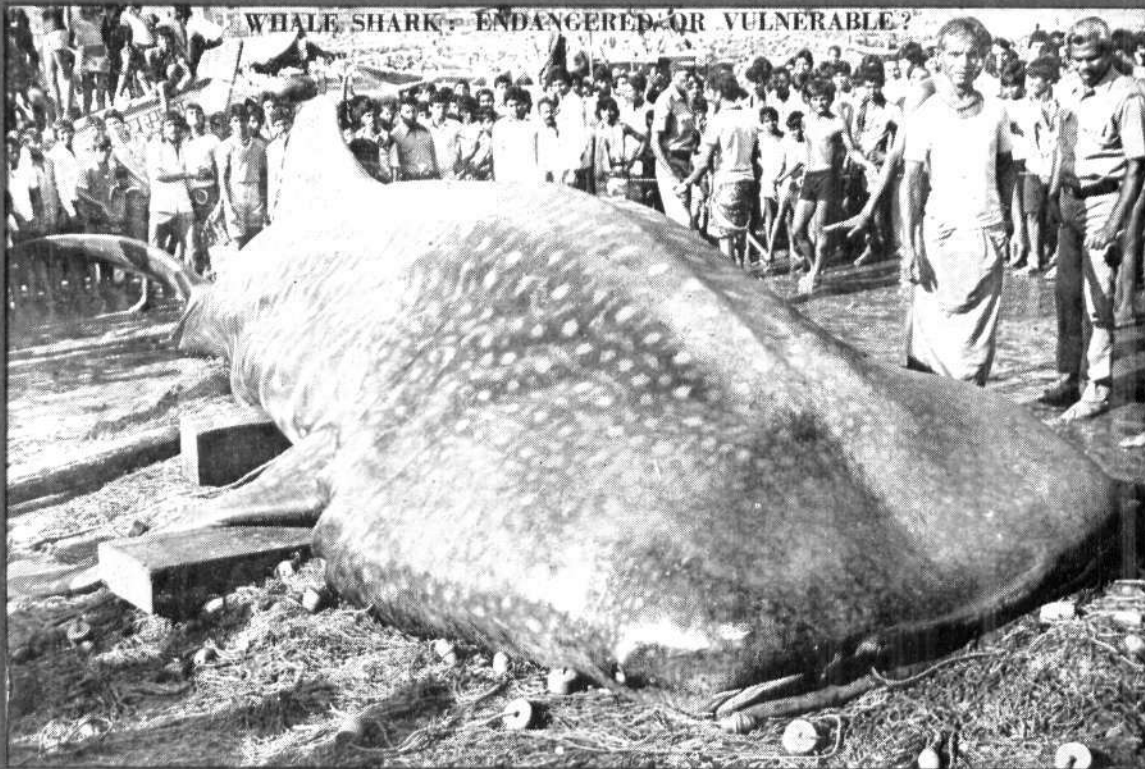




MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



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CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
COCHIN, INDIA

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

THE MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE: Technical and Extension Series envisages the rapid dissemination of information on marine and brackish water fishery resources and allied data available with the National Marine Living Resources Data Centre (NMLRDC) and the Research Divisions of the Institute, results of proven researches for transfer of technology to the fish farmers and industry and of other relevant information needed for Research and Development efforts in the marine fisheries sector.

Abbreviation - *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, No. 66: 1986

**ON A JUVENILE WHALE SHARK *RHINCODON TYPUS* SMITH
LANDED AT COCHIN***

An immature female whale shark of 1.5 tonnes was caught about 20 km southwest of Cochin on 17-12-1984 between 2 and 3 hrs in a gill net at a depth of about 30 m. The stomach of the shark was empty and water gushed out when slit open. No internal, gill or external parasites were found. The following body measurements (in cm) have been recorded.

1. Total length	...	360
2. Standard length	...	265
3. Head length	...	88

Height of body at:

4. pectoral base	...	56
5. second dorsal	...	24
6. caudal peduncle	...	16
7. Width of mouth from angle to angle	...	56

Vertical height of:

8. first dorsal	...	34
9. second dorsal	...	13

10. anal	...	12
11. Length of caudal fin from caudal pit along upper margin	...	88

Snout to:

12. first dorsal	...	154
13. second dorsal	...	219
14. pectoral	...	82
15. pelvic	...	191
16. anal	...	241
17. spiracle	...	34
18. first gill opening	...	62
19. second gill opening	...	73
20. third gill opening	...	82
21. fourth gill opening	...	85
22. fifth gill opening	...	88

Interspace between:

23. first and second dorsals	...	65
24. anal and caudal	...	24
25. pectoral and pelvic	...	109
26. pelvic and anal	...	50

*Reported by K. V. Somasekharan Nair, A. A. Jayaprakash and V. A. Narayanankutty, CMFRI, Cochin.

Length of:	
27. pectoral fin along outer margin from anterior insertion	... 66
28. pelvic fin from anterior insertion	... 18
29. first dorsal from anterior insertion	... 36
30. second dorsal from anterior insertion	... 18

Length of:	
31. anal fin from anterior insertion	... 16
32. first gill opening	... 29

33. second gill opening	... 32
34. third gill opening	... 34
35. fourth gill opening	... 25
36. fifth gill opening	... 21
37. Diameter of orbit	... 3
38. Inter-orbital distance	... 71

As there was no buyer, on 18th evening the carcass was towed to the sea and discarded.

