

Mesopelagic resources

- Belong to the family, Carangidae
- Carangid fishes in India is represented mainly by 36 species (21 genera).
- This included *Alectis indicus* (Indian thread-fin trevally), *A. ciliaris* (Redfin trevally), *Alepes djedaba* (Djedaba trevally), *A. para* (Golden scad), *Alepes kleini* (Trevally), *Atropus atropus* (Kuwest trevally), *Atule mate* (One-fin let scad), Carangids *Caranx sexfasciatus* (bigeye trevally), *C. carangus* (Black-tailed trevally), *C. ignobilis* (Yellowfin trevally), *C. melampygus* (Bluefin trevally), *C. para*, *Coryphaena hippurus* (Dolphinfish), *Carangoides armatus* (Longfin trevally), *C. malabaricus* (Malabar trevally), *C. oblongus* (Coach-whip trevally), *C. chrysophrys* (Long-nose trevally), *C. ferdau* (Ferdau's cavalla), *Decapterus russellii* (Round-scad or Indian scad), *D. kurroides* (scad), *D. dayi* (Day's scad), *Elegatis bipinnulata* (Rainbow runner), *Megalaspis cordyla* (Horse mackerel),
- *Rachycentron canadum* (Black kingfish), *Scomberoides lysan* (Talang leather-skin), *S. commersonianus* (Talang queen fish), *S. tala* (Deep queenfish), *S. tal* (Slender queenfish), *Selar hoops* (Banded scad), *S. crumenophthalmus* (Bigeye scad), *Seriolina nigrofasciata* (Black-banded kingfish), *Selaroides leptolepis* (Yellow - strip trevally), *Trachinotus blochii* (Sub-nose pompano) and *T. botla* (Russel's pompano).

• Distribution-Global

They are distributed in the warm waters of Indo-Pacific regions and Atlantic Ocean.

Distribution-India

They occur along both the east and west coasts of India. However, they are highly abundant in southern most states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala. They are confined in their distribution to shallow waters upto about 10 fathoms depth, where they breed.

Present fish production

- The total Carangid production during 2014 was estimated to be 2.1 lakh tonnes and in 2015, 2.43 lakh tonnes

Bombay duck (*Harpadon nehereus*)

- Belongs to the family, Harpadontidae, supported by this single species only.
- It forms a commercial fishery in the northwest along Gujarat and Maharastra coast; also available in northeast coasts of India. It exerts a pronounced influence on livelihood of men and women engaged in this labour intensive sector in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

• Distribution-Global

Along Tanzania to China coast; India, Pakistan, East Pakistan, Burma.

Distribution-India

Discontinuously distributed along Indian coasts. occurs in large quantities on west coast from Ratnagiri in south to Gulf of Cambay in north. On east coast, it is caught in small numbers north of Chennai and along the Andhra coast. But there is a good Bombay-duck fishery exists in the estuaries of rivers in Orissa and West Bengal.

• **Production trend**

This species contributes about 3% of all India marine fish landings. Average annual landings in 2015 has been estimated at 1.126 lakh tonnes.

- It is abundant along the northwest coast of India contributing around 90% of all India landings. Among various states, the state of Gujarat stands first with 28%.
- Bombayduck contributed to the tune of 9.43% to the fisheries of Gujarat and 9.6% to the fisheries of Maharashtra.

• **Size composition**

Fishes from 30-330 mm TL support the fishery.

Immature fish below 208 mm constitute 70% of landings.

Mode of exploitation

Stationary bag net / fixed bag net is the principal gear used for capture of Bombayduck. This gear is known as dol in Gujarat and Maharashtra and as beenjal/ behundijal or thorjal in West Bengal. Boat seines are used on the Andhra -Orissa Coasts.

• **Utilization**

The catches are sold fresh. As the yield is low in these days, commercial drying on bamboo scaffoldings which was very common in the past, does not take place now. It is also a valuable export item in dried or laminated form. Fresh extracts have considerable medicinal properties. It is a highly perishable fish due to high water content. Hence, it has to be disposed off quickly if it is to be consumed fresh.