

# Huge Giant manta ray landed

A Giant manta ray, *Mobula birostris* locally known as "Aana Thirandi" weighing around 900 kg was landed at Neendakara Fishing Harbour

on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023. It was caught in *Ozhukkuvala*, a drift gill net with 80 mm mesh size operated by a 12 m outboard plywood boat at about 75

m depth. The *Mobula* was auctioned for ₹28,000. The species is listed as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Mobulids are widely used for their meat, skin, liver oil, and gill plates which fetch high prices in Asian markets especially China. The meat from mobulids is often consumed locally and the skin is sometimes used for making leather products. The Oceanic manta ray was listed in Appendix I and II of the Bonn Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in 2011. In India, the species is listed under Wild Life Protection Act under Appendix I and therefore benefits from conservation rules.

**Paulose Jacob Peter\***, **Rekha J. Nair** and **J. Jayasankar** | ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi

