

On a whale shark *Rhiniodon typus* landed at Malpe, Udupi district, Karnataka

A whale shark *Rhiniodon typus* Smith of 610 cm total length and weighing 4 tonnes was accidentally caught by a purse seiner on 26.12.2000 at a depth of 20 m off Malpe, about 10 km from Malpe fishing harbour. The female shark which got en-



Rhiniodon typus

tangled in the net was tied to a rope and dragged to shore same evening. Since there is no demand for fresh flesh of the whale shark it was cut into pieces and taken for drying. The liver weighing 200 kg was removed for oil extraction. The gut contents con-

sisted of semi-digested food items and digested fluids.

Details of morphometric measurements (cm) of *Rhiniodon typus* landed at Malpe are given below:

Total length	610
Standard length	477
Width of mouth	103
Head length	140
Snout to first dorsal fin	265
Snout to second dorsal fin	140
Pectoral to pelvic fin origin	140
Pelvic to anal fin origin	94
Anal to caudal fin origin	35

Whale sharks are not generally landed at this centre and the earlier reports were accidental trapping by the trawl. This is the first time, such a big whale shark was landed by a purse seiner at Malpe.

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