

Sharptail mola landed at Thoothukudi

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A large Sharptail mola (*Masturus lanceolatus*) measuring 180 cm in Total length (TL) landed on 28.07.2016 at Tharuvaikulam Landing Centre, Gulf of Mannar. Interaction with the local fishermen indicated that it was caught at a depth of 150 m in a drift gill net conducting multiday fishing for 4-5 days about 40 km from shore. Morphometric measurements were recorded as standard length (SL) 135 cm, body depth 90 cm, head length 41 cm, eye diameter 7 cm, snout length 20 cm, dorsal fin length 62 cm, pectoral fin length 19 cm, anal

fin length 56 cm and caudal fin length at pointed tip 47 cm. The specimen weighed 70 kg. The first report of *Masturus lanceolatus* from Gulf of Mannar was made during 1976 at Pudumandapam (Devaraj *et al.*, 1976, *J. Mar. Biol. Ass. India*, 18(3) : 663-666) and subsequently only few specimens have been reported (Arumugam *et al.*, 1994, *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv. T&E Ser.*, 128: 16-17; Badrudeen, 1995, *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv. T&E Ser.*, 137:20; Chellappa *et al.*, 2002, *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv. T&E Ser.*, 174:10).