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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES  
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## ON THE LANDING OF A LARGE SAW FISH AT MADRAS\*

Landing of saw fish is rare besides being seasonal. A female saw fish *Pristis microdon* of 705 cm total length landed at Kasimedu fish landing centre of Madras city on 24 March, 1988, is by far the largest recorded. The species normally ranges in the size from 3 to 4 m. The earlier maximum size of 4,575 mm (15 feet) was recorded by Day (*The fishes of India*, 1878) off the coast of Orissa.

The specimen which measured 7,050 mm in total length was a female. It was caught in a trawl net operated by a small mechanised boat at a depth of 40-50 m about one hundred kilometres northeast of Madras. The saw fish weighed approximately 1.5 tonnes and fetched a price of Rs. 8,750.

The morphometric measurements along with percentages are given in Table 1.

The stomach contained only the digested food. The saw contained 22 pairs of rostral teeth, its base one fifth in length. A distinct lower caudal fin lobe was present. Colour was uniformly olive green above and creamy white below.

\*Reported by P.Devadoss, J.C.Gnanamuttu, S.Srinivasarangan and S.Subramani, Madras Research Centre of CMFRI, Madras.

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of saw fish

	Measurements (in cm)	Percentage in TL
Total length	705	100.0
Disc length	368	51.2
Tip of rostrum to origin of caudal	592	83.9
"    origin of I dorsal	370	52.5
"    origin of II dorsal	510	72.3
"    ant. end of orbit	165	23.4
"    ant. end of spiracle	183	26.0
First dorsal base	66	9.3
Second dorsal base	45	6.4
Interdorsal space	76	10.8
Second dorsal origin to upper caudal	80	11.3
Width of mouth	43	6.1
Between inner ends of nostrils	13	1.8
Horizontal diameter of orbit	8	1.1
Distance between orbits	34	4.8
Length of spiracle	13	1.8
Distance between spiracles	32	5.4
Tip of rostrum to origin of pelvic	420	59.6
Caudal origin to tip upper lobe	115	16.3

