

## Investigation on Lobster and crab resources

### Lobsters

- Estimated annual landing of lobsters (2001-05) is 1308 t. Gujarat (39%), Maharashtra (28%), Tamilnadu (16%) and Kerala (15%) are the major contributors to the total landing. Sharp fall in landings observed from 2001. Important species contributing to the fishery in each state are:

#### Major species of lobsters

State	Species
Gujarat	<i>Thenus orientalis</i> and <i>Panulirus polyphagus</i>
Maharashtra	<i>P. polyphagus</i>
Tamilnadu	<i>P. homarus</i> , <i>P. ornatus</i> , <i>T. orientalis</i>
Kerala	<i>Puerulus sewelli</i> , <i>P. homarus</i> , <i>T. orientalis</i>

- In Mumbai, *P. polyphagus* landing declined from 218 t (1978-85) to 122 t in 2004-05.
- Lobster landings in Gujarat declined from 1080 t in 2000 to 252 t in 2004.
- Large scale exploitation of egg bearing females by trawlers and juveniles by gillnets and trammel nets are major factors for decline in landings.
- Awareness created on negative impact of fishing egg bearing females and juveniles among fishermen, traders, exporters and State Governments through a series of interactive workshops held at Veraval, Mangrol, Porbander, Mumbai and Chennai under a collaborative project with Marine Products Export Development Authority.
- The Minimum Legal Size for export of lobsters recommended by CMFRI and endorsed by MPEDA was implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India through a Notification No. 16 (RE-2003)/2002-2007 dated 17 July, 2003.

#### Minimum Legal Size for export of lobsters from India

Species	Live /Chilled / frozen	Whole cooked	Tail
<i>Panulirus polyphagus</i>	300 g	250 g	90 g
<i>P. homarus</i>	200 g	170 g	50 g
<i>P. ornatus</i>	500 g	425 g	150 g
<i>Thenus orientalis</i>	150 g	-	45 g

## Crabs:

- The estimated average all India crab landing (2001-2005) was 37241 t.
- State-wise landing: Gujarat (43%), Tamilnadu (28%), Kerala (12%) and Andhra Pradesh (6%).
- *Portunus pelagicus*, the Blueswimming crab, is the most important commercial species; Other species of commercial value are *P. sanguinolentus*, *Charybdis feriatus*, *C. lucifera* and *Podophthalmus vigil*.
- Crabs appear as bycatch in trawls and also targeted by gillnet fishermen along the southeast coast.

	Centre-wise species
Veraval	<i>C. feriatus</i>
Mumbai	<i>C.feriatus</i>
Mangalore	<i>P. sanguinolentus</i> , <i>P. pelagicus</i> , <i>C. feriatus</i>
Cochin	<i>C. feriatus</i> , <i>P. sanguinolentus</i> , <i>P. pelagicus</i>
Vizhinjam	<i>P. sanguinolentus</i>
Tuticorin	<i>P. pelagicus</i> , <i>P. sanguinolentus</i>
Mandapam	<i>P. pelagicus</i>
Chennai	<i>P.sanguinolentus</i>
Kakinada	<i>P.sanguinolentus</i> , <i>C. lucifera</i>

- Multiday fishing in deeper waters resulted in improvement in crab catches. The *P. pelagicus* fishery along the southeast coast is facing fishing pressure due to increasing demand for the species in the export market.