

**RESEARCH ARTICLE****BIOTECHNOLOGY****ASSESSMENT OF PROXIMATE AND MINERAL COMPOSITION OF TWENTY EDIBLE FISHES OF PARANGIPETTAI COASTAL WATERS****G.MARICHAMY\*, M.A.BADHUL HAQ, R.VIGNESH, V.SEDHURAMAN AND A.R.NAZAR****Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Faculty of Marine Sciences, Annamalai University  
Parangipettai 608 502, Tamil Nadu, India****G.MARICHAMY****Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Faculty of Marine Sciences, Annamalai  
University Parangipettai 608 502, Tamil Nadu, India****ABSTRACT**

The measurement of some proximate profiles such as protein contents, lipids and moisture contents in fish by products is often necessary to ensure that they meet the requirements of food regulations in nutrition aspects and commercial specifications. Minerals are essential nutrients, they are components of many enzymes and metabolism, and contribute also to the growth of the fish. The human body usually contains small amount of these minerals and the deficiency in these principal nutritional elements induces a lot of malfunctioning; as it reduces productivity and causes diseases. Fish received increased attention as a potential source of animal protein and essential nutrients for human. It should be considered that fish tissue presents elevated nutritional significance and therefore is a particularly optional dietary module. The objective of this work was to analyze the proximate and mineral composition of twenty edible fishes of parangipettai coast.

## KEYWORDS

Proximate, nutrition, minerals, diet, edible

## INTRODUCTION

Fish received increased attention as a potential source of animal protein and essential nutrients for human diets<sup>1-4</sup>. Fish meat contains significantly low lipids and higher water content than beef or chicken and is favored over other white or red meats<sup>5, 6</sup>. The nutritional value of fish meat comprises the contents of moisture, dry matter, protein, lipids, vitamins and minerals plus the caloric value of the fish<sup>7-9</sup>. Minerals are essential nutrients, components of many enzymes and metabolism, and contribute also to the growth of the fish<sup>10</sup>. The human body usually contains small amount of these minerals and the deficiency in these principal nutritional elements induces a lot of malfunctioning; as it reduces productivity and causes diseases<sup>11</sup>. Besides being used as food, fish is also increasingly demanded for use as feed. However, information concerning the chemical composition of freshwater fishes in general is valuable to nutritionists concerned with readily available sources of low-fat, high-protein foods such as most freshwater fishes<sup>12-14</sup>. Changes in fatty acid and amino acid concentrations were found to be useful as an index of freshness and decomposition of marinated fish in storage<sup>15</sup>. Likewise, different cooking methods affect the quality of fish meat<sup>16</sup>. Moreover, the measurement of some proximate profiles such as protein contents, lipids and moisture contents is often necessary to ensure that they meet the requirements of food regulations and commercial specifications<sup>17</sup>. Protein from fish tissue is characterized by a desirable amino acid composition. The tissue is

also rich in vitamins A, D and the B group. In addition, fishes are a good source of micro and macro-elements such as calcium, phosphorus, selenium and manganese<sup>18</sup>. Muscle<sup>19, 20</sup> and waste of fish, such as the head are the key sources of very-long-chain (number of carbons  $\geq 20$ ) polyunsaturated fatty acids (n-3 VLC-PUFAs), which have beneficial and even therapeutic effects on human health<sup>21-24</sup>. Eicosapentaenoic (EPA, 20:5n-6) and docosahexaenoic (DHA, 22:6n-3) fatty acids have been the subject of innumerable studies in the past few decades, being important for their various benefits to human health, including lowering the risk of cardiovascular diseases<sup>24-26</sup>, anti-inflammatory and antithrombotic effects<sup>27</sup>, reduction of blood cholesterol levels and cancer prevention<sup>28</sup>.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### *Collection of sample*

Twenty Specimens were collected by using gill net and some are by hand picking. After samples were identified using FAO sheet and field manuals, physical measurements were made for all the specimens. Samples were handled with cleaned stainless steel equipments. All samples were stored frozen until analysis. Only muscle tissue was analyzed for the determination of proximate composition, fatty acids and minerals. The edible portions of all fishes were calculated. The list of species used is listed in table 1.

