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Devil ray *Manta birostris* landed at Chennai Fishing Harbour

On 15-04-2006, a female devil ray *Manta birostris* measuring 5.2 m in width, 2.1 m in

length, weighing 1050 kg. was landed at Chennai fishing harbour by a mechanised

gillnet. Generally, the lesser devil ray *Mobula diabolus* dominate the rays catch in mechanised gillnets, off Chennai. Landing of *M. birostris* is unusual.

On 06-10-2006, another female *Manta birostris* measuring 5.2 m in width, 2.1 m in length, weighing 1 ton was landed by a trawler at Chennai fishing harbour. On 10.10.06, a male devil ray measuring 4.8 m across the dish and weighing nearly 850 kg was landed by a mechanized gillnet and sold for Rs. 5000/-.

The devil ray has been reported on 23 occasions along the Indian coast. The landings were mainly during March and April. Out of 23 specimens, the sex of 18 specimens was reported. The M:F sex ratio was 1:3.5. The devil rays *M. birostris* were caught mainly by gill net. Maximum number was landed at Tuticorin.

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