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Canning
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DPHT II

ICE STORAGE CHARACTERISTICS OF PERCH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS SUITABILITY FOR CANNING

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Perch (*Pagrus spinifer*), one of the most abundantly available fishes of Gujarat coast, was subjected to a detailed study for assessing its storage life in ice and amenability of the iced fish for canning. Changes in the salt soluble nitrogenous material and myosin content of the iced fish showed good correlation with the changes in the organoleptic and physical qualities. The fish was found to have a storage life of 9 days in ice and samples stored upto 7 days were suitable for canning.

INTRODUCTION

Perch (*Pagrus spinifer*) is one of the most abundantly available fishes of Gujarat coast. The landings of perch in India for the period 1970-1974 are given in Table I. At present it fetches only very poor returns. This is mainly due to the ignorance of the fish processors about the quality and processing characteristics of the fish. From the preliminary experiments carried out on the processing of the fish at this Research Centre it was observed that an excellent canned product could be obtained if properly handled fresh fish were utilized for the purpose.

Studies on the changes in the quality

of various commercially important species of fishes of India during storage in ice have been reported earlier (Venkataraman, Prabhu and Mankad, 1966; Govindan, 1962, 1964; Velankar, 1961). Suitability of ice stored mackerel and sardine for canning has been studied by Madhavan, Balachandran and Choudhuri (1970). But a similar study on the ice storage and amenability of ice stored material to canning has been attempted only for few species of the fishes available on the Gujarat coast (Venkataraman, Kandoran and Raje, 1970). This paper reports results of a study on ice storage of perch and suitability of the ice stored material for canning.

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