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**ON A JUVENILE WHALE SHARK *RHINCODON TYPUS*
CAUGHT OFF KAYALPATNAM (GULF OF MANNAR)***

Stray individuals of the Whale shark *Rhincodon typus* (Smith) are caught occasionally along the Gulf of Mannar coast. On 15th April 1993 a male whale shark measuring 3.8 m and weighing approximately 650 kg got entangled in 'Paruvalai' (Nylon drift gill net, mesh size : 115 - 170 mm) operated at a depth of 40 m off Kayalpatnam during the early hours of the day. The shark was towed ashore with the help of neighbouring crew. Locally this shark is known as 'Ammuni uluvai'. Since the meat is unpalatable and the fins does not fetch any fair price, it was auctioned for a very low price of Rs. 300/-. Necessary morphometric measurements taken are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Morphometric measurements (mm) of whale shark *Rhincodon typus* (Smith). Measurements in mm

Total length	3870
Standard length	3300
Snout to first dorsal	1660
Snout to second dorsal	2440

Snout to pectoral	1010
Snout to eye	410
Snout to nostril	520
Snout to anal	2080
First dorsal fin	
Height	420
Breadth	350
Curvature	300
Inner curvature	170
Second dorsal	
Height	220
Base	190
Curvature	160
Inner curvature	150
Pectoral	
Length of pectoral	640
Base	330
Curvature	330

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Inner curvature	190
Caudal length	960
Snout to first gill opening	730
Snout to second gill opening	800
Snout to third gill opening	860
Snout to fourth gill opening	960
Snout to fifth gill opening	1010
Eye diameter (vertical)	35
Eye diameter (horizontal)	40

Inter orbital distance	810
Inter nostril distance	880
Mouth length	510
Mouth width	320
Girth at I dorsal	2640
Girth at 2nd dorsal	1080
Girth at caudal	420
