

Heavy landings of the silky shark and the bloched fantail ray at Cochin

During October 2010 - March 2011 there was heavy landings of the silky shark *Carcharhinus falciformis* ranging in TL from 90 – 298 cm. in mechanized Hook & Line catches at Cochin Fisheries Harbour (CFH). During January 2011 about 70% of the total shark landing at CFH was contributed by this species. The species is fished mainly for its meat, oil and fins as in the case of other sharks.



Taeniura meyeri landed at Cochin Fisheries Harbour

Silky sharks are vulnerable to overfishing because of its long gestation period, low number of offsprings and slow growth rate and is listed as “near threatened” in the IUCN Red List of Threatened species.

Heavy landing of the bloched fantail ray *Taeniura meyeri* was also observed during October 2010 to March 2011 at Cochin Fisheries Harbour. The species is also known as black spotted ray and the characteristic feature is its rounded thick disc and the mottled coloration. *T. meyeri*, is widely distributed in the Indo-west Pacific



Carcharhinus falciformis landed at Cochin Fisheries Harbour

associated with coral reefs and sandy habitats and generally found inshore up to a depth of 440 m. It is an ovoviviparous species having average annual litter size of up to 7 and is listed as “Vulnerable” in the IUCN Red List of Threatened species.

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