

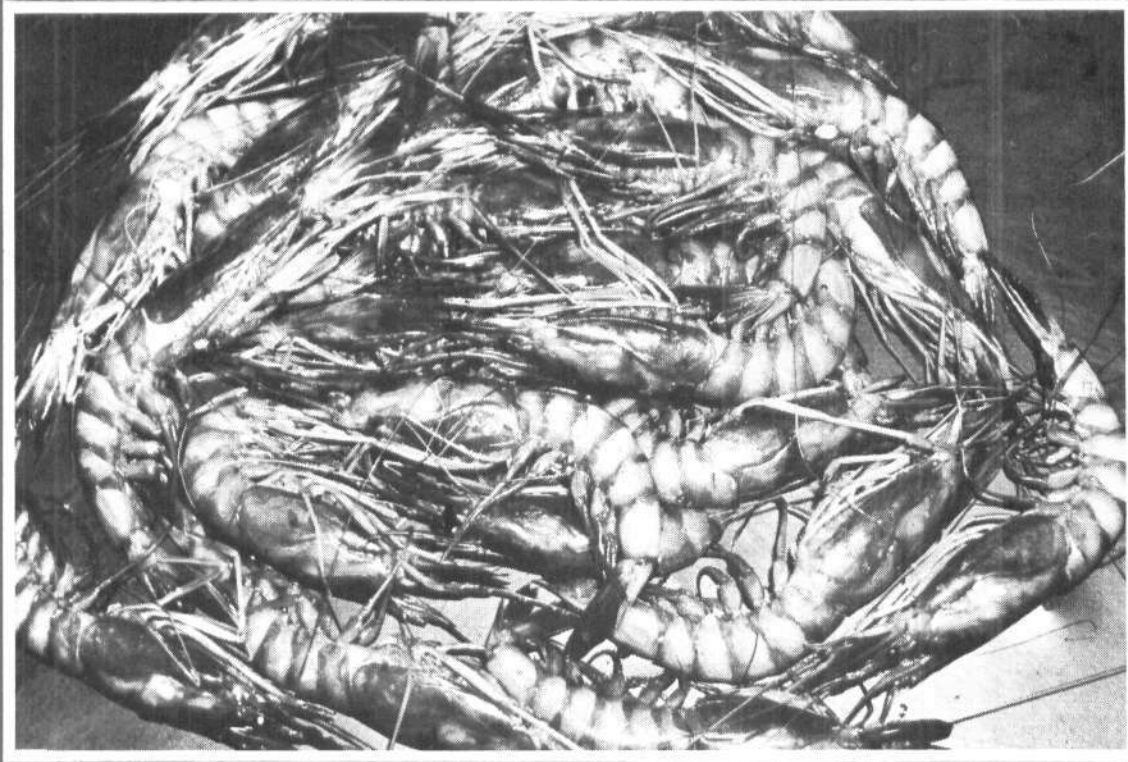
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# समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



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**On an incidental heavy catch of the ponyfish, *Secutor incidiator* and  
on the stranding of a loggerhead turtle, *Caretta caretta*  
at Digha, Midnapur district, West Bengal\***

The ponyfishes of the family Leiognathidae represented by various species of the genus *Leiognathus* contribute an important fishery along the Indian coasts while the genus *Secutor* of the same family comprising the species *Secutor ruconius* and *S. insidiator* occur in much lesser quantities in the catches. The present communication reports on the incidental heavy catch of the pony fish, *Secutor incidiator* at Digha landing centre on 17-12-1996 (Figs. 1 and 2). An estimated 1.6 tonnes of the species was caught by a single unit of the disco net locally called *Ghana jal* having a mesh size of 1.5-5.0 cm operated in the shallow coastal waters at a

depth of 7-8 m. Length measurements of the species revealed that the modal length 40-60 mm predominated the fishery. Due to less demand for human consumption, the entire catch was sold at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kg mainly for the preparation of fish meal. Incidentally, this appears to be the first record on the heavy catch of *S. incidiator* along the Indian coast.

On 16-1-1997 a dead male turtle identified to be the loggerhead turtle, *Caretta caretta* was stranded along the beach of Digha landing centre (Figs. 3 & 4). The turtle weighed about 55 kg with the carapace length and width of 75 and 60 cm respectively.

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