**Table 1**  
**List of Marine fishes utilized in the study**

Sl. No	Fish name	Sl. No	Fish name
1	<i>Congresox talabon</i>	11	<i>Hilsa ilisha</i>
2	<i>Arius dussumieri</i>	12	<i>Elutherenema tetradactylum</i>
3	<i>Dussumieria acuta</i>	13	<i>Sphyraena obtusa</i>
4	<i>Opisthopterus tardoore</i>	14	<i>Siganus javus</i>
5	<i>Scomberoides commersonianus</i>	15	<i>Carangoides malabaricus</i>
6	<i>Megalapsis cardyla</i>	16	<i>Rastrilliger kanagurta</i>
7	<i>Carangoides chrysophrys</i>	17	<i>Uppenus sulphureus</i>
8	<i>Caranx para</i>	18	<i>Liza partia</i>
9	<i>Secutor insidiator</i>	19	<i>Ihisha melastoma</i>
10	<i>Sardinella longiceps</i>	20	<i>Johinus borneensis</i>

### **Total Protein**

The Folin-Ciocalten Phenol method of Lowery *et al.*,<sup>29</sup> was used for the determination of the total protein in the tissue.

### **Lipids**

The lipid content was estimated by the procedure given by Folch *et al.*,<sup>30</sup>.

### **Carbohydrates**

The total carbohydrate was estimated by Phenol- Sulphuric acid method described by Dubois *et al.*<sup>31</sup>.

### **Water content**

The total amount of water content in the fish was estimated by drying a known mass of fish muscle in a hot air oven at 70°C for 24hrs. The difference in weight before and after drying is the amount of moisture present and the result are represented in percentage of wet weight of the muscle.

### **Ash**

The ash content was estimated by burning oven-dried sample in a muffle furnace at 550c by AOAC<sup>32</sup>.

### **Trace metals**

The analysis of trace metals was carried out using the method suggested by Alasalvar *et al.*,<sup>33</sup>.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Proximate composition**

In this present study we investigated the length-weight relationship and edible portion of the 20 different marine edible fishes. The proximate compositions from edible tissues were determined and the results were tabulated. Table 2 gives the data on length-weight relationship and edible portion of the 20 different fishes. Data on moisture, protein, fat and ash content expressed as percentage (%) composition per 100% of edible portion, of the twenty raw fish species are presented in Table 3(a & b). Wide variation in moisture content between species was observed in fishes ranging from 60-79%/100%. The moisture content of marine fish averaged 74%. The maximum water content was observed in *Secutor incidiator* while minimum was observed in *Scomberoides commersonianus* and it had significantly lower water content than the other fish species

**Table: 2**  
**Percentage composition of edible portions in fishes**

Sl. No	Fish name	Length in cm	Weight in gm	Edible portion in gm	% of Edible portion
1	<i>Congresox talabon</i>	72.5	613	323.4	52.75
2	<i>Arius dussumieri</i>	20.8	126	82	65
3	<i>Dussumieria acuta</i>	18.1	98.9	54.3	54.9
4	<i>Opisthopterus tardoore</i>	19.1	134	75.1	56
5	<i>Scomberoides commersonianus</i>	28.5	142.9	80.4	56.2
6	<i>Megalapsis cardyla</i>	24.2	102	67.9	66.5
7	<i>Carangoides chrysophrys</i>	20.3	98.3	51.6	52.4
8	<i>Caranx para</i>	13.8	64.7	32.5	50.2
9	<i>Secutor insidiator</i>	10.3	26.8	8	29.85
10	<i>Sardinella longiceps</i>	18.2	60.32	34.7	57.5
11	<i>Hilsa ilisha</i>	19.9	76.98	40	51.9
12	<i>Elutherenema tetradactylum</i>	22	90.70	51.2	56.4
13	<i>Sphyræna obtusa</i>	28	127.20	62	48.7
14	<i>Siganus javus</i>	14	41.10	15.3	37.2
15	<i>Carangoides malabaricus</i>	13.6	19.10	8.2	42.9
16	<i>Rastrilliger kanagurta</i>	20.1	91.42	63.1	69
17	<i>Uppenus sulphureus</i>	16	58.72	36.9	62.8
18	<i>Liza partia</i>	19.4	69.22	33.3	48.1
19	<i>Ihisha melastoma</i>	18.1	56.60	37.1	65.5
20	<i>Johinus borneensis</i>	19.8	92.64	56.9	61.4

