

size/sustainability is concerned. The results of the finding are discussed in the paper.

FS PO 23

Diversity of species caught in ring seines off Cochin region, Kerala

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Total number of marine fishery resources landed along the Indian coast during 2015 was 735 species. Among the maritime states, Kerala recorded maximum number of species in the marine landings and the number increased by 70 compared to 2014 figures. The study was conducted from January to December 2016, to analyse the diversity of species caught in ring seines in Cochin area in different seasons (pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon) from different categories (small meshed type I, small meshed type II and large meshed) of ring seines based on indices of species richness, diversity and evenness. Ring seines with 10 mm mesh size are categorized as small meshed and 20 mm as large meshed. The study revealed the presence of 86 species belonging to 54 genera, 34 families, 14 orders and 5 classes from all three categories of ring seines. The Margalef richness indices showed highest value in small meshed ring seine type II during the pre-monsoon season and lowest value was observed in large mesh ring seine during the monsoon season. Diversity indices were highest in small meshed ring seine type II during the post-monsoon season and the lowest was observed in large mesh ring seine. The evenness indices showed highest value in small mesh ring seine type II during the post-monsoon season and lowest value was observed in

large mesh ring seine during the pre-monsoon season. Oil sardine (*Sardinella longiceps*) was the most dominant species landed in all the three types of ring seines. The study is important to understand the diversity of fish landed which will be helpful in management and conservation programmes.

FS PO 24

Non biodegradable marine debris in the fishing grounds along the peninsular coasts of India

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Non-biodegradable marine debris (NBMD) such as derelict fishing gears and their parts, polythene covers, carry bags, synthetic packaging materials etc. cause serious damages to the benthic ecosystem including the marine biota. Pollution by plastic debris is one of the major threats to marine life and plastics constitute most of the marine litter worldwide. We report here the monthly variation in the plastic marine debris and its relative percentage in the quantity of fish caught from the trawling grounds off Cochin, Ratnagiri and Mumbai along the west coast as well as from Visakhapatnam and Tuticorin along the east coast of India. The mean values of NBMD from the fishing grounds registered a maximum of 49.11 kg/km² off Mumbai and the lowest value of 2.25 kg/km² off Visakhapatnam. When the fishing grounds along the west coast showed steady increase in the mean weight of NBMD