

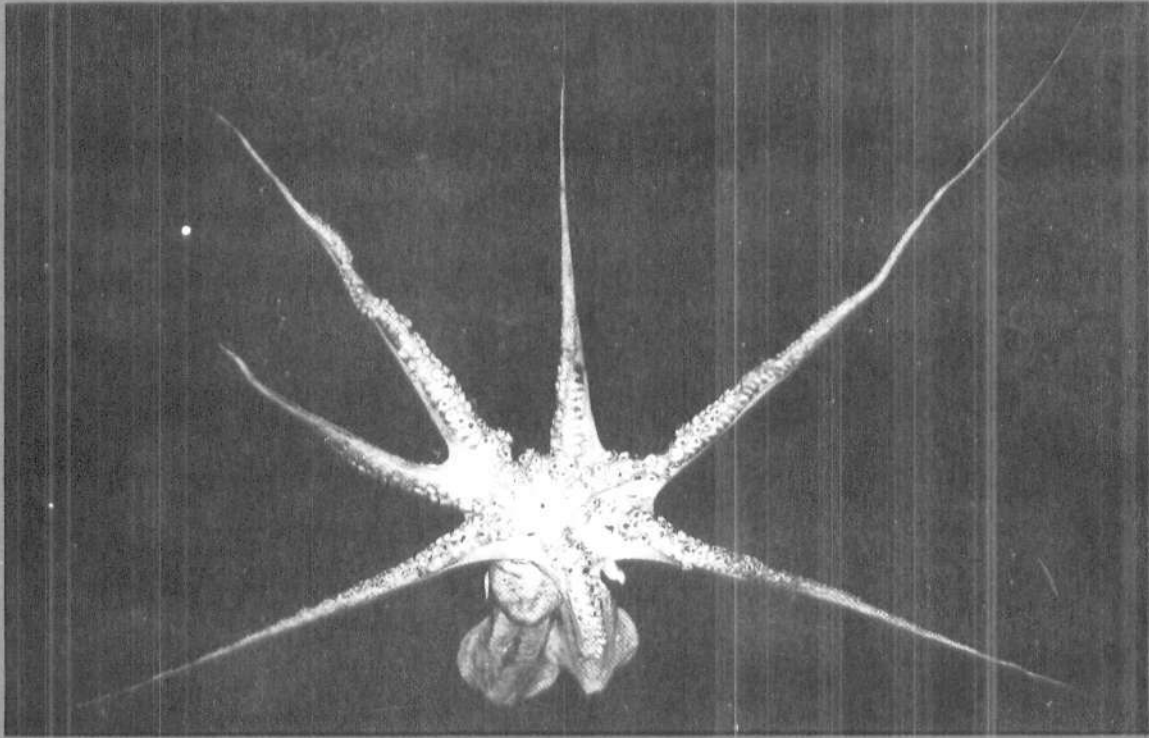


समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी अनुसंधान संस्थान कोचिन, भारत CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

lengths of other five arms were 98 cm each. The first and second arms appeared to have been cut by predators. The specimen weighted 19 kg.

The octopus was taken in acution by a private company for Rs.5,700/- (Rs.300/kg) and was exported.

Reported by : A.C.C. Victor and K. Jayabalan, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam camp - 623 520.

878 On the catch of a giant octopus from Gulf of Mannar off Rameswaram

The Giant octopus, (*Octopus dofleini*) is caught rarely from the Indian seas. It is otherwise endemic along North Pacific, northern California and Alaska to Japan coasts. The catch of a similar giant octopus at Rameswaram on January 17, 1997 was reported by Lipton and Jayabalan (in Press).

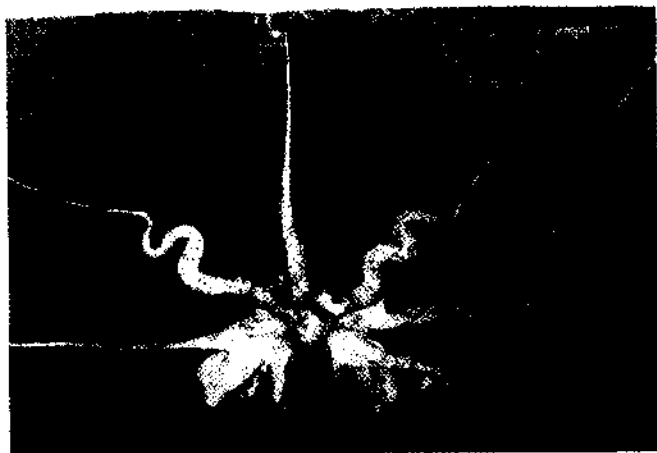


Fig. 1. The giant octopus caught from Gulf of Mannar.

On 23rd December, 1997, the fishermen from Mukundarayarchatram while operating the bottom set gillnet caught the present female giant octopus off the coast of Dhanushkodi point in Gulf of Mannar at 18 m depth. The total length of the animal was 150 cm and the dorsal mantle length was 52 cm. The length of the characteristic short arm (4th arm) was 60cm while the