**Table: 3 (a)**  
**Percentage Proximate Compositions of 20 Different Marine Fishes**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Edible portion	52.75	65	54.9	56	56.2	66.5	52.4	50.2	29.85	57.5
Protein	34.54	41.08	56.46	48.55	38.74	34.32	40.26	38.27	43.98	26.37
Lipids	16.2	19.52	8.9	5.42	18	9.525	16.275	11.325	20.975	20.1
Carbohydrate	5.83	6	5.9	3.2	4.1	3.38	2.87	1.64	5.8	6.41
Water	78.13	70.82	69.82	78.88	60.63	61.31	78.17	78.63	79.64	69.13
Ash	1.7	0.91	1.125	0.31	0.87	0.56	0.01	0.761	0.143	0.943

**Table: 3 (b)**  
**Percentage Proximate Compositions of 20 Different Marine Fishes**

	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Edible portion	51.9	56.4	48.7	37.2	42.9	69	62.8	48.1	65.5	61.4
Protein	37.17	46	57.61	40.98	35.8	48.3	37.94	36.57	42.29	41.02
Lipids	12.72	1.275	0.525	1.1775	1.17	6.825	16.15	8.75	18.47	8.05
Carbohydrate	4.51	2.09	6.44	4.42	5.41	3.8	6.7	5.35	2.24	3.74
Water	72.9	78.13	77	76.6	75.82	76.36	74.46	73.86	69.32	78.79
Ash	1.25	0.56	1.6	0.953	0.359	0.781	0.5	0.439	0.857	0.5

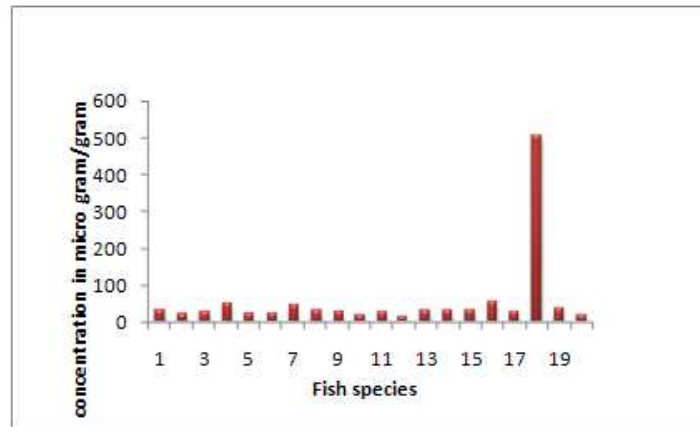
In this study the moisture and crude ash content of these fish species ranging from 60.63-79.64% and 0.01-1.7% respectively. Protein content of *Dussumieria acuta* and *Sphyraena obtusa* was the highest (57%) among all species, followed by *Opisthopterus tardoore* and *Rastrilliger kanagurta* (48%) and the others. The maximum value of protein content (dry weight) was observed in (26%) in *Sardinella longiceps* wide variation in protein content between species was observed in marine fishes ranging from 26-57%. However, the carbohydrate content was found maximum in *Sphyraena obtuse* (6.44%) and less in *Caranx para* (1.64%). There was variation in the lipid content of 20 different fishes as indicated in table 2. The lowest percentage of lipids were obtained in *Sphyraena obtuse*, (0.52%), *Siganus javus* (1.17%), *Elutherenema tetradactylum* (1.27%) and *Carangoides malabaricus* (1.17%) while the highest lipid content was obtained in *Secutor incidiator* (20.97%), *Sardinella longiceps* (20.1%) and *Arius dussumieri* (19.52%) and it was closely

followed by other fish species. In conclusion the routine analysis of fish proximate composition is an important in determining the nutrient composition of fishes and better understanding of human nutrition.

