



# समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

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## ON A YOUNG SEA COW KILLED AT PERIAPATNAM, GULF OF MANNAR\*

On 29th September, 1990 at about 1400 hrs a young dugong was killed by the fishermen of Periapatnam in the inshore waters of Gulf of Mannar (depth 2 m, distance from the shore 2 km) near periapatnam. Eye witnesses reported that a mother and a calf of dugong were sighted frequently near the shore between 1200 to 1330 hrs on that day. By about 1400 hrs, fishermen hurled dynamite sticks into the sea when the mother and the calf surfaced for breathing. The young one was killed and brought to the shore. It weighed about 60 kg and had a total length of

155 cm. Meat was sold at Rs. 30.00 per kg in Periapatnam itself.

Very little information is available on the capture of young *Dugong*. The smallest recorded was 95 cm from Mandapam area (CMFRI Bulletin No. 26, 1975). It is presumed that at birth the dugong is less than 95 cm in length and the rate of growth is 10 cm per year. The Dugong measuring 155 cm killed at Periapatnam, would have taken about five and a half years to attain that size.

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\* Reported by: S. Krishna Pillai and M. Badrudeen, Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam.