

Landing of *Alopias pelagicus* (Nakamura, 1936) at Visakhapatnam

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Two specimens of the pelagic thresher shark *Alopias pelagicus* (Nakamura, 1936) were landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on 28.06.2011. One specimen was male (Fig. 1) