ISSN 0254-380 X

MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 180

April, May, June, 2004

TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

1065 First record of snaggletooth shark, *Hemipristis elongatus* (Klunzinger, 1871) from Malabar Coast

Unusual landings of the shark, *Hemipristis elongatus* by multi-day trawlers were noticed for the first time along Malabar Coast in September, 2003. It is a slender bodied shark with a long broadly rounded snout; large curved, saw-edged teeth in the upper jaw and hooked lower teeth protruding from mouth. Fins are strongly curved. The morphometric character of *H. elongatus* is given in Table 1.

There were caught in trawl net of 35 m with a cod end mesh size of 18 mm operated at a depth of 100-120 m off Malabar Coast. The fishing units were conducting voyage fishing of 6-7 days duration. These landings continued for a period of two weeks in September, 2003. The sharks formed 3.6 t of the trawl landing during this period and out of this *H. elongatus* formed 29%. (Table 2). Local enquiry revealed that a change in the area of fishing by multi-day trawlers has resulted in the unusual yield of *H. elongatus*. They feed on cuttle fishes, loligo, Octopus, crabs and prawns.

Table 1 : Morphometric data of *Hemipristis elongatus*

S.No.	Particulars	% to total length
1	Total length	100
2	Standard Length	78.98
3	Snout length	4.88
4	Eye diameter	3.68
5	First dorsal length	11.79
6	Second dorsal length	9.38
7	Inter dorsal space	23.80
8	Caudal length	21.10
9	First dorsal fin base length	9.61
10	Second dorsal fin base length	7.73
11	Caudal fin length	20.50
12	Upper lobe length - Caudal	14.26
13	Terminal lobe length - Caudal	5.11
14	Lower lobe length - Caudal	6.38
15	Caudal peduncle	11.41
16	Length of pectoral fin	13.06
17	No. of gill slits	1.13
18	Pectoral fin base length	5.78
19	Pectoral fin margin length	10.51
20	Pelvic fin length	5.26
21	Pelvic fin base length	4.80
22	Pelvic fin margin length	5.56
23	Anal fin length	5.48
24	Anal fin base length	5.86
25	Anal fin margin length	4.20
26	Head length	22.37
27	Head height	10.74
28	Head width	7.06
29	Trunk length	29.80
30	Tail length	49.47
31	Body depth	14.94
32	Inter orbital length	7.96
33	Mouth width	6.08
34	Upper jaw length	5.11
35	Lower jaw length	4.65
	No. of specimens examined	20

Table 2 : Speciewise catch and CPUE of sharks in the trawl during September,03

Species	Catch (kg)	CPUE (kg)	Percentage to shark landing
C. melenopterus	767	0.92	21.14
C. sorrah	132	0.16	3.64
C. limbatus	580	0.70	15.98
S.zygeana	1098	1.32	30.26
H.elongatus	1052	1.26	28.98
Total	3629	4.36	-

Its length-weight relationship was calculated as log W = -2.7149+3.0421 log L (r=0.9646)

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