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Dolphin killed by the propeller of a trawler

The dolphins occur commonly near Mandapam in the Gulf of Mannar. Several instances of their getting caught accidentally in gill nets, trawl nets and their occasional strandings in Mandapam and nearby places have been reported earlier (Table 1).

Dolphins have a tendency to follow the cod end of the fishing nets. On 10-4-1991 a male dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) with caudal peduncle and flukes severed probably by the propeller of a trawler was washed ashore near the Indo-Norwegian project jetty at Mandapam.



Fig. 1. A common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*, whose caudal portion was cut off by the propeller of trawler at Mandapam.

The carcass without caudal flukes had a length of 115 cm, and the total length of the present specimen should be approximately 135 cm.

* Reported by S. Krishna Pillai and Dr. A. P. Lipton, Mandapam Regional Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp 623 520.

TABLE 2. Morphometric measurements (in cm) of the common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* stranded at Mandapam

Length from tip of snout to cut off caudal portion	115
Total length (approximate)	135
Width at caudal portion, at the region of cut	12
Tip of snout to centre of anus	80
Tip of snout to blow hole	23
Tip of snout to centre of eye	24
Tip of snout to anterior insertion of flipper	34
Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	22
Depth of body at anal region	65
Depth of body at origin of dorsal fin	82
Depth of body at origin of flipper	72
Length of upper jaw	19
Length of lower jaw	20
Number of teeth in each jaw on one side	60

TABLE 1. Particulars of accidental catch/stranding of dolphins in Mandapam area

S.No.	Date of accidental catch/stranding	species	Place	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	sex	References (Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T & E. Ser.)
1.	12.10.1980 (by trawler)	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	off Krusadi Island	182.5	65	male	No. 71 : 13-16
2.	26.11.1981 (by trawler)	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	off Mandapam	210.5	130	female	
3.	8.12.1981 (by trawler)	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	off Mandapam	143	26.5	--	
4.	20.2.1982 (by gill net)	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Near C.M.F.R.I Jetty	145	25	male	
5.	8.12.1982 (stranded)	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Thonithurai	159	46	male	No. 88 : 21
6.	28.1.1985 (stranded)	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	Krusadi Island	150	30	male	
7.	5.2.1985 (stranded)	<i>Sousa chinensis</i>	Fish farm Palk Bay	225	--	Female	No. 98 : 15-16
8.	29.9.1989 (by gill net)	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	Ayyanarkovil, Near Mandapam	150	28	Female	
9.	18.6.1990 (stranded)	<i>Sousa chinensis</i>	Mandapam Camp	151	50	Female	No. 110 : 11
10.	15.9.1994 (stranded)	<i>Sousa chinensis</i>	Near CMFRI Jetty	255	200	Female	No. 88 : 21
11.	15.9.1995 (stranded)	<i>Sousa chinensis</i>	Seeaniappa Dharga	221	--	--	
12.	9-1-1995 (stranded)	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	Near CMFRI Jetty	221	125	male	