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ON A PELAGIC THRESHER *ALOPIAS PELAGICUS* CAUGHT OFF NORTH OF KAKINADA*

Thresher sharks of the family Alopiidae are rarely landed by the commercial gears, even though they are reported to have wide distribution in the oceanic and coastal epipelagic waters of the circum-tropic. Of the three known species, *Alopias pelagicus*, has commonly been mistaken for *A. vulpinus*. This misidentification as well as landing of these sharks by commercial vessels after removal of tails might have contributed to the lack of continuity in the spatial distribution of this species.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the thresher shark.

A pelagic thresher, *A. pelagicus*, was caught by Fishery Survey of Indian vessel M. F. V. *Matsya Darshini* in the afternoon of 25-3-1990 (Fig. 1&2). The shark measuring 2.6 m (T. L.) and weighing 48 kg was caught in a bottom trawl operated by the vessel at 70 m depth off north of Kakinada, (17° 06'N and 82° 47'E), along with 1,160 kg of other fishes. The specimen was a male and had its dorsal caudal lobe as long as the rest of the body.



Fig. 2. Ventral view showing pectoral and tail fins.

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