

**LANDING DATA AND MEAT TRADE WITH *CHICOREUS RAMOSUS* &
PLEUROPLOCA TRAPEZIUM IN THE GULF OF MANNAR AND PALK BAY,
SOUTHEASTERN COAST OF INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

Monthly surveys were carried out at coastal villages of the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Bay, on the south-eastern coast of India. Sixteen potential landing centres were identified, 12 in Gulf of Mannar region and 4 in the Palk Bay region. The average monthly landings at all the 16 landing centres were calculated. The *Chicoreus ramosus* and *Pleuroploca trapezium* fishery is mainly associated with lobster fishery. Monsoon winds (northeast and southwest) influence these fisheries and hence the fishing season differs from one centre to another. The export value of the meat of these two gastropods has attracted the attention of the fisherfolk and it has emerged as an additional source of income for them. In addition to the fishermen involved in fishing these gastropods, there are about 60 other persons engaged in the gastropod meat trade. The mode of their activity and the problems of the trade is discussed.