Stranding of a Whale (*Balaenoptera* spp.) at Murudeshwara Beach, Uttara Kannada District of Karnataka

A balaen whale, *Balaenoptera* spp. (Total length : 55 ft, wt:5 tone) was found washed ashore, at Murudeshwara beach on 8.5.2006 in partly decomposed state.

Reported by: Ganesh Bhatkal, Mangalore Research Centre of CMFRI, Mangalore

On the landing of giant devil ray *Manta birostris* at Pamban (Palk Bay)

On 9.3.06, two giant devil rays, *Manta birostris* measuring 165.5 and 154 cm and weighing 42 and 10 kg respectively were caught in bottom set gill net operated in the Palk strait from a depth of 30m.

Prepared by: C. Kasinathan and Sandhya Sukumaran, MRC of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp

Report on a baleen whale stranded at Colaba, Mumbai

The carcass of a baleen whale was washed ashore on the Pilot Bunder beach at Colaba, Mumbai at 11 P.M. on 14.02.06 in a highly putrefied condition. The carcass measured approximately 9.12 m and weighed about 15 tons.

Reported by: Miriam Paul Sreeram, Paramita Banerjee, J.R. Dias and Sujit Sundaram, MRC of CMFRI, Mumbai


Albinism is due to gene mutations that affect the production of normal pigmentation. There are various degrees of albinism. True albino, or amelanistic animals lack melanin and are white with no markings and with unpigmented pink eyes.

On such case of albinism was observed in a male catfish *Arius caelatus* landed at New Ferry Wharf on 4.4.06 by a trawler. The total length measured 455 mm and weighed 1.100 Kg. The specimen was completely pale pink in colour. Normally *Arius caelatus* is light
On 2.2.05 about 1400 numbers of skipjack tuna ranging from 558-600 mm were landed at Sasoon Docks, Mumbai by a gillnetter. Apart from tunas the catch comprised of five sharks.

The catch was stored in crushed ice and unloaded at Sasoon Docks. They were sold at Rs. 120 per piece. The entire catch fetched Rs. 1,68,000 and were exported to European countries. Two specimens were bought to the laboratory for analysis. They measured 588 mm and 600 mm and weighed 4.447 Kg and 4.428 Kg respectively. Both the specimens were mature males and the gut contained myctophid (200 gms and 250 gms resp). A catch of this magnitude confirms the availability of sizeable tuna resource along this coast and a detailed study on its distribution, abundance and migration pattern is required.

Reported by: B.N. Katkar, S.D. Kamble, C.J. Josekutty and Sujit Sundaram, Mumbai Research Centre of CMFRI, Mumbai

During the year 2005, four numbers of _Mola mola_ were encountered along the Tuticorin Coast in Gulf of Mannar, of which three numbers landed at Thiruvaikulam, a fishing hamlet 15 kms north of Tuticorin, and one specimen landed at Kayalpatnam, another fishing village 40 km south of Tuticorin. All the above-referred specimens were caught by drift gill net (Paruvali-Large mesh gill net) from a depth of 60-100 m, while the gear was operated for fish, tuna, barracuda, billfishes and carangids.

Reported by: M. Chellappa, T.S. Balasubramanian and G Arumugam, TRC of CMFRI, Tuticorin

Heavy landings of skipjack tuna by gill netter at Mumbai.

Occurrence of Sun fishes along Tuticorin Coast