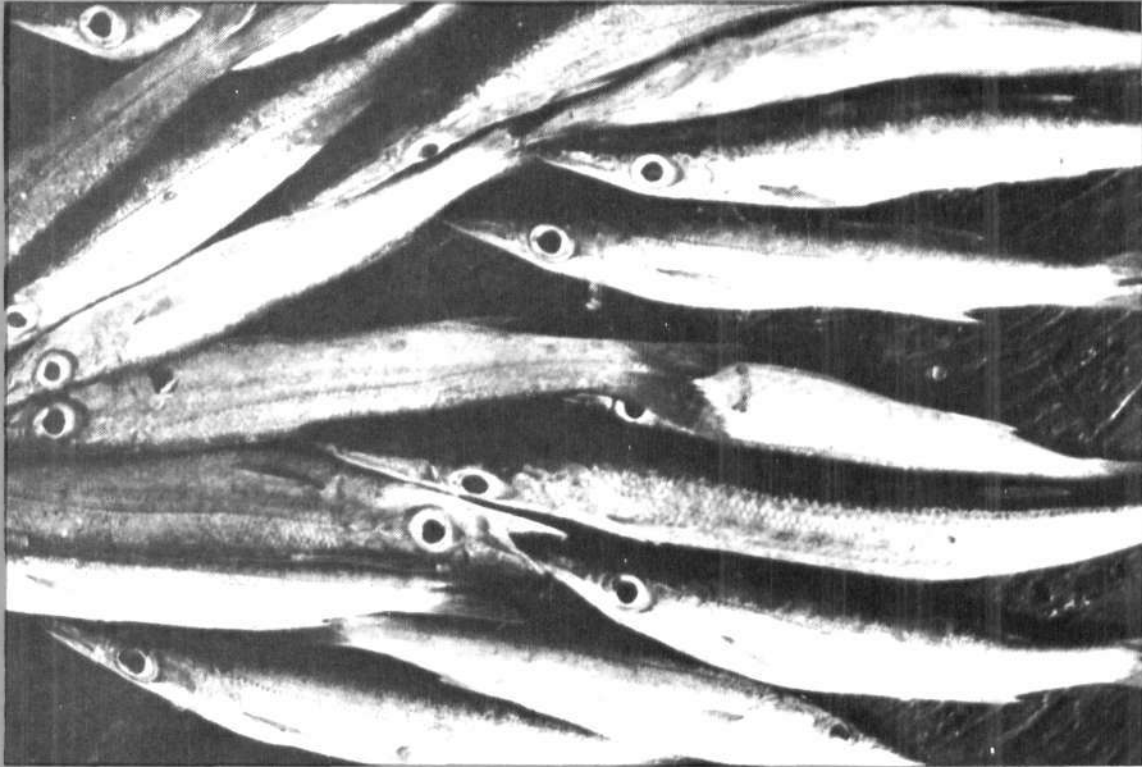




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भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

ON THE LANDING OF A WHALE SHARK *RHINIODON TYPUS* SMITH AT DIBBAPALEM SOUTH OF VISAKHAPATNAM*

A male Whale shark *Rhiniodon typus* Smith locally called 'puli bokkusorrah' measuring 742 cm in total length was entangled accidentally along with other fishes in the early hours of 8th June 1992 in a nylon gill net operated off Dibbapalem at about 30 m depth. The fishermen towed the whale shark with the help of two non mechanised boats to the Dibbapalem marine fish landing centre which is situated 15 km south of Visakhapatnam in live condition on the same day about 08.00 hours and was kept alive until about 13.00 hours. Large crowds of people from the surrounding villages visited to see the animal after seeing the news with a photograph published in a local daily on 9th June 1992. On receipt of the news the authors visited the Dibbapalem marine fish landing centre on 9th June 1992 and observed the specimen.

The morphometric measurements taken (in cm) are given below.

Total length (from tip of snout to the tip of the upper caudal lobe)	742
Tip of snout to first gill opening	122
Tip of snout to last gill opening	174
Tip of snout to origin of first dorsal fin	342
Tip of snout to end of first dorsal fin	410
Width of head at eyes	144
Distance between the nostrils	72
Width of mouth	110
Distance between the end of first dorsal fin and the origin of second dorsal fin	86

Distance between the posterior boarder of second dorsal fin to origin of caudal fin	56
Height of upper caudal lobe	181
Height of lower caudal lobe	116
Width of second dorsal fin	39
Height of second dorsal fin	38
Length of second dorsal fin	39
Height of first dorsal fin	95
Length of first dorsal fin	81
Width of first dorsal fin	92
Height of pectoral fin	114
Length of pectoral fin	140
Height of body at pectoral origin	89
Height of body at first dorsal fin origin	85
Diameter of eye	2.3
Sex	Male
Approximate weight (tonnes)	4

The colour of the animal was grey on the dorsal side with numerous white spots of different sizes closely covering the body including the head. Lower lobe of caudal fin was white in colour. The specimen has no prominent external injuries or parasites. There was no market demand for its flesh, fins and liver.

Another male whale shark *Rhiniodon typus* measuring 548 cm in total length was entangled accidentally along with other fishes in the afternoon hours of 30th July 1992 in a nylon gill net operated off Visakhapatnam at 40 m depth.

* Reported by C. V. Seshagiri Rao and K. Narayana Rao, Visakhapatnam Research Centre of CMFRI, Visakhapatnam - 530 003.