Arrivals and price pattern of marine fish in Mangalore landing centre from 2000-2010

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ABSTRACT: India is one of the major fish producing countries in the world with third position in fisheries and second in aquaculture. Fish from Mangalore is sent to Chennai, Mumbai, Cochin and Bangalore. The price remains almost constant throughout the year for fish supplied to export companies but there is daily variation for fish supplied to domestic market. The relevant secondary sources of data were collected from the State Fisheries Department of Government of Karnataka. There is great fluctuation in arrivals and prices of marine fish in Mangalore landing centre. The arrivals in the months of June and July are the least due to the fishing ban held. The study revealed that the marine fish market is highly unpredictable and uncertain. Untimely and unseasonal rains result in lesser number of fishing days, which in turn results to the lesser arrivals.

KEY WORDS: Price pattern, Marine fish, Arrivals

harbour. About 160 tons of fish is traded at Mangalore harbour daily. Fish from Mangalore is sent to Chennai, Mumbai, Cochin and Bangalore. Fish is mainly sent by trucks. Fish is sent by train, especially to Mumbai and Chennai. During April - May, the fish load is sent mostly to Chennai where there is a fishing ban during this period. The price remains almost constant throughout the year for fish supplied to export companies but there is daily variation for fish supplied to domestic market. There are 2439 fishing boats registered till 2010.

The relevant secondary sources of data were collected from the State Fisheries Department of Government of Karnataka. The time series analysis was used to assess the seasonality in arrivals of marine fish. A multiplicative model was adopted considering the data from 2000-01 to 2009-10.

Arrivals in 2010 was highest with 148130 tons followed by 2003 with 103119. The lowest was recorded in 2001 with 56482 tons. In the year 2009 the arrival was 73202 tons which increased by 2.02 folds in the year 2010 reaching to 148130 tons. Fig. 1 reveals that there was great amount of fluctuation in arrivals of marine fish in Mangalore.

Fig. 1 : Arrivals of marine fish in Mangalore landing center over ten years

Prices recorded in 2010 were highest with 62976.4 lakhs. As the arrivals in the year 2010 were highest accordingly the price was highest. It was followed by the year 2003 with 51333.9 lakhs. The lowest was recorded in 2001 with 7328.2 lakh Rs. The information about the patterns of monthly arrivals of the marine fish in Mangalore is indicated in Fig. 2. The arrivals of the marine fish in the study area were less during June and July months of the year with 1359.7 tonnes and 453.9 tonnes, respectively. July record the least arrival over the year. But it shoots up in the months of September and October with 12280.8 tonnes and 12812.6 tonnes, respectively. The arrivals then again started decreasing during the months of November and December and remained almost stable upto March. The downtrend was observed in April that reached to the least in July (Fig. 3). Marine fish catch is prohibited during June and July. It is not only the monsoon months unsafe for fishing but also more importantly fish breeding season. Hence, arrivals

Fig. 2 : Prices of marine fish in Mangalore landing center over ten years

Fig. 3 : Pattern of monthly arrivals of marine fish

Fig. 4 : Average price of marine fish in different months

July (Fig. 3). Marine fish catch is prohibited during June and July. It is not only the monsoon months unsafe for fishing but also more importantly fish breeding season. Hence, arrivals
are less in June and July. Once, prohibition released the arrivals shoot up in September and October. It records the highest throughout the year and then decreases during the succeeding months.

The information about patterns of price of marine fish is shown in Fig. 4. The study indicated that the average prices of marine fish was maximum during the month of September (7123.23 lakh Rs./tone). The prices were very low in the month of June with (441.36 lakh Rs./tones). More fluctuation can be observed in prices. Bhat and Bhatia (2000), Songklanakarin (2006) and Kumar (2008) have made analysis and reports on market opportunities and trends in marine fish catches.

**Conclusion:**

The study suggests that there is great fluctuation in arrivals and prices of marine fish in Mangalore landing centre. The arrivals in the months of June and July were the least due to the fishing ban held. It is the breeding season for the fish. The study reveals that the marine fish market is highly unpredictable and uncertain. The arrivals and price of marine fish in Mangalore is directly dependent on the monsoon. Untimely and unseasonal rains result in lesser number of fishing days, which in turn results to the lesser arrivals.

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