STUDIES ON THE TRADITIONAL TRAP FISHERY OF KEELAKARAI COAST

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ABSTRACT – The study revealed the contribution of 56 species of marine ornamental fishes belonging to 23 families and 8 groups of food fishes belonging to 8 families in the traditional trap fishery of Keelakarai coast (Lat. 9° 14’ N and Long. 78° 47’ E). The analysis of the design details of the traps revealed the existence of 4 different designs viz. Type 1 – small trap with single entrance (0.04 m³), Type 2 - big trap with single entrance (0.43 m³), Type 3 - trap with double entrances (0.22 m³) and Type 4 – trap with triple entrances (0.21 m³). The most dominant species of ornamental fish in the trap catch was Pomacentrus caeruleus (16%) and that of food fish was Scarus spp. (25%). Significant differences could be observed in the catch rate of various families of ornamental fishes (P < 0.01) besides the impact of seasonal variation on catch rate (P < 0.01). These differences were significant in case of food fishes too (P < 0.01).

Key words : Trap fishing, marine ornamental fishes, food fishes