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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES  
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## AN UNUSUAL CATCH OF SHARKS IN A PURSE SEINE AT MALPE, KARNATAKA\*

On 10-10-1990 a single purse seine boat landed approximately 3.5 tonnes of sharks together with the seerfish *Scomberomorus commerson*, (400 kg), catfish *Tachysurus serratus* (100 kg) and the kingfish *Rachycentron canadus* (100 kg) at Malpe on the Dakshina Kannada coast in Karnataka. The sharks were identified as the black-tip shark *Carcharhinus limbatus*. This catch was obtained in a single haul off Gangully (30 km north of Malpe) at 50 m depth during morning hours. The sharks were auctioned at the rate of Rs. 9/kg, seerfish 25/kg, catfish Rs. 10/kg and kingfish Rs. 18/kg with a total revenue of Rs. 44,300 to the owner.

The sharks observed had a size range of 59-114 cm with the modal size of 85 cm. Some degree of sexual segregation were noticed in the population (sex ratio - M. 38 : F. 62). *C. limbatus* is known to occur in large schools at the surface (Compagno, 1984, *FAO Fish. Synop.*, 125) and therefore it is sometimes caught by purse seiners in large quantities. However, it is the first time that such a quantity has been caught in a single haul in this area. This species is primarily a fish-eater and its favourite food items include the catfish and Spanish mackerel. Therefore the present schooling of sharks might have taken place mainly for feeding purpose as they were caught along with seerfishes and catfishes.

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