

Record of three species of flying fish from Mumbai waters

On 26-5-07, a shoal of flying fish was landed by trawler at New Ferry Wharf. The total catch weighed about 50 kg.

The species *Hirundichthys oxycephalus* dominated with 70% of the total catch followed by *Cheilopogon suttoni* (25%), and *C. nigricans* (5%) (Plate 1-3). The catch was taken to the local market and sold at the rate of Rs.30/Kg.

Flyingfish is a tropical pelagic fish and they probably migrate towards shallow water areas near the shores for food. During the last one week before the landings, the sea was very turbulent. Turbulence generally results in transport of nutrients from deeper waters, inducing increased planktonic production and hence the occurrence.

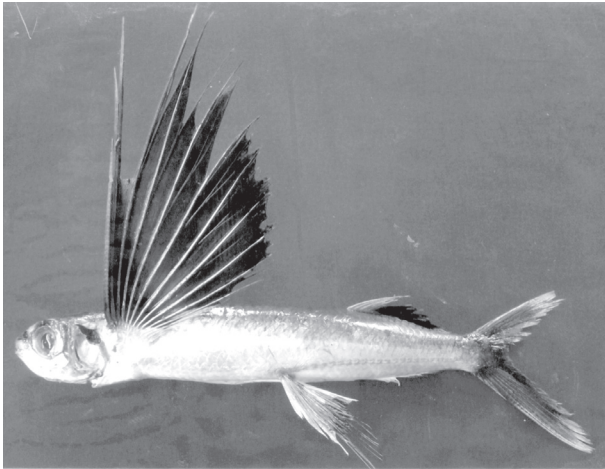


Plate 1. *Cheilopogon nigricans* (Bennett, 1840)

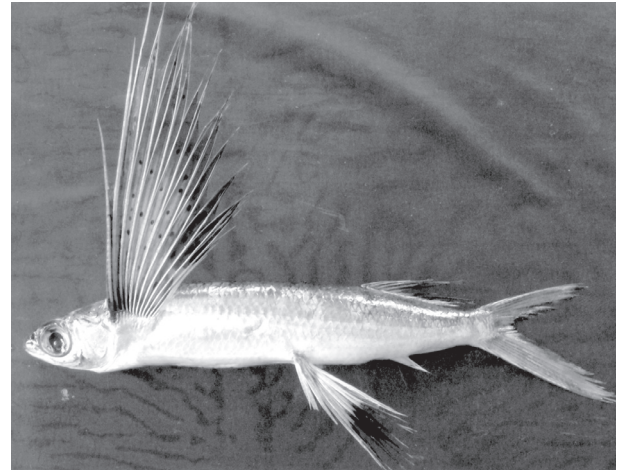


Plate 2. *Cheilopogon suttoni* (Whitley & Colefax, 1938)



Plate 3. *Hirundichthys oxycephalus* (Bleeker, 1852)

S.D. Kamble, Sujit Sundaram, Miriam Paul Sreeram and J.D. Sarang, *Mumbai Research centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mumbai.*