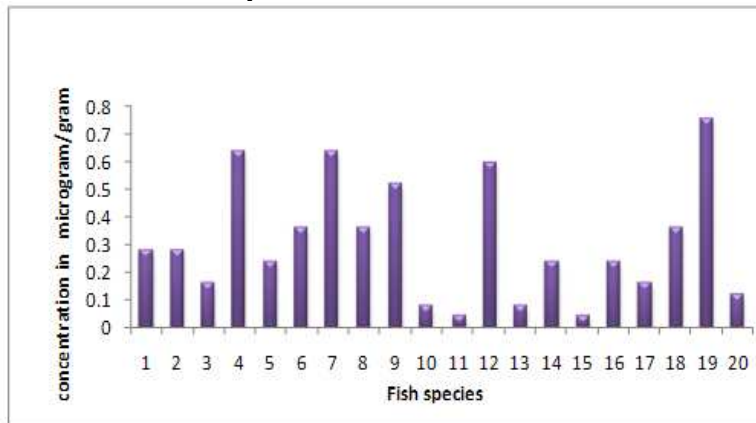
### Minerals

The elemental concentrations of the twenty fish species are shown in figures 1-10. The elemental concentrations of the fishes are expressed in  $\mu\text{g/g}$  except for Cu and Mg which are expressed in mg/g dry weight for greater accuracy. The ranges of concentrations are as follows Al (13.44-508) Fig 1, Cd (0.16-0.76) Fig 2, Co (0.4-0.76) Fig 3, Cr (6.6-38.52) Fig 4, Fe (61.12-11.084) Fig 5, Mn (2.84-113.68) Fig 6, Ni (0.84-26.4) Fig 7, Zn (1.78-115.44) Fig 8 and Cu (9.12-1389.6) Fig 9. The Mg concentration (Fig 10) is expressed as 0.001-1.42 mg/g for greater accuracy. Zn is an essential mineral for humans was present in the amount of ranging from 1.78 $\mu\text{g}$  in *Sphyraena obtuse* up to 115.44  $\mu\text{g}$  in *Secutor incidiator*.

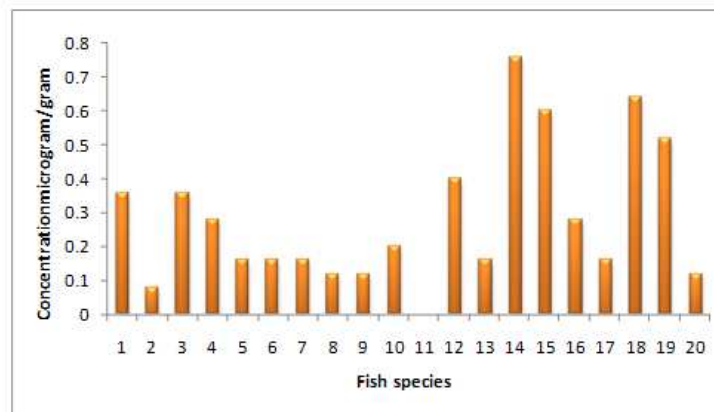
**Figure:1**  
**Composition of Al in fishes**



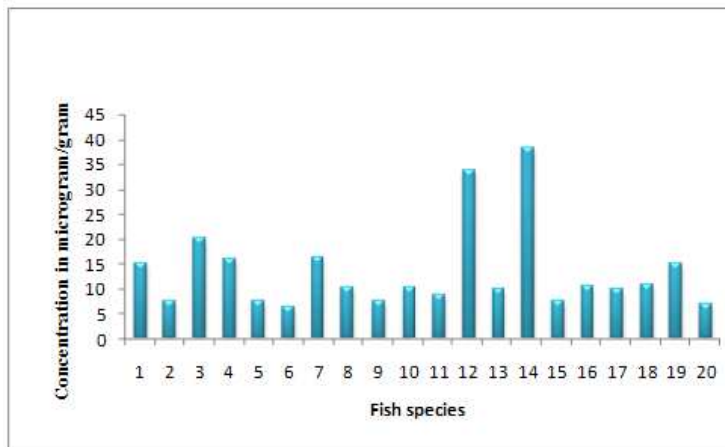
**Figure:2**  
**Composition of Cd in fishes**



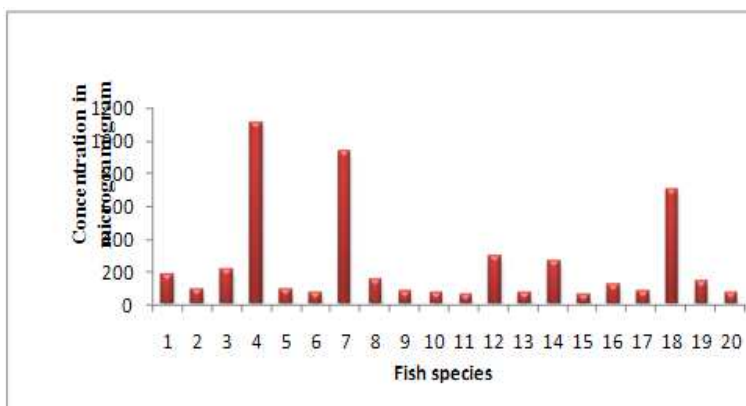
**Figure:3**  
**Composition of Co in fishes**



