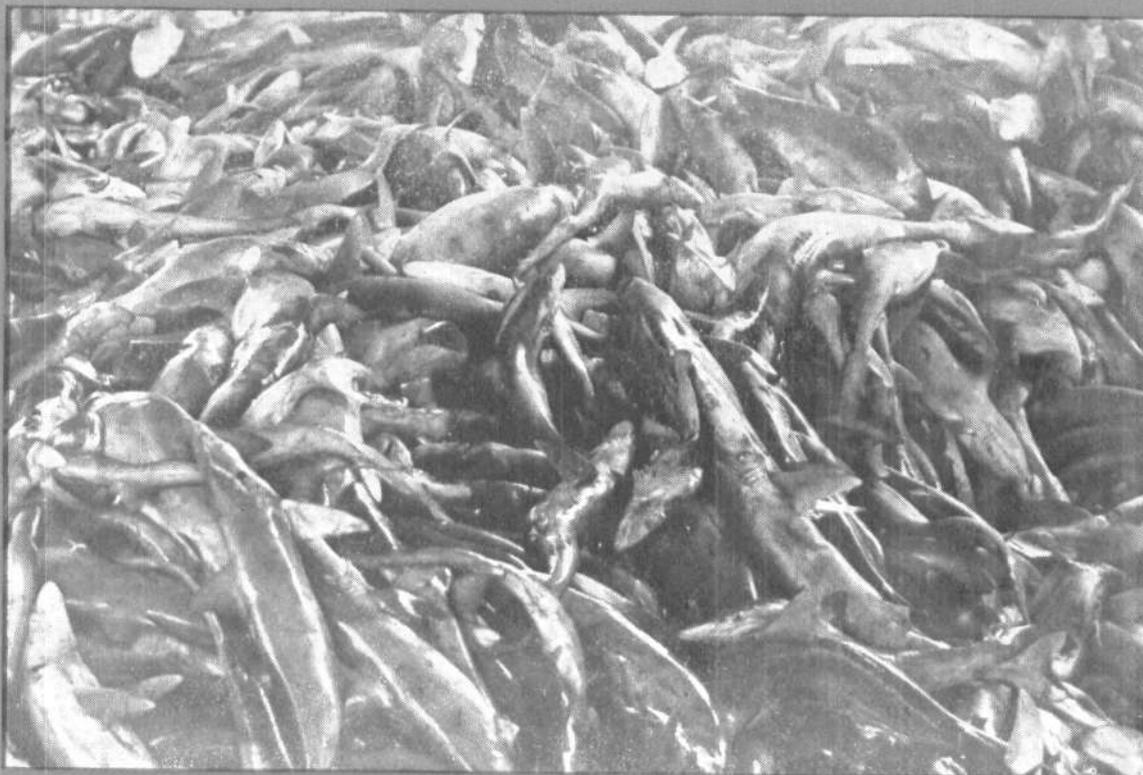




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REPORT ON TWO DOLPHINS WASHED ASHORE NEAR MANDAPAM*

Although smaller cetaceans are common in Mandapam area, reports on dolphins washed ashore are rare. This communication reports on two dolphins washed ashore; one near Krusadi Island in the Gulf of Mannar and the other near CMFRI Fish Farm on Palk Bay side during 1985.



Fig. 1. *Tursiops aduncus*

The specimen observed on 28-1-1985 measured 150 cm in total length and weighed 30 kg. It was identified as *Tursiops aduncus* (Fig. 1). Twenty one teeth were noticed on one side of the upper jaw, the others being in the developing stage embedded in the sockets on the jaws. The teeth were not fully developed in the lower jaw. Marks of injury in the form of cut was seen on the lateroventral side. The detailed morphometric measurements of the specimens are given below.

The dolphin washed ashore near CMFRI Fish Farm on the Palk Bay side was observed on 5-2-1985. Local enquiries revealed that the dolphin was noticed on 25-1-1985. This was identified as *Sousa chinensis* and it measured 225 cm in total length. The caudal region was severely injured which might be the cause for the death. As the dolphin was in advanced stage of decomposition, detailed measurements could not be taken.

The dolphins have a tendency to follow the boats, particularly the cod end of the trawls while fishing. The present observation suggests, that the injuries on these dolphins might have been caused by the propeller of the boat.

* Reported by S. Krishna Pillai and C. Kasinathan, Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp.

1. Name of the species	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	<i>Sousa chinensis</i>
2. Date of observation	28-1-1985	5-2-1985
3. Total length	150	225
4. Length from tip of snout to blowhole	27	—
5. Length from tip of snout to centre of eye	25	—
6. Length from tip of snout to origin of dorsal fin	—	97
7. Length from tip of snout to anterior insertion of flipper	38	61
8. Length from tip of snout to centre of anus	84	121
9. Length from notch of fluke to posterior end of dorsal fin	60	—
10. Length from notch of fluke to centre of anus	59	—
11. Length of fluke on outer curvature	24	—
12. Length of fluke on inner curvature	16	—
13. Distance between extremities of fluke	22	—
14. Length of dorsal fin base	17	—
15. Vertical height of dorsal fin	16	—
16. Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	24	—
17. Length of flipper along curve of lower border	15	—
18. Greatest width of flipper	11	—
19. Depth of body at anal region	65	—
20. Depth of body at origin of flipper	73	—
21. Depth of body at origin of dorsal	84	—
22. Height of dorsal fin	—	54
23. Length of upper jaw	20	—
24. Length of lower jaw	21	—
25. Diameter of eye	2	—
26. Total number of teeth on one side of upper jaw	21	31
27. Total number of teeth on one side of lower jaw	Not fully developed	31
28. Sex	Male	Female

All measurements in cm.

