



समुद्री मात्स्यिकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 127

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1994



तकनीकी एवं TECHNICAL AND
विस्तार अंकावली EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यिकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
अनुसंधान संस्थान RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कोचिन, भारत COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

SKIN OF RAYS — A NEW COMMODITY FOR EXPORT MARKET*

During recent years, there is an unprecedented spurt in the export market for unconventional marine species like gorgonids, sea horses and products obtained from them. Latest among this expanding list of items is the skin of rays (elasmobranch).

The ray skin export is a newly established endeavour for the fisherfolk of Ramanathapuram coast of Tamil Nadu. The skin is cut meticulously so as to avoid damage and wastage and dried under the sun, after which it is removed and stacked for marketing. Keelakarai is the centre for collection of skin of rays. Figure 1 shows the dorsal and ventral views of the skin of 'Manal thirukkai' (in Tamil), *Himantura bleekeri* (Blyth) collected from a Keelakarai merchant dealing with the export.

Nepal is the main market for the ray skin. From the information collected, various products such as chappals, wallets, belts and Hi-fashion products like ladies bags are made using the skin of rays.

The cost of the skin of a ray ranges from Rs. 4/- to Rs. 20/- depending on the size. When

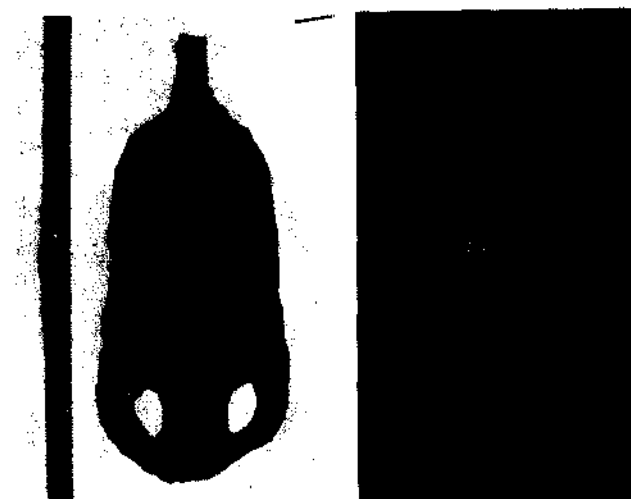


Fig. 1. Dorsal and ventral view of ray skin made for export.

it is sold to another merchant or prospective buyer, the percentage profit ranges from 50 to 100. Although at present the exact quantity of ray skin being exported from India is not known, it is presumed that in the near future this commodity will assume importance.

* Prepared by A. P. Lipton and J. R. Ramalingam, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam - 623 520.