



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)

1066 Whaleshark, *Rhincodon typus* (Smith) landed at Tuticorin, Gulf of Mannar

On 30.7.2003 a male whale shark *Rhincodon typus* measuring 4.78 m and weighing approximately 1.7 t was caught by a trawler operated at a depth of 70 m and 28 km away from the shore. It was brought to Tuticorin Fishing Harbour jetty around 22.00 hrs and was auctioned for Rs. 1200/- Its morphometric measurements (cm) are as follows.

Total length	- 478
Length from snout to first dorsal fin	- 205

Length from snout to pectoral fin	- 93
Length from snout to second dorsal fin	- 239
Length from snout to pelvic fin	- 242
Length from snout to anal fin	- 267

First dorsal fin

Outer margin	- 49
Inner margin	- 38
Curvature	- 17

Second dorsal fin

Outer margin	- 22
Inner margin	- 19
Curvature	- 18

Anal fin

Outer margin	- 22
Inner margin	- 21
Curvature	- 19

Pectoral fin

Outer margin	- 79
Inner margin	- 64
Curvature	- 23

Caudal fin

Upper lobe	- 115
Lower lobe	- 74

Mouth

Length of mouth	- 77
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Eve diameter

Horizontal	- 4
Vertical	- 3.5
Inter orbital distance	- 94
Inter nostril distance	- 33
Inter dorsal distance	- 49
Snout to first gill opening	- 90
Snout to second gill opening	- 99
Snout to third gill opening	- 107
Snout to fourth gill opening	- 114
Snout to fifth gill opening	- 121
Girth of body at first dorsal fin region	- 412