An assemblage of marine ornamental shrimp, *Rhynchocinetes durbanensis* off Karnataka coast

*Rhynchocinetes durbanensis*, commercially known as ‘hinge-beak shrimp’, ‘candy shrimp’, ‘camel shrimp’ or ‘dancing shrimp’ is a highly sought after ornamental shrimp. Studies by CMFRI revealed the details of a coral reef ecosystem existing around ‘Netrani’ island off Murdeswar. During the survey, a significant assemblage of marine ornamental shrimps, *Rhynchocinetes durbanensis* was observed around the island along with many rare ornamental fishes. The ‘dancing shrimp’ is distinguished by its red body with white stripes and a moveable rostrum (beak) that is usually angled upwards (Fig. 1). It is often seen moving around with sudden stops, as if dancing and therefore gets the common name ‘dancing shrimp.’ It is reported to have a variable pattern of red and white stripes on its body and grows up to 2 to 3”. The species prefers to congregate with other shrimp of its kind in rock crevices, or in the coral rubble. In international market, a shrimp of size 3/4” to 1-1/2” is worth around 6 US dollars.

‘Dancing shrimp’ is often termed as an associated fauna of ‘giant clam’ *Tridacna* spp. and incidentally ‘giant clams’ also were found to occur along the coral reef around Netrani island and this is the first record of the species from the west coast of India. It was reported to be a coral reef associated species and conservation of the coral reefs is therefore essential for the survival of the species.

*Reported by:* A.P. Dineshbabu, Mangalore Research centre of CMFRI and P.U. Zacharia, Tuticorin Research Centre of CMFRI

On the sunfish, *Masturus lanceolatus* landed near Ervadi, Gulf of Mannar

A sunfish, *Masturus lanceolatus*, commonly known as sharptail mola belonging to the family Molidae was drifted ashore (Fig.1) in Sadaimuniyan Valasai, near Ervadi along the Gulf of Mannar coast on 21-05-2007. The specimen measured a total length of 840 mm.
Larger specimens of this species were reported earlier from Gulf of Mannar coast in Tuticorin.

_Reporting by_: N. Ramamoorthy, Molly Varghese, A. Raju, C. Kasinathan and M. Seeni, Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp

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**1245 Unprecedented landing of sharks by hook and lines at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai**

About twelve hand-operated hook and liners from southern Tamil Nadu regularly fish off Okha, Gujarat for pelagic sharks and these vessels land their catch at New Ferry Wharf.

On 31.08.06, an unprecedented catch of about 3.2 t (300 Nos.) of sharks was landed by two hook and liners. The catch comprised of 270 numbers (90%) of _Carcharhinus limbatus_ measuring 110-125 cm in total length, 21 numbers (7%) of _Galeocerdo cuvieri_ measuring 173-210 cm and 3 numbers (3%) of _Carcharhinus sorrah_ measuring 115-128 cm. The weight range was 8-11 kg. The catch was sold for Rs. 2 lakhs at the rate of Rs. 60/kg.

Catch of small sized sharks of this magnitude is of great concern and would require conservation measures to protect this resource.

_Reporting by_: Thakur Das, K.B. Waghmare and Miriam Paul Sreram, Mumbai Research Centre of CMFRI, Mumbai

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**1246 First record of ocean sunfish, _Mola mola_ from Malabar coast**

Ocean sunfishes of the family Molidae are large pelagic fishes rarely found along the south-west coast of India. Presently, four species are recognised under this family throughout the world. They are the common mola, _Mola mola_, the sharp-tailed mola, _Masturus lanceolatus_, southern sunfish, _Mola ramsayi_ and the slender mola, _Ranzania laevis_. The most common of the ocean sunfishes is the _Mola mola_. It is