

ON THE UNUSUAL LANDINGS OF TUNAS (PISCES : SCOMBRIDAE) ALONG
PARANGIPETTAI, SOUTHEAST COAST OF INDIA

ABSTRACT

An unusual heavy landing of juveniles of frigate mackerel *Auxis thazard* and little tuna *Euthynnus affinis* during October 1987 at Parangipettai landing centre, is reported in this short communication.

THE INDIAN mackerel *Rastrelliger kanagurta*, the spanish mackerels *Scomberomorus commerson*, *S. guttatus* and the tuna *Euthynnus affinis* are usually landed sporadically in gillnets with a mesh size of 30 mm during January to October every year along Parangipettai Coast. However, during October 1987 unusually heavy landings of juveniles of frigate mackerel *Auxis thazard* (245-282 mm TL) and the little tuna *Euthynnus affinis* (301-386 mm. TL) were observed at Parangipettai fish landing centre. A perusal of the literature indicated a similar observation made by Siraimetan (1985) along Tuticorin Coast. Though the period of occurrence at Tuticorin was from June to September,

he never attributed any reason for its unusual landings.

On enquiry at the fish landing centre at Parangipettai, the fishermen attributed two main reasons for the abundant catches of mackerel along this coast. The introduction of troll line for fishing mainly Barracudas using sardines and stolephorids as baits has resulted huge landings of frigate mackerel and little tuna. Hence, it is suggested that the introduction of troll line in a phased manner and by powering the non-mechanised boats to increase the mobility and capture efficiency, certainly the catches of mackerels and tunas could be enhanced considerably from this coast.

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REFERENCE

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