



समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 121

MAY, JUNE, JULY 1993



तकनीकी एवं TECHNICAL AND
विस्तार अंकावली EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
अनुसंधान संस्थान RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कोचिन, भारत COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

ON THE LANDING OF BRAMBLE SHARK (*ECHINORHINUS BRUCUS*) AT TUTICORIN*

The occurrence of the bramble shark, *Echinorhinus brucus* (Bonnaterre), along the continental slope of the west coast of India was first reported during the exploratory fishing cruises of R. V. Varuna. Subsequently the species was caught from the continental slope of the southwest coast of India and Gulf of Mannar at depths of 215 to 405 metres during the cruises of R. V. Varuna, M. V. Blue Fin, M. V. Velameen and M. V. Klaus Sunnana. Further reports on the occurrence of this species were made from Cochin and Kanyakumari.

The bramble shark is known to be a deep water species but also frequents the shallow waters and the continental slope areas at depths varying from 18 to 900 m. In recent years operation of deep sea trawlers off Tuticorin at a depth range between 200 and 400 m has become regular and consequently a wide variety of fishes, lobsters, prawns

and crabs are being landed. During May 1991, eighteen bramble sharks (8 males and 10 females) were landed at Tuticorin Fishing Harbour by deep sea trawlers (Table 1).

When compared to the other species of sharks, bramble sharks are less priced, since their fins, flesh and liver are considered to be of low quality. However, the oil fetches good price since it is used for applying to country crafts to prevent settlement of borers and foulers.

The size range of male sharks varied from 190 to 295 cm weighing 40 to 140 kg; females ranged from 205 to 298 cm in length and from 60 to 150 kg in weight.

On enquiry, it was understood that one female shark measuring 272 cm in total length had about 40 well-developed embryos.

TABLE 1. Particulars of bramble sharks (*Echinorhinus brucus*) landed at Tuticorin Fishing Harbour by deep sea trawlers during May 1991.

Date	FEMALES				MALES			
	Number of sharks landed	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Auction price (Rupees)	Number of sharks landed	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Auction price (Rupees)
02-05-'91	—	—	—	—	1	231	70	200
04-05-'91	2	280 265	135 120	520	1	195	40	130
08-05-'91	1	215	60	150	1	245	115	215
10-05-'91	—	—	—	—	2	190 268	40 130	320
14-05-'91	3	240 235 270	120 80 145	— 675	1	295	140	250
18-05-'91	—	—	—	—	1	241	105	215
21-05-'91	2	φ 272 205	140 65	275	1	232	60	135
24-05-'91	2	298 282	150 150	600	—	—	—	—

φ Found with 40 developed embryos.

*Prepared by : T. S. Balasubramanian, S. Rajapackiyam, H. Mohamed Kasim and K. M. S. Ameer Hamsa, Tuticorin Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Tuticorin - 628 001.