

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Operational characteristics, design and technical specifications of *Rampan* nets of Ratnagiri (Maharashtra)

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ABSTRACT..... A study on design characteristics of *Rampan* net of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra showed that, main webbing of the nets were fabricated with polyethylene multifilament of diameter 1.5 mm. The present study deals with design, technical specifications and operation of *Rampan* nets (*Rapan*) operated off Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. The nets were made of webbings of polyethylene multifilament of 210Dx5x3 having mesh sizes ranging from 15 to 40 mm. The *Rampan* net fishing sector of Ratnagiri comes under the category of 'small scale traditional fisheries'.

KEY WORDS..... Design, *Rampan* net, Polyethylene multifilament

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INTRODUCTION.....

Rampan nets, owing to their simplicity in design, construction and operation remain as the popular gear especially in the traditional sector. Seine nets with smaller and larger mesh size are operated in Vembanad lake (Remesan and Ramachandran, 2007). Design and general characteristics of beach seine nets of Burla have been discussed by George *et al.* (1983). Shore seine of Karnataka has been described by Vaidya *et al.* (2010). Various aspects of beach seine nets operated along the coast of India were studied by Remesan and Ramachandran (2007) and Rajeswari and Prakash (2007). However, the design and technical details of *Rampan* nets of Ratnagiri were not reported. The present study is the first attempt on the documentation of the design and technical specifications of *Rampan* nets operated from Ratnagiri.

RESEARCH METHODS.....

The study was carried out during the period August, 2011 to May, 2012. The detailed specifications regarding the design and construction of *Rampan* nets operated off Ratnagiri were collected by physically sampling, the units in operation.

Structure schedules were prepared which comprised of two major sections. The first section dealt with the particulars of *Rampan* owner and the fishing boats used for the *Rampan* operation. The second section dealt with design characteristics, rigging and mode of operation of the *Rampan* net used by the fishermen of Ratnagiri. The data were recorded according to Sreekrishna and Shenoy (2001) and George *et al.* (1983) while the design of the gear was documented as per Nedelec (1975).

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS.....

The findings obtained from the present investigation are presented below:

Operation :

Rampan is an old age traditional fishing method operated from Mirya beach in Ratnagiri and was locally called '*Rampan*' (Photo 1). Normally the *Rampan* boat was positioned on the sandy beach at a distance of about 15–20m from the water line, on 4–5 wooden logs. The net and the ropes were rigged and stacked in the boat in a specific manner so as to facilitate