



**Geographical Distribution
and
Fishery information**

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND FISHERY INFORMATION

The catfishes have been reported from the freshwater bodies of Europe, Africa and Asia, but *Mystus seenghala* is restricted only to Asia to the suitable environmental conditions of Asian regions such as India, Pakistan, Burma, Bangladesh and Ceylon. It is known to occur in ponds, lakes, rivers, streams and ditches. The fish is known to occur in Ganga river system and its tributaries in north India, the Brahmaputra in Assam, the Mahanadi system in Orissa, the Narmada and Tapti in central India, the Godawri, the Krishna and the Cauveri river system in peninsular India and Indus system in Punjab.

A survey was done to find out the distribution of the fish *Mystus seenghala* which landed at different places of the country such as Varansi, Jaunpur, Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi), Mirzapur, Allahabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Mathura, Bareilly and Muzaffar Nagar districts of Uttar Pradesh; Mussoorie, Hardwar, Garhwal, Almorah districts of Uttaranchal; Muzaffarpur, Patna, Gaya, Madhubani districts of Bihar; Burdwan, Hoogly, Kolkata in West Bengal and in Delhi. The number of fish landed from different rivers,

tributaries and distributaries in different months of the year was highly variable because of the change in physical factors and availability of food in the reservoirs.

Fisheries Information

The cat fish, *Mystus seenghala* is considered one of the dominant species of cat fish fishery of major river systems of India. It is considered to be a good table fish not only in Uttar Pradesh but throughout India and neighbouring countries. This fish is particularly popular in those areas of the country where people relish fish without bones. The fish attains a length of 13 cm. However, the size ranging between 13-48 cm. in length have been recorded in the present study. The fish is commonly captured by using cast and drag nets and traps. Demand for the fish always exceeds its supply particularly in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The taste of the flesh of the fish is also said to be a little variable depending upon the quality of water present in different rivers and reservoirs.