

986

On a giant devil ray *Manta birostris* (Walbaum) landed at Tuticorin fishing harbour

On 24.03.2001 a giant male devil ray *Manta birostris* (Walbaum) was caught at 50 metre depth off Tuticorin in a trawlnet (Fig.). This ray locally called, 'Kombu thirukkai' measured 331 cm in total length and 576 cm breadth, weighed approximately 1850 kgs. The specimen was sold for Rs. 875/- at the landing centre.

In India, a special and organised harpoon fishery exists for devil rays in Androth and Kalpeni islands of the union territory of Lakshadweep. Other than this, little information is available about the species and its fishery.

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Manta birostris