayat Samiti, Ferrargunj, South Andaman. Shri Nirpen Nag, Zilla Parishad Member, Guptapara, South Andaman was the Guest of Honour during the occasion. The function was presided over by Shri S. C. Dey, Asst Director Fisheries (Extension and Training), South Andaman. Dr. L. Ramalingam, Zonal Director; delivered the key note address.

(e) Fishery Survey of India, Visakhapatnam won the Best Stall Award during 56th KISAN MELA

The Visakhapatnam Base of Fishery Survey of India won the Best Stall Award during the *56th Kisan mela*. The programme was organised by the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University at Anakapalle, Visakhapatnam during 14 – 15 March 2014. The stall of the Fishery Survey of India was adjudged and awarded the Best stall award among 20 private agencies and 8 Government Organizations.

(f) Aqua Goa Mega Fish festival 2014

The Mormugao Base of Fishery Survey of India participated in the Aqua Goa Mega Fish Festival 2014 organized by the Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Goa and the NFDB, Hyderabad. The Fish festival was held at Navelim, Goa during 31 January to 2 February 2014. The FSI Goa Base put a stall and displayed gear models and charts showing FSI activities in the exhibition. Besides, Dr. A K Bhargava, Zonal Director presented a paper on *Overview of Marine Fisheries with Special Reference to Goa* as an invited speaker for the Seminar.

III. ANNUAL REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES (ROSA) MEETING

The Annual Review of Operational and Scientific Activities (ROSA) meeting of Fishery Survey of India was held during 17-18 February 2014 at the Conference Hall of the Cochin Base of Fishery Survey of India. Shri Premchand, Director General, FSI and the Chairman of the meeting in his presidential address expressed his sincere gratitude to all the Officers for their assistance towards achieving the mandate of the department. The Officer in- Charge of the Base offices presented the report on performance of vessel, implementation of resource survey programme and other activities carried out by the Base. While proceeding with the discussion, the Director General assured that the proposals for acquiring the new vessels for replacing the aged vessels will be resubmitted to the Ministry. The Scientific activities carried out by the scientists of each Base were reviewed and it was decided to encourage the scientists for publication of results in the form of research papers.

The extension activities of the Institute was reviewed and decided to organise more such activities in order to disseminate the scientific information on resources to the stakeholders. Meeting also discussed various administrative aspects and accounts matter connected to the programme implementation.



Fifteenth Consultative Committee meeting at FSI HQ

The fifteenth meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Fishery Survey of India was held on 12 March 2014 at FSI, Mumbai (HQ). Shri. Premchand, Director General, FSI chaired the meeting and it was attended by 6 members and 9 observers from the department. While welcoming the participants the Chairman narrated the objectives of the meeting and invited suggestions from the members to improve survey and scientific activities of the FSI. He presented the gist of activities of the Institute. Performance of the survey vessels during the year ie.2013-2014 was presented to the members for evaluation. Members expressed satisfaction over the performance of vessel. The proposed Fishery Resources Survey, Assessment and Research Programme

2014-15 was presented before the Committee. After a detailed deliberation, the Committee approved the proposed survey programme for the forth-coming year. The committee also reviewed the progress of the existing projects and activities of engineering wing of the Institute.

Executive Secretary, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission visited FSI HQ

Mr. Rondolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Seychelles visited the Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Mumbai on 21 February 2014. Understanding of the tuna fishery research and management in India, contribution of India to the IOTC process, capacity building needs of India in the field of IOTC data processing, compliance and other related research works were the objectives of the visit. Shri. Premchand, Director General presented the status of tuna fishery and research in India and contribution of FSI towards IOTC compliance. Scientists of FSI, Mumbai (HQ) also participated in the discussion. Mr. Payet agreed to provide technical support to the Fishery Survey of India for IOTC data submission procedure and compilation of IOTC resolution. An expert/faculty dealing in the above subject can be deputed to India for providing theoretical/ practical training to the scientists of FSI. Details of assistance by IOTC on observer onboard programme will be forwarded for necessary action, he added. Mr. Payet expressed his gratitude for the support provided by the FSI during his visit and requested for wholehearted cooperation from the FSI in implementation of IOTC programmes.

Stakeholders' consultation meeting

The Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai (HQ) convened stakeholders' consultation meetings as per the decisions taken during the meeting of the Committee to review the duration of the fishing ban period and to suggest further measures for conservation and management aspects. The stakeholders meetings were convened at Daman, Lakshadweep, Port Blair and Puducherry on 05 February, 07 February, 26 February and 27 February 2014 respectively. Altogether more than 200 Stakeholders actively participated in the discussion and expressed their respective views on Fishing Ban period. The summary of the consultation was submitted to the Technical Committee for the national level consolidation. The Technical Committee will finalize the recommendations based on the outputs of consultations from different maritime states.

