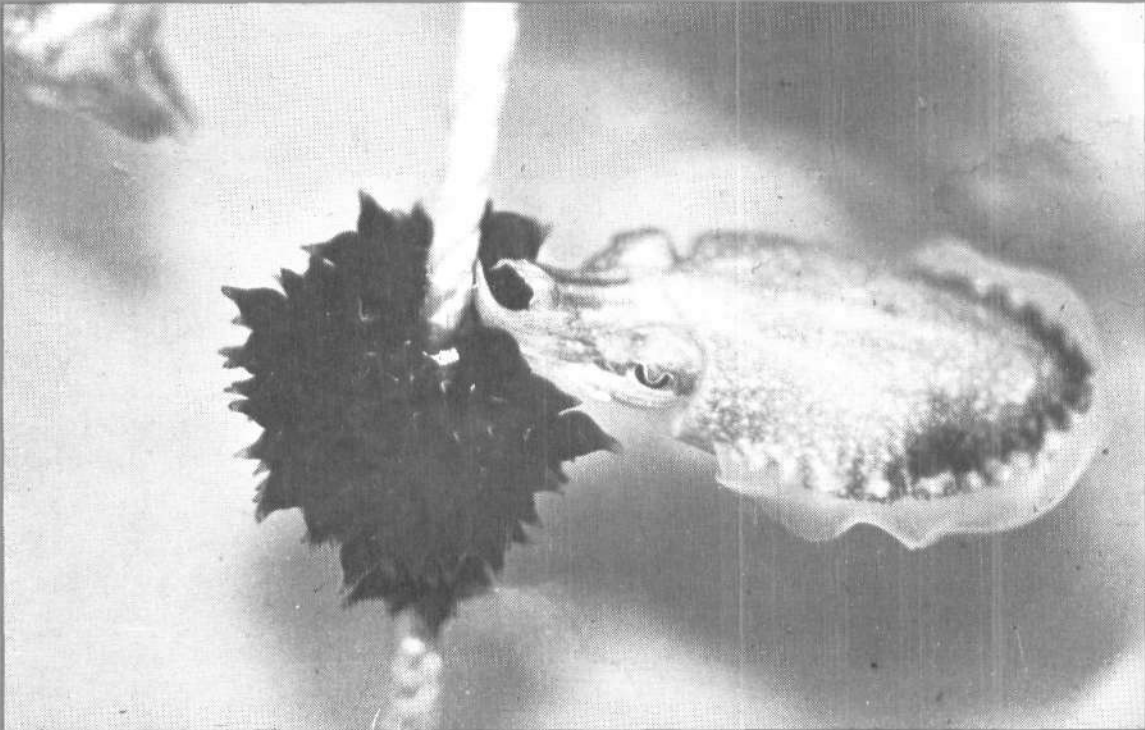




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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
अनुसंधान संस्थान RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद्
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

899 On the stranding of sea cow at Alagankulam along the Palk Bay and CMFRI jetty along the Gulf of Mannar coast

A male sea cow *Dugong dugong* (Muller) (Fig. 1) in dead condition was brought ashore by fishermen of the Alagankulam village on 20.03.1998.



Fig. 1. The sea cow *Dugong dugong* landed at Alagankulam

The animal weighed around 200 kg and the carcass when brought was in fresh condition without any injuries on the body. Another male sea cow *Dugong dugong* was found stranded at CMFRI Jetty in semidecomposed condition on 30.04.1998. The animal had injuries on the lateral sides of the body. The injury might have been due to the propeller movement of the fishing trawlers in the nearshore waters of Mandapam. Morphometric measurements of the two sea cows are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Morphometric measurements (cms) of the sea cows

| | Alagan- kulam | CMFRI Jetty |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Total length | 245 | 281 |
| Length of flipper | 35 | 40 |
| Length of muzzle | 18 | 18 |
| Width of muzzle | 24 | 24 |
| Tip of muzzle to vent | 160 | - |
| Tip of muzzle to genital | | |

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| opening | 121 | - |
| Distance between genital opening and anus | 33 | - |
| Circumference of the belly region | 164 | - |
| Circumference in the origin of flippers | 126 | - |
| Tip of snout to the origin of flipper | - | 60 |
| Tip of snout to the origin of blow hole | - | 30 |
| Length of caudal fluke | - | 54 |
| Sex | Male | Male |
| Weight (approximate) | 200 kg | 220 kg |
| After examination both the specimens were buried. | | |

Reported by A.C.C. Victor, M.Badrudeen, C.Kasinathan and N. Ramamoorthy, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp - 623 520, India.
