

ON THE LANDING OF A YOUNG SPINNER DOLPHIN AT VISAKHAPATNAM, ALONG ANDHRA COAST*

A young female spinner dolphin *Stenella longirostris* Gray, measuring 70.5 cm in total length was entangled accidentally along with the other fishes in the early morning hours of 21st August, 1991 in a gill net operated off Visakhapatnam at about 40 m depth. It was brought to the Visakhapatnam Outer Harbour fish landing centre in dead condition on the same day.

The morphometric measurements of the spinner dolphin in cm are given below.

Total length (snout to notch of caudal flukes)	70.5
Length from tip of snout to blow hole	11.8
Length from tip of snout to centre of eye	13.1
Length from tip of snout to anterior insertion of flipper	18.6
Length from tip of snout to origin of dorsal fin	31.2
Length from tip of snout to centre of anus	47.5
Length from notch of flukes to posterior end of dorsal fin	27.2
Length from notch of flukes to centre of anus	19.3
Length of fluke on outer curvature	12.2
Length of fluke on inner curvature	7.3
Distance between extremities of flukes	11.9
Width at insertion of fluke	5.4
Length of dorsal fin base	8.5
Vertical height of dorsal fin	7.1
Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	14.5
Length of flipper along curve of lower border	9.5
Greatest width of flipper	4.5

Depth of body at anal region	6.2
Depth of body at origin of flipper	9.1
Depth of body at origin of dorsal fin	11.7
Depth of body in the region of eye	8.4
Length of upper jaw	10.7
Length of lower jaw	10.8
Width between 2 eyes	8.6
Distance between genital opening and anus	4.4
Teeth : Uniform and minute on both the jaws.	
Sex : Female.	
Total weight (Kg)	2.660

The colour of the specimen was dark-grey to black dorsally and white ventrally. A dark grey stripe from flipper to eye was present. Abrasions were noticed at the base of the caudal fluke and also on the dorsal fin, which might have been caused during its entanglement in the net and also due to rough handling. According to an earlier report the length at birth of this species is about 0.8 m. From the size of the specimen and the presence of minute teeth on the jaws it appears that it was a newly born calf. Although the occurrence of very young spinner dolphin has been reported from Veraval and Mandapam, the present specimen is the smallest ever reported from Indian waters.

* Reported by : C. V. Seshagiri Rao and K. Narayana Rao, Visakhapatnam Research Centre of CMFRI, Visakhapatnam.