



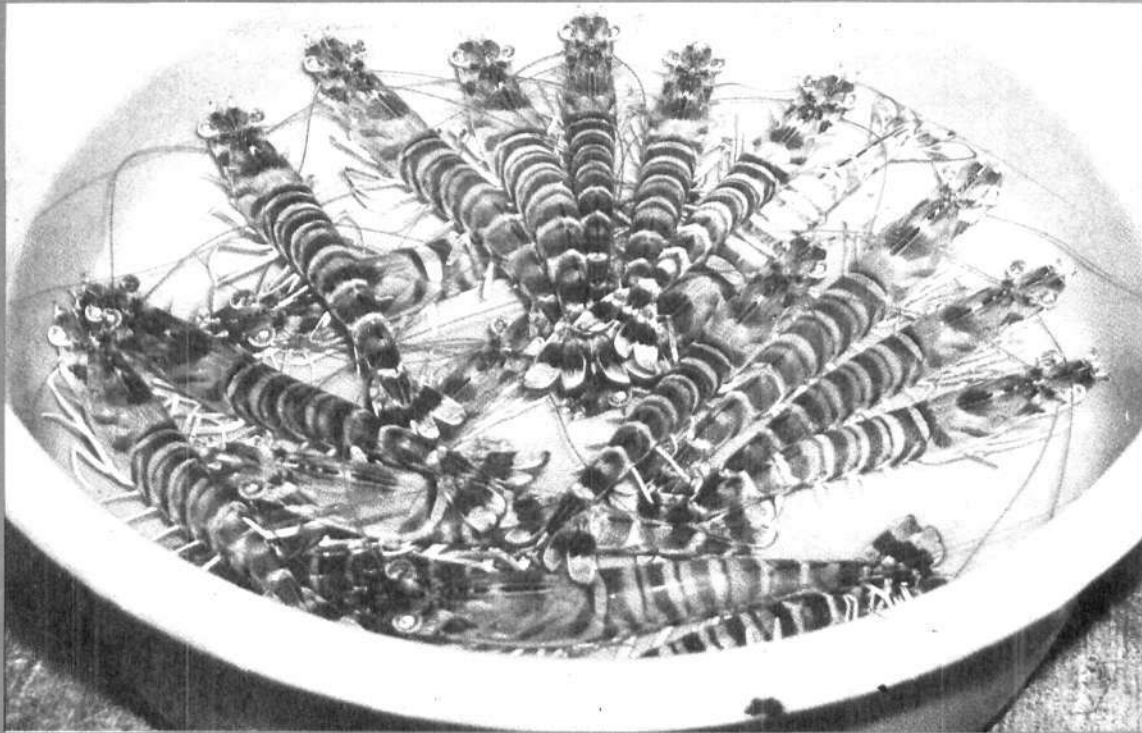
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भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद्
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

**828 On a Whale shark *Rhinodon typus*
found accompanied by its young ones**

On 3rd March 1996 at 0800 hrs during one of the routine observations on the long-line mussel culture, about 5 km off Adimalathurai south of Vizhinjam, the caudal fin of a whale shark projecting over the water was observed from the Research Vessel Cadamin VI. The whale shark measured about 5.5 m in length and weighed approximately 5 t (for that total length). The shark came to the propeller side of the vessel and surfaced. It was seen accompanied by 16 juvenile sharks of about 1 m in length. Most of the young ones swam on either side of the shark, while a few moved below. The schooling sharks came near the long-line culture site, obviously for food, as small fishes were seen aggregating there.

Reported by S. Krishna Pillai, Vizhinjam Research Centre of CMFRI, Vizhinjam - 695 521.