



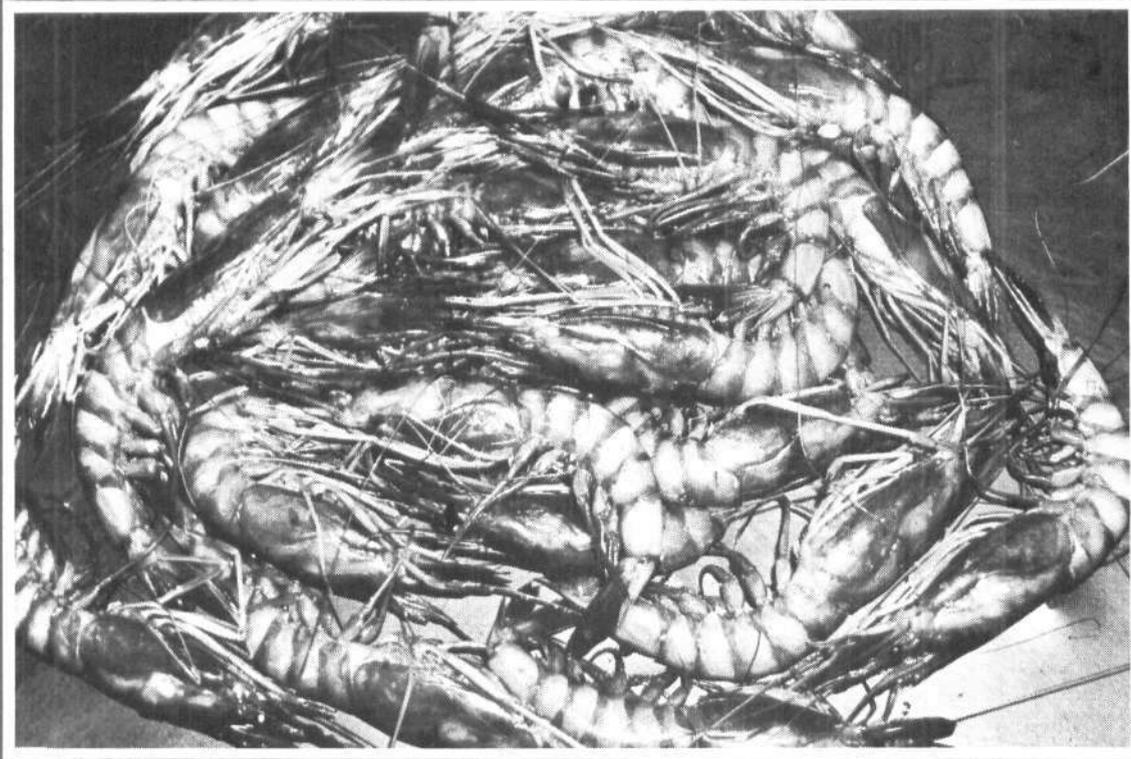
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Landings of three whale sharks along the coastal Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh*

Instances of the landings of three whale sharks, *Rhinodon typus*, one on 16-1-'97 at Vadagangavada and one each on 25-1-'97 at Kothuru and Iskalapalem landing centres of Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh are reported.

The whale shark landed at Vadagangavada at 06 30 hrs was entangled in a shore seine operated at a depth of 6 m. The fish measured 586 cm and weighed approximately 2,350 kg.

The landing of the whale sharks at Kothuru and Iskalapalem was at about 1400 hrs and 1530 hrs respectively. Both were entangled in the bottom set gill net unit locally called *Konemu pedda vala*. One measured 520 cm in total length (approximate weight 2,000 kg) and the other 624 cm (approximate weight 2,750 kg).

Details of the morphometric measurements (in cm) of the shark landed at Iskalapalem centre are as follows:

Total length	-	624
Standard length	-	464
Head length	-	168
Length of first dorsal fin	-	62
Length of second dorsal fin	-	25
Snout to first dorsal fin	-	261
Snout to second dorsal fin	-	392
Length of pectoral fin along outer margin	-	87
Length of caudal fin along upper margin	-	160
Width of mouth	-	94
Approximate weight	-	2,750 kg

The dorsal fins of the whale shark landed at Vadagangavada was cut by the fishermen and there was no demand for the flesh of the fishes.

* Reported by V. Atchuta Rao, Palasa Field Centre of CMFRI, Palasa - 721 401.