

Tiger shark landed at Mookaiyur Fisheries Harbour, Tamil Nadu



A large sized male Tiger shark *Galeocerdo cuvier* measuring 288 cm in total length (TL) and weighing 261 kg was landed at the Mookaiyur

Fisheries Harbour on 22nd October 2020. The shark was caught in a tuna longliner of 22.7 m OAL fitted with 200 hp engine which had fished in the

Arabian Sea, close to the Lakshadweep islands. Although size ranges of 95 and 100 cm TL are regularly observed in the fishery in the southern Gulf of Mannar, the fishermen reported that they have not got a Tiger shark of this size earlier. While tiger sharks have been reported in the fishery all along the Indian coast, Cochin Fisheries Harbour has been a major hub for landings of this species, where it formed 7% of the total shark landings during 2012-2016 (*CMFRI Annual Report 2016-2017*, p. 107). It is not protected under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and as of now there is no restriction on fishing in India. Trade of its fins is, however, barred under the blanket ban on shark fin trade enforced by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India in 2015.

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