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1031 Whale shark, *Rhinocodon typus* (Smith) landed at Tuticorin, Gulf of Mannar

On 23.8.2002, a male whale shark *Rhinocodon typus* measuring 4.45 m and weighing approximately 1.5 t got entangled in a nylon net at a depth of 90-100 m, operated for tuna and allied species. The same was brought to Thirespuram shore around 15.00 hrs. Morphometric measurements of the specimen are presented in Table 1. Locally this shark is called as 'Ammani uluvai'. As its flesh is not palatable and the fins also does not fetch better price, the same was auctioned for Rs. 1150/- only.



Rhinocodon typus (Dorsal view) landed at Tuticorin.

Table 1: Morphometric measurements (cm) of *Rhinocodon typus* landed at Thirespuram on 23.8.2002

Total length	445	Second dorsal fin	
Length from snout to first dorsal fin	192	Outer margin	20
Length from snout to pectoral fin	86	Inner margin	17
Length from snout to second dorsal fin	224	Curvature	16
Length from snout to pelvic fin	226	Anal fin	
Length from snout to anal fin	249	Outer margin	21
First dorsal fin		Inner margin	20
Outer margin	47	Curvature	19
Inner margin	35	Pectoral fin	
Curvature	15	Outer margin	74
		Inner margin	59
		Curvature	21
		Caudal fin	
		Upper lobe	107
		Lower lobe	69
		Length of mouth	72
		Eye diameter	
		Horizontal	4
		Vertical	3.5
		Inter orbital distance	90
		Inter nostril distance	30
		Inter dorsal distance	46
		Snout to first gill opening	84
		Snout to second gill opening	93
		Snout to third gill opening	100
		Snout to fourth gill opening	107
		Snout to fifth gill opening	113
		Girth of body at first dorsal fin region	384

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