These groupers are weighed individually and packed in thermocool boxes of different sizes. In each box around 40 kg of fishes are packed with ice pieces. Ice pieces are spread at the bottom of the box above which a polythene sheet is spread. Then the groupers are placed and covered by the same polythene sheet. Once again ice pieces are spread on the surface of covered polythene sheet thereby avoiding the direct contact of ice with the fish.

Then the top of the box is closed by the lid. Entire thermocool box is tightly sealed by cellophane tape. Subsequently these boxes are transported to Kanyakumari from where these boxes are air lifted to markets in China and Honkong. This kind of export trade take place round the year and the peak season is between November and March.

Prepared by: G. Arumugam and T.S. Balasubramanian, TRC of CMFRI, Tuticorin

1206  Rhiniodon typus landed at Kovalam fish landing centre

A 21.1 ft dead female whale shark was stranded at Kovalam in a multifilament polypropylene net cast on 18th of July 2005 and was drifted ashore in the early morning hours.

Reported by: V. Thanapathi, M. Ravindran, V.A. Leslie, S. Ganesan, D. Pakkiri, A. Janakiraman and M. Anbu, MRC of CMFRI, Chennai

1207  Whale shark Rhiniodon typus landed at Kollam

On 12.9.06 a whale shark got entrapped in a trawl net while fishing off kollam at a depth of 46m. The fish was brought to Sakthikulangara Fisheries Harbour. The male shark measured 445 cm in total length and weighed approximately 2 tonnes. Later it was sold for Rs.1000/-.  

Reported by: Sijo Paul, Kollam field centre of CMFRI, Kollam

1208  Unusual landings of live gastropod Babylonia spirata along the coast of Pulicat

There was an unusual fishery of Babylonia spirata along the Pulicat coast during February - March 2006. The estimated landing was 78.5 t. Fibre glass