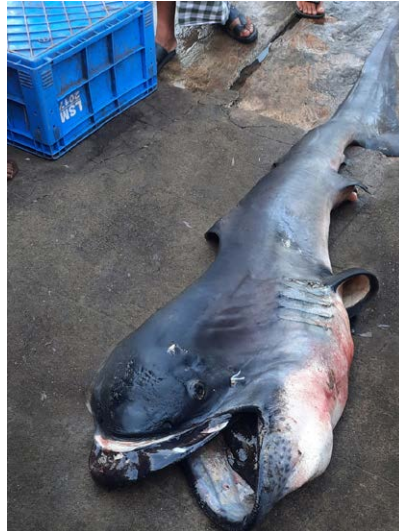


# The megamouth shark reported from Indian waters

The first confirmed report of *Megachasma pelagios* (Lamniformes: Megachasmidae) from Indian waters based on a juvenile male shark that landed at Thengaipattinam landing centre, Tamil Nadu, India on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 by a multiday gillnetter cum longliner operated off south of Thengapattinam is given. The shark measured 280 cm in total length and weighed 48 kg. The Megamouthshark, *M. pelagios* (Lamniformes: Megachasmidae) is reported to have maximum size of 820 cm TL. It was described as a new species in 1983 and around 261



*Megachasma pelagios* landed at Thengaipattinam Fisheries Harbour

specimens have been documented till 2021 with most of the reports from Northwest and Western Central Pacific. The Indian Ocean records are widely scattered and mostly reported from South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia and Australia. Mr. Jikson Jeromeraj of ICAR-CMFRI stakeholder network shared the photographs of the megamouth shark.

**Reported by S. Surya\*, K.V. Akhilesh, J.H. Kingsly, G. Angel, D. Dispin, V.A. Leslie, I. Albert, K.K. Suresh, E.M. Abdussamad and M.K. Anil** | Vizhinjam Regional Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute