

Traditional Thermocol Cephalopod Jigging Platforms used in Palk Bay region of Ramanathapuram District

V. Naganandhini¹, Kalaiarasan Muthupandi², K. Vasanth¹ and V. Lakshme Gayathre³

¹PG Scholar, TNJFU – Directorate of Incubation and Vocational Training in Fisheries, Ariyaman Beach, Ramanathapuram

²Assistant Professor, TNJFU – Directorate of Incubation and Vocational Training in Fisheries, Ariyaman Beach, Ramanathapuram

³ Assistant Professor, TNJFU – Dr.M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Thalainayeru, Nagapattinam

SUMMARY

Cephalopods jigging platforms made from polystyrene are extensively used among the fishermen of Palk Bay coast of Ramanathapuram district. Three types of platforms are used in the Palk Bay region of Ramanathapuram District. The cost towards the making of the traditional thermocol platform was Rs.3,000/- to 5,000/- and the life expectancy is 1 year to 2 years. Jigging is the one of the important fishing method already emerged and it is operated through the coastal area fishermen along the Indian coast for his daily live hood. Using the platform for jigging with natural aggregated object the jigging method becomes very easy. Using this platform the fishermen travel 1km to operate jigging. It is carried out during the months from March to July.

INTRODUCTION

Cephalopod jigging is the best fishing method for selectively harvesting a higher quantity of squids in the Indian seawaters. 'Jig' is a spindle-shaped structure with hooks fixed circularly with a lead weight at the end without a baitfish. In Cephalopod Jigging, jigs act as lures that are intensely colored to attract squids. In Cephalopod jigging using platform the fishermen use the plant *Phoenix sylvestris* (*Eechamaram*) as the attractant. During previous days the Palk Bay fishermen used handmade wooden fish like structure with hooks tied with the wooden fish. Now a days fishermen modified the artificial jig to make it enough strong to catch the Cephalopods.

Construction

The platform is of trapezoid shape. There are two different types of platform structures used based on the distance of fishing from the ground. The small size is operated within 8 nautical miles and the medium and large size is operated beyond 8 nautical miles. These three types are the most commonly used platforms. All the polystyrene sheets are tied to each other with the help of polypropylene ropes. Bamboo poles are attached to both sides of the platform in order to increase its strength. Finally the structure is covered with white woven polypropylene sheets. The gap between the polystyrene is sealed with tapes to prevent the water intrusion .The design features of the platforms are as follows:

Sl. No.	Description	Small	Medium	Large
1.	Total length	1.50 m	1.65 m	2.0 m
2.	Breadth	Top	0.3 m	0.3 m
		Bottom	0.6 m	0.75 m
3.	Thickness	120 mm	120 mm	120 mm
4.	Polystyrene sheet thickness	25 mm	35 mm	50 mm
5.	No. of sheets	4	4	4
6.	Bamboo stick length	Middle – 1.50 m Sides – 1.35 m	Middle – 1.65 m Sides – 1.45 m	Middle – 2 m; Sides – 1.8 m
7.	Bamboo stick thickness	Middle – 20mm Sides – 10mm	Middle – 25mm Sides – 15mm	Middle – 30mm Sides – 20mm
8.	Polypropylene rope thickness	1 mm dia.	1 mm dia.	1 mm dia.
9.	Cover sheet material	White woven polypropylene		White woven polypropylene



Fig.1. Small size



Fig.2. Medium size



Fig.3. Large size



CONCLUSION

As the method of construction is easy, fishermen construct by themselves based on their preference and spend an amount of approximately Rs.3000 to Rs.5000 based on the size for construction. This method is highly efficient as it has no fuel cost. By using this platform each fisherman can cover large area for operating the jigs.

REFERENCES

- Balasubramanian, T.S., Rajamanickam, S., Kasim H.M., Ameer Hamsa. K.M.S., 1995. Emergence of hand jigging for cephalopods along Tuticorin coast. *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T and E ser.*, 37, 13-16.
- Sundram, S, Desmuk, V.D., 2011. On the emergence of squid jigging in India. *Fishing chimes*, 30(12), 18-20.
- Venkatesan, V., Shanmugavel, A., 2008. Note on hand jigging fishery for squids and cuttle fishes at Devipattinam in the Palk Bay and Keelakarai in the Gulf of Mannar, South east coast of India, *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T and E.ser*, 197, 11-12.
- Nair, K. P. 1985. Hand-jigging for cuttlefish at Vizhinjam with a note on modern squid jigging. In: E.G. Silas (Ed.) Cephalopod bionomics, fisheries and resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone of India. Bull. Cent. Mar. Fis. Res. Inst., 37:152-156.