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857 Hooks and line fishery for sharks at Janjira-Murud region, Raigad District, Maharashtra by migrated fishermen from Kanyakumari

The hooks and line fishery for sharks by the migrated fishermen from Kanyakumari was noticed at Thal and Korlai centres of Janjira-Murudregion, Raigad District, Maharashtra. The fishery commences in November and extend upto May.

There are about 24 mechanised boats of 60-95 H.P. based at these centres conducting shark fishery. About 400-500 hooks having the size number 2 are employed from each boat at a depth range of 100-150 m and the units remain in the sea for nearly 5-6 days conducting hooks and line fishery. The boats set out for fishing with six crew members on Mondays and land the catches on Saturdays and exceptionally on Sundays. The captured sharks are cut onboard the vessel and salt cured.

Observation made on the cured sharks revealed that catch comprised of large specimens of *Carcharhinus* spp. with the approximate weight of 40-50 kg (Fig. 1) and an average of 30 sharks are caught per day. In



Fig. 1. A shark being lifted from the water

the previous years only a limited number of units were conducting shark fishing along Janjira-Murud coast. Increased number of units observed in the present case suggests vast scope for shark fishery along the coast.

Reported by B. Ramnesh Rao, Janjira-Murud Field Centre of CMFRI, Janjira-Murud.

A dead dolphin measuring about 2.5 m in total length was stranded ashore on 15-11-'97 at Janjira-Murud, Raigad District, Maharashtra (Fig. 1). Due to its decomposed condition, clear identity could not be ascertained but indicated close affinity to the common dolphin, *Delphinus delphis*.

Reported by B. Ramnesh Rao, Janjira-Murud Field Centre of CMFRI, Janjira Murud.

860 On the capture of a bottle nose dolphin off Kakinada

A female bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus* having a total length of 245 cm was caught on 7-7-'97 by a motorised gill net unit operated off Kakinada at a depth of 30 m. The dolphin fetched a price of Rs.800/- as there was great demand for its flesh for use as bait in the hooks and line fishery for sharks and tunas. A few morphometric measurements taken in cm on the specimen are as follows.

Total length	-	245
Tip of snout to origin of dorsal	-	107
Tip of snout to anterior insertion of flipper	-	58
Depth of body at the origin of dorsal	-	76
Length of caudal fin along upper margin	-	72

Reported by P. Venkataramana and P. Achayya, Kakinada RC of CMFRI, Kakinada.

861 On a whale shark landed at Paradeep, Orrisa

On 4-11-'97 a female whale shark, *Rhincodon typus* measuring 6.69 m in total length was landed at Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa (Fig. 1). The



Fig. 1. Whale shark measuring 6.69 m in total length landed at Paradeep.

fish was caught by a trawler operated 6 km southeast off Paradeep and weighed approximately 3 t. As there was no demand for the flesh, the fish was discarded.

Reported by Sukdev Bar, Puri Field Centre of CMFRI, Puri.

862 Unusual heavy landing of the toli shad, *Tenualosa toli* in some centres along the palk bay near mandapam

Most of the earlier observations on the bumper catch of fishes of Mandapam area along the Palk Bay were recorded exclusively from the landings of mechanised trawlers. It was interesting to observe an unusually heavy landings of the toli shad, *Tenualosa toli* locally called 'Ullam' by the shoreseine units on 14-3-'97 from four landing centres along the Palk Bay viz., Darhavalasi, Alagathanvalasai, Irumeni and Chokkapillaimadam. In the first week of March '97 the species was sporadic in the shoreseine catches. Subsequent week witnessed a steep increase in the landings with the catch ranging between 1 to 3 tonnes per shoreseine units. On 14-3-'97 a total of 20 shoreseine unit were operated from the four landing centres which brought large quantities of toli-shad with an estimated catch of 2 to 3 tonnes per unit. The total estimated landings of the species on that day were nearly 50 tonnes.

Shoresaines are commonly operated along the coast during this season mainly for the oil sardine fishery. Such heavy landings of this species by shoresaines is unheard of in the recent past. About 90 % of the catch was sold in fresh condition at the rate of Rs. 5-8 per kg and was transported to places outside Tamil Nadu.

Reported by K. Muthiah, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam camp.

863 Unusual heavy landings of Ribbon fishes at Visakhapatnam

An unusual heavy landing of the ribbon fish, *Trichurus lepturus* was reported at Visakhapatnam on 21-10-'97. The entire catch was landed by 20 boat seine units operated 4 km south off Visakhapatnam at a depth range of 15-20 m. Observations made on 24-10-'97 revealed that the boatseine units were landed at Jelaripeta (Visakhapatnam) centre with an average catch of one tonne of ribbon fish per unit and the estimated landings of the day was 21t.

Length measurement indicated that the fishery comprised the dominant size group of 540-560 mm followed by 580-600 mm. Due to the heavy landings the cost of fishes declined considerably and were sold at the rate of Rs.3 per kg. Most of the catch was sun dried in the beach as the dried fish was more in demand locally.

Reported by S. Satya Rao, M. Chandrasekhar, R.V.D. Prabhakar and S.Chandrasekhar, Visakhapatnam Research Centre of CMFRI, Visakhapatnam.