

Accidental catch of whale shark landed at Munambam Fisheries Harbour

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A whale shark, *Rhincodon typus* measuring 2.5 m in length and weighing approximately 250 kg was landed at Munambam Fisheries Harbour, Kochi on 28.04.2016. The shark was accidentally caught in a gill net set by local fishermen and was brought to the harbour. The whale shark is protected under schedule I of Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Appendix II of CITES and is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List. The local fishermen who caught the shark probably were unaware of its protected status. The incident shows the relevance of awareness campaigns and sensitisation among fishermen regarding protected species like whale sharks.



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