



समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



No. 155

JULY, AUGUST 1998



तकनीकी एवं TECHNICAL AND
विस्तार अंकावली EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

858 Mass entanglement of dolphins in a shore seine near Balaramapuram, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh

On 14-10-'97 nine dolphins locally called 'ganupuli' were entangled in a shore seine operated between Balaramapuram and Srikuurman-Matchilesam landing centres of Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. The shore seine operation in which entangled the dolphins are landed.

All of them were the common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*. On the personal request by the reporter the fishermen released some of the dolphins to sea, but kept two specimens to sell in the market (Fig. 2). A few morphometric measurements taken in cm on these dolphins are given below.

	Male	Female
Total length	...	222 220
Head length	48 47
Snout length	35 35
Predorsal length	...	58 56
Pelvic fin length	...	32 31



Fig. 2. Two dolphins out of nine specimens caught.

It has been reported that dolphins are frequently trapped in shore seines and bag nets from the brackish water area at the river mouths of Nagavalli and Vamsadhara. The dolphins thus entangled are sold in the markets. It is high time that action is initiated by authorities to dissuade the fishermen of this area from capturing this endangered animals protected under the Wildlife Protection Act.

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