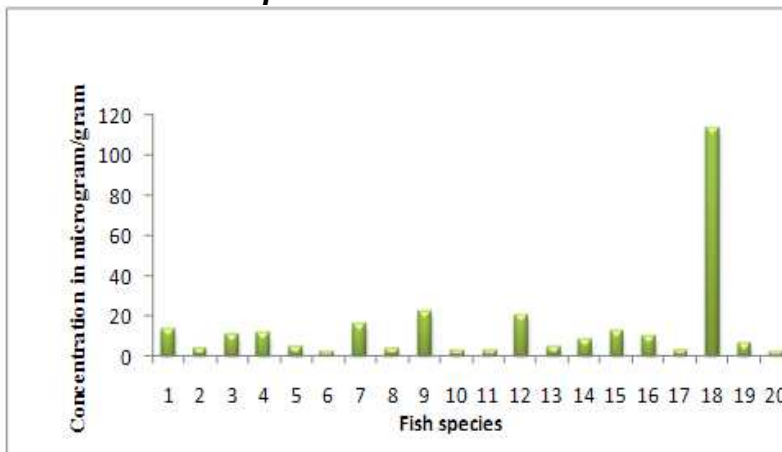
**Figure:4**  
**Composition of Cr in fishes**



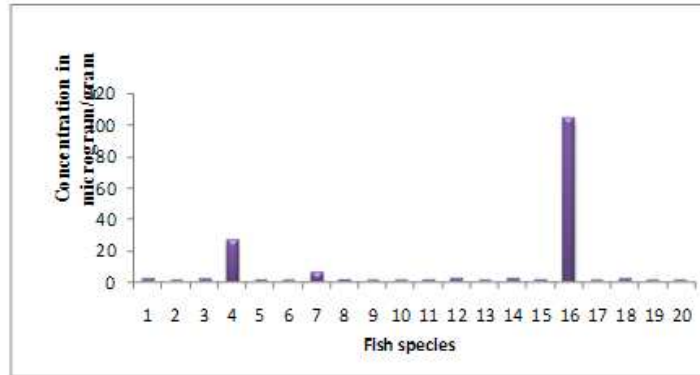
**Figure:5**  
**Composition of Fe in fishes**



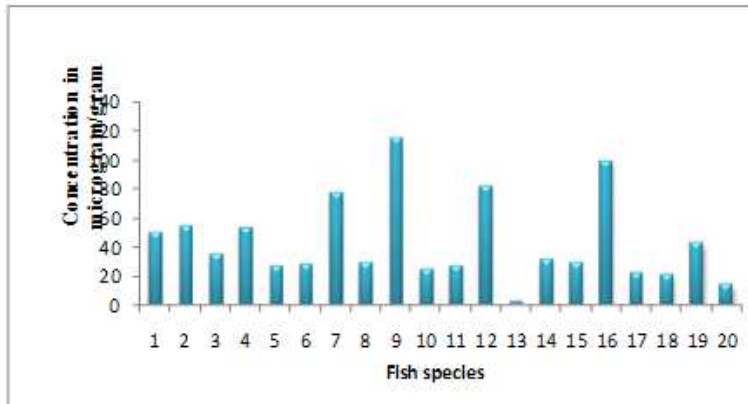
**Figure:6**  
**Composition of Mn in fishes**



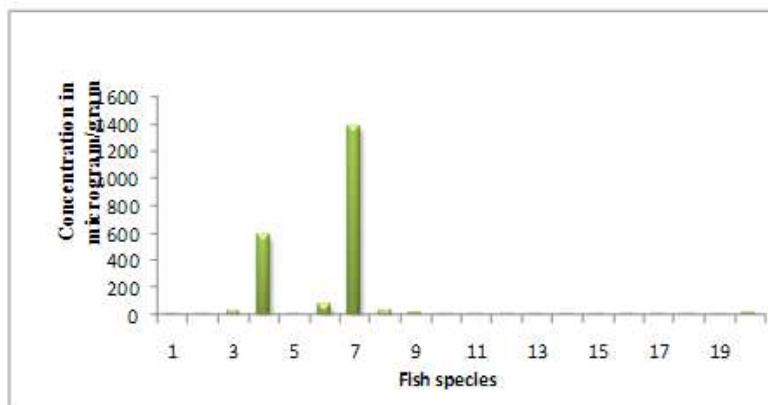
**Figure:7**  
**Composition of Ni in fishes**