IV. Implementation of Official Language:

Award for Best Hindi House magazine

The Best Hindi House magazines published by the Base offices during the year 2013-14 were awarded during the Annual Rosa Meeting held on 18 February 2014 at Cochin Base of Fishery Survey of India, Cochin. The first prize was given to Cochin Base of Fishery Survey of India

for their publication of *Matsya Dhwani* and Second prize to Mumbai Base of Fishery Survey of India for their publication of *Matsya Darpan*.

Publication of Handbook

Handbook for field identification of fish species occurring in the Indian seas was published in Hindi by the Fishery Survey of India (Hqs) Mumbai during February 2014.

Hindi Workshop at Fishery Survey of India, (HQs) Mumbai

A one day Hindi workshop was organised on *Official Language Act, Official Language Policy of the Union & Various Incentive Schemes available to promote the progressive use of Hindi*, at Fishery Survey of India (HQs) Mumbai on 12 March 2014. Dr. Sunita Yadav, Asstt. Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme delivered a lecture on the above topic.

Hindi Workshop at Bases

- Visakhapatnam Base office organized a Hindi Kavi Sammelan at DRM Office conference hall in association with the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) on the occasion of World Hindi Day on 10 January 2014. Poets from various Central Govt. Department as well as Visakhapatnam town (30 members) participated in the Sammelan
- Mumbai Base Office organised a Hindi Workshop on 13 January 2014 at the Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai Base. Shri Kalimulla Khan, Asstt. Director, MTNL, Mumbai inaugurated the workshop and delivered a lecture on UNICODE.
- As a part of Official Language Implementation, a Hindi Workshop was conducted by the Port Blair Base of Fishery Survey of India on 22 March 2014. Shri. P. K. Mishra, Hindi Translator, Andaman and Lakshadweep Harbour works (ALHW) was the resource person on the above occasion.
- A Hindi workshop was organized for the officers and staff on 26 March 2014 at Cochin Base of FSI

V. Participation in Training/Seminar/Workshop/Symposium/Meetings/ Conferences:

International

- Shri. Premchand, Director General and National Coordinator Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) attended the BOBLME Work Plan Development meeting held at Phuket, Thailand during 25-26 February 2014.

National

- Smt. Rajashree K. Mendon, Office Superintendent, Smt. Archana N. Pradhan, Upper Division Clerk and Shri Rakesh Kumar, Lower Division Clerk, Mumbai

Hq attended a training on *Pay Fixation, ACP & MACP* organized by the Regional Training Centre, Mumbai from 27- 29 January 2014.

- Shri D.M Ali, Sr. Fisheries Scientist attended the Technical Committee meeting on *Review of duration of fishing ban period and suggests further measures to strengthen the conservation and management aspects* at Kavaratti Island, Lakshadweep on 07 February 2014.
- Dr. Sijo P. Varghese, Sr. Fisheries Scientist participated in the workshop – cum- training programme on *Technical Management Measures as Tools for Fisheries Management in the Indian Scenario* on 12 February 2014 at CIFT, Kochi.
- Dr. Annada Bhusan Kar, Fisheries Scientist attended the Training-cum-Workshop on *Strengthening of Data Collection and Fish Taxonomy* on 11 – 12 February 2014 at Junput, Contai, Purab Medinipur District, West Bengal and at Pailan, South 24 Paraganas, West Bengal on 5-6 Marks, 2014 organized by Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai (HQ) and delivered a lecture on *Taxonomy of Marine Fishes of India*.
- An interview of Dr. Dewanand Uikey, Sr. Scientific Assistant of Mumbai Base was broadcast on 19 February 2014 by Akashwani's Asmita Vahini (channel) on the topic *Eco-friendly Fishing Methods with special focus on monofilament tuna long lining* in local language Marathi.
- Dr. S. K. Dwivedi, Fisheries Scientist and Shri. Swapnil Shivdas Shirke, Sr. Scientific Assistant attended the workshop on *Fisheries Co-operative Development and Data base (FISHCOPFED)* organized by the Directorate of Fisheries, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Port Blair on 21 March 2014.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

Retirements:

Dr. S. K. Naik, Zonal Director retired on superannuation on 31 January 2014 from Visakhapatnam Base of FSI.

Obituary



Shri Brijeshkumar, Chief Engineer Gr. II of the Mumbai Base of Fishery Survey of India passed away on 2 January 2014. Shri Brijeshkumar, an efficient engineer with great enthusiasm was working with the Fishery Survey of India since 04 November 1978. The Director General and staff of FSI mourned his untimely death on 03 January 2014 at a condolence meeting held at FSI Mumbai (HQ).