

Report on the rare quagga catshark landed

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Quagga catshark, *Halaelurus quagga* (Alcock, 1899) one of the rarest sharks in the family Scyliorhinidae (Order Carcharhiniformes) was observed at Muttom landing centre, Tamil Nadu on June 5 2017. It was landed as a bycatch in the demersal-trawl operated off Muttom at 150-200 m depths. The male specimen collected measured 298 mm in total length (TL) and its morphometrics were recorded (Table 1). It is reported to attain a maximum size of 370 mm TL only. Very little information is available on the scyliorhinid sharks which mostly comprises small sized sharks with not much commercial importance and the quagga catshark a particular (Akhilesh *et. al.*, 2011, *Zootaxa*, 2781 : 40-48). In the IUCN redlist category quagga catshark is listed as Data Deficient and warrants documentation of available specimens.



Halaelurus quagga landed at Muttom landing centre

Table 1. Morphometrics of *Halaelurus quagga* landed at Muttom, Tamil Nadu

	Length (mm)	% TL
Total length (mm)	298	100.00
Pre caudal length	240	80.54
Pre second dorsal length	189	63.42
Pre first dorsal length	129	43.29
Trunk length	62	20.81
Head length	60	20.13
Pre -branchial length	51	17.11

Pre-spiracular length	31	10.40
Pre-orbital length	17	5.70
Pre-oral length	15	5.03
Pre-narial length	14	4.70
Pre-pectoral length	60	20.13
Pre-pelvic length	116	38.93
Snout-vent distance	121	40.60
Pre anal length	164	55.03
Inter dorsal distance	46	15.44
Dorsal caudal distance	22	7.38
Pectoral pelvic distance	41	13.76
Pelvic anal distance	42	14.09
Anal caudal distance	36	12.08
Eye length	11	3.69
Eye height	3	1.01
Inter orbital width	18	6.04
Nostril width	7	2.35
Internarial space	6	2.01
Anterior nasal flap length	3	1.01
Spiracle length	3	1.01
Eye- spiracle distance	2	0.67
Mouth length	4	1.34
Mouth width	24	8.05
Upper labial furrow length	1	0.34
Lower labial furrow length	4	1.34
Intergill length	18	6.04
First gill slit height	6	2.01
Fifth gill slit height	3	1.01
Trunk height	19	6.38
Head height	18	6.04
Abdomen height	17	5.70
Caudal peduncle height	7	2.35
Head width (maximum)	41	13.76
Trunk width	32	10.74
Abdomen width	15	5.03
Caudal peduncle width	7	2.35
Pectoral fin-length	29	9.73
Pectoral fin-anterior margin length	28	9.40
Pectoral fin -base length	14	4.70

Pectoral fin-height (Maximum width)	24	8.05	Second dorsal fin-height	12	4.03
Pectoral fin -inner margin length	14	4.70	Second dorsal fin- inner margin	7	2.35
Pectoral fin- posterior margin length	24	8.05	Second dorsal fin- posterior margin	11	3.69
Pelvic fin length	30	10.07	Anal fin -length	27	9.06
Pelvic fin anterior margin length	13	4.36	Anal fin-base length	22	7.38
Pelvic fin base length	23	7.72	Anal fin- anterior margin length	20	6.71
Pelvic fin height	12	4.03	Anal fin-height	11	3.69
Pelvic fin inner margin length	12	4.03	Anal fin -inner margin length	9	3.02
Pelvic fin posterior margin length	21	7.05	Anal fin -posterior margin length	16	5.37
First dorsal fin -length	25	8.39	Caudal fin- preventral margin length	31	10.40
First dorsal fin -anterior margin	23	7.72	Caudal fin-dorsal margin length	58	19.46
First dorsal fin-base length	19	6.38	Caudal fin-upper post ventral margin	23	7.72
First dorsal fin-height	15	5.03	Caudal fin- terminal margin length	14	4.70
First dorsal fin-inner margin	6	2.01	Caudal fin- subterminal margin length	15	5.03
First dorsal fin-posterior margin	11	3.69	Caudal fin-terminal lobe length	13	4.36
Second dorsal fin -length	25	8.39	Second dorsal origin- anal fin origin	23	7.72
Second dorsal fin -anterior margin	22	7.38	Clasper outer length	22	7.38
Second dorsal fin- base length	20	6.71	Clasper base width	5	1.68