**Figure:8**  
**Composition of Zn in fishes**

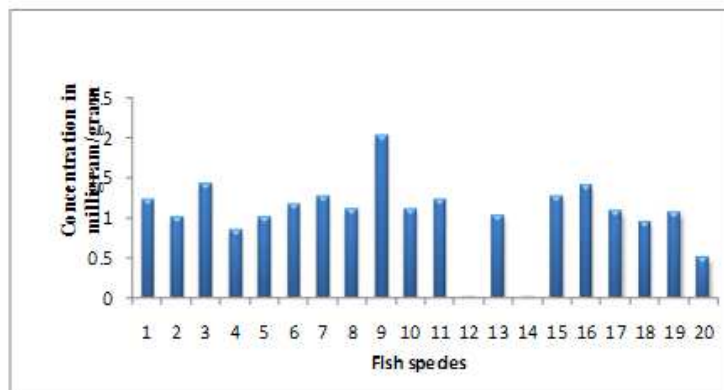


**Figure:9**  
**Composition of Cu in fishes**





**Figure:10**  
**Composition of Mg in fishes**



Among the ten nutrient elements investigated the most abundant was Mg followed by Fe and Al. Cu levels ranged from 9.12  $\mu\text{g/g}$  in *Sardinella longiceps* to 1389.6  $\mu\text{g/g}$  in *Carangoides chrysophrys*. Compared with other fish species *Carangoides chrysophrys* is notably higher in Cu value. Ni is ranged from less than 1 $\mu\text{g/g}$  in *Arius dussumieri* to 26.4 $\mu\text{g/g}$  in *Opisthopterus dardoore*. Zn is known to be involved in most metabolic pathways in plants, animals and hormones. The Al compound of the twenty different fish species of this study similar that the above results. Iron has several vital functions in the body. It serves as a carrier of oxygen to the tissues from lungs by red blood cell haemoglobin, as a transport medium for electrons, within cells and as an integrated part of important enzyme systems in various tissues. Adequate iron in the diet is very important for decreasing the incidence of Anemia, which is considered a major health problem, especially in young children. Sea foods especially darker fleshed fish, are reasonably good sources of iron, supplying 1-2mg/100g of muscle (Kinsella,1998). Iron contents of these fishes considerably higher composition in *Opisthopterus dardoore* (1.10 $\mu\text{g/g}$ ), followed by *Carangoides chrysophrys* (9.42 $\mu\text{g/g}$ ), *Siganus javus*(268.48 $\mu\text{g/g}$ ), *Dussumieria acuta* (219.444 $\mu\text{g/g}$ ) and *Ilisha melastoma* (140.52  $\mu\text{g/g}$ ) The Mg content was found to be higher

level in all species more than 1 $\mu\text{g/g}$ . The Mn content of these fishes were found to be the range of 2.25 – 113.68  $\mu\text{g/g}$ . Relatively very low levels of Cd and Co were observed in the tissues of tested fish samples Cd and Co concentration were observed less than 1  $\mu\text{g/g}$ . Among these Cd and Co concentrations, most of the fishes had below detectable limit values. The concentration of Cd in the tissues varied from 0.16 – 0.76  $\mu\text{g/g}$  and the concentration of Co varied from 0.36 – 0.76  $\mu\text{g/g}$ . Chromium concentrations of all these fishes analyzed ranged from 6.6  $\mu\text{g/g}$  – 38.52 $\mu\text{g/g}$ . Cobalt is beneficial for human because it is part of Vitamin B12. The cobalt concentrations in these fishes were ranged from 0.0 – 0.76  $\mu\text{g/g}$ . Both the Co and Cr values are not effective for human bodies and it is favorable to the human nutrients.

## CONCLUSION

Consumption of fishes and other marine products has always been a major factor in the economy and nutrition of the coastal inhabitants. India with its immense coastal line has tremendous potential in terms of marine food capital. Fishes are a potential source of minerals such as potassium, phosphorus, iron, sodium,

magnesium, iodine and calcium. Mineral components are very much needed for human nutrition. The trace elements like Iron, manganese and iodine which are essential for normal tissue metabolism and for maintenance of health are ample in fishes. The major source of exposure of humans to heavy metals is through food ingestion. For adequate physiological function, humans require adequate intakes of some essential elements such as sodium, calcium, potassium, magnesium,

manganese, selenium, chromium (III), copper, cobalt, iron and zinc. However, humans may be exposed to harmful non essential elements such as arsenic, silver, lead mercury, cadmium and nickel mainly through drinking water consumption, fresh and processed foods and through occupational exposures. In conclusion the routine analysis of fish proximate composition is an important in determining the nutrient composition of fishes and better understanding of human nutrition.

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