ON THE LARGEST SUNFISH MASTURUS LANCEOLATUS LEONARD 
RECORDED AT PERIAPATTINAM, GULF OF MANNAR*

Sunfishes of the family Molidae are purely oceanic species of the warm and temperate seas having a restricted distribution. Though not common along the Indian coast, the occurrence of some of the species like Ranzania truncata, R. typus, Mola mola, Masturus oxyuropterus and M. lanceolatus have been reported from Indian waters. Recently a sunfish Masturus lanceolatus measuring 1535 mm of total length has been reported from Tuticorin. (Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T & E Ser., No. 128 : 16-17)

On 23.01.1994 a specimen of Masturus lanceolatus measuring 1830 mm was found floating in the sea and was brought to Periapattinam fish market. This fish was in fresh condition without any damage or injuries on the body. The body was oval in shape with dark grey colour and the skin was rough with minute denticles. The snout was rounded with a terminal mouth. The dorsal and anal fin lobes were entire and continuous with the caudal fin gradually tapering. The fins were almost dark to dark grey in colour. Incidentally, this was the largest sunfish species ever recorded from the Indian waters. The important morphometric measurements taken are given in Table 1.

Since the flesh was soft and unpalatable, the fish was buried later.

**TABLE 1. Morphometric measurements (in mm) of sunfish Masturus lanceolatus landed at Periapattinam**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total length</td>
<td>1830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard length</td>
<td>1542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snout length</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head length</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of body</td>
<td>870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye diameter</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of dorsal fin</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of anal fin</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of pectoral fin</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (approximate)</td>
<td>75 kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reported by: M. Badrudeen, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp - 623 520.

UNUSUAL LANDING OF CATFISH BY PURSE SEINE 
AT MALPE, DAKSHINA KANNAĐA*

For the last several years, catfish did not form a fishery at Malpe in Dakshina Kannada in Karnataka. On 30-09-94, three purse seines landed about 3 tonnes of catfish along with 2.2 tonnes of shark, 1 tonne of Rachycentron spp. and 0.65 tonne of Seer fish (Scomberomorus commerson). All the three units operated at a depth of 36 metres off Malpe. The catfish catch was comprised of Tachysurus serratus (90%) and T. dussumieri (10%).

The fish was sold at an average price of Rs. 105/- per fish earning a total amount of Rs. 1,31,050. At Malpe 24.5 tonnes of catfish is reported to have been landed by purse seine in the previous week also.

**Catch details of the purse seine which landed catfish on 30.09.94 and revenue (in Rs.) earned.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fish</th>
<th>Weight (t)</th>
<th>Nos.</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catfish</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>45,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>44,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachycentron</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>22,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seerfish</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>1,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reported by S. Kemparaju, B. Shridhara, H. S. Mahadevswamy and P. U. Zacharia, Mangalore Research Centre of C.M.F.R.I. Mangalore - 575 001.

Erratum
The author names in Article 5 of MFIS 134, Nov. 1994, p. 27 may be read as follows: