924 Record of a female spadenose shark with foetii off Visakhapatnam coast

Visakhapatnam area has an important shark fishery and carcharhinids namely Scylliodon laticepsus, Rhizoprionodon spp. and Loxodon macrorhinus are caught in the indigenous gear and trawl nets. The spadenose shark Scylliodon laticepsus (=S. sorokouah) Muller and Henle which is distributed in the Indo-Pacific region is a common viviparous shark in the waters off Visakhapatnam and is fished by hooks and line, drift and bottom set gillnets and trawlnets. A female of the species with a total length of 570 mm and weight 534 g with bulged abdomen containing several foetii was recorded in the trawl catch of a Sona boat which operated northeast of Visakhapatnam at a depth of 40 m on 29th October, 1997 in the afternoon.

The female shark had nineteen intrauterine foetii ranging in length from 105 to 129 mm and weight from 5 to 8 g. The foetii were well developed with prominent head, eyes, fins and dark dorsal pigmentation. They were attached to the uterus with long, flattened appendicula. A maximum number of fourteen foetii have been reported earlier (Compagno L.J.V., 1984 FAO Fish.Symp. (25) 4 (21) : 534-535).

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