

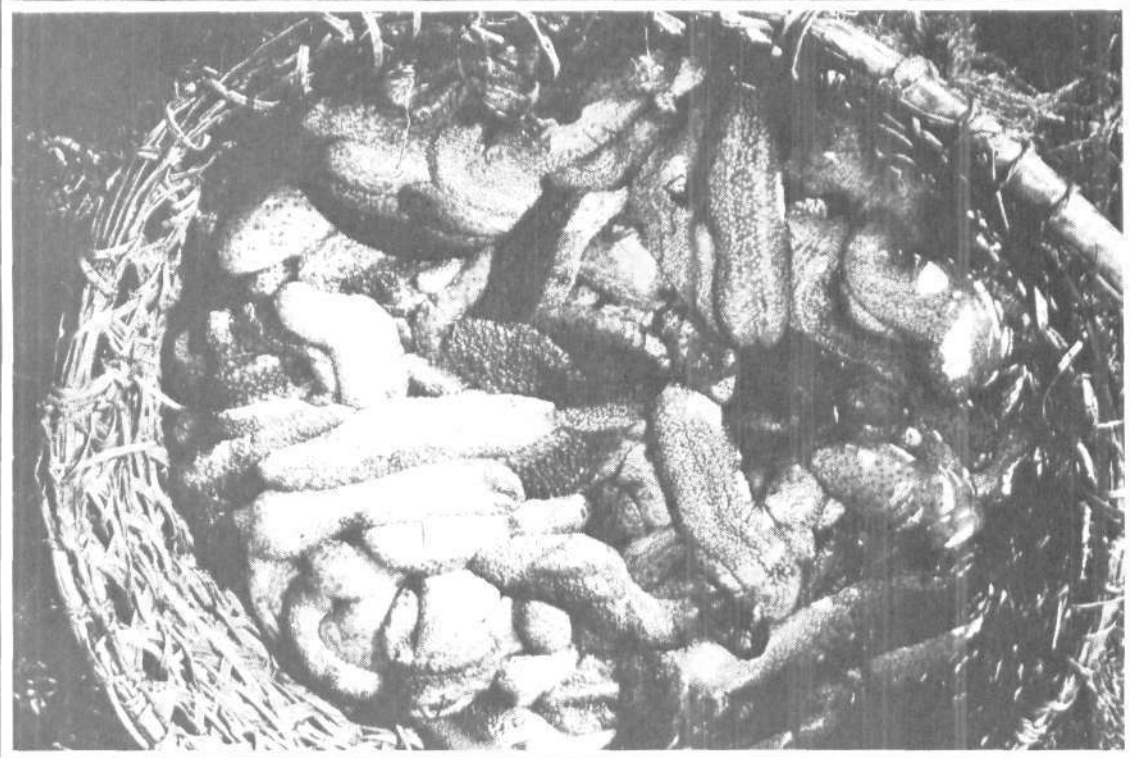


समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



No. 149

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1997



तकनीकी एवं विस्तार अंकावली TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

On two large devil rays landed at Tuticorin*

In the Tuticorin waters around 30 trawlers are engaged in deep sea fishing in depths between 100 and 400 m mainly for deepsea prawns, lobsters, crabs, gastropods, deepsea fishes, sharks, rays and cephalopods. Occasionally larger specimens of rays and sharks are also landed. On 28-4-97, two female specimens of devil ray *Manta birostris* locally known as 'Kombu thirukai' measuring 5.53 and 5.42 m each in disc width were caught off Tuticorin at a depth range of 100 to 125 m by one deep sea trawler. The specimens together weighed 2.4 t and were auctioned for Rs. 1,500. The morphometric measurements are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1. *Morphometric data of Manta birostris (Walbaum)*

	Specimen 1(mm)	Specimen 2 (mm)
1. Disc horizontal length (width)	5,530	5,425
2. Disc Vertical length (total length)	2,240	2,210
3. Inter orbital distance	1,345	1,305
4. Breadth of cephalic horn	275	260
5. Length of cephalic hor	610	595
6. Diameter of eye	105	100
7. Length of tail	1,245	1,235
8. Length of pelvic fin	410	390
9. Breadth of pelvic fin	340	330
10. Distance from mouth to I gill slit	550	540
" II gill slit	690	665
" III gill slit	830	810
" IV gill slit	960	945
" V gill slit	1,080	1,060
11. Width of I gill slit	545	542
" II gill slit	540	539
" III gill slit	530	530
" IV Gill slit	455	454
" V Gill slit	375	373

* Reported by S. Rajapackiam, D. Sundarajan and T.S. Balasubramanian, TRC of CMFRI, Tuticorin - 628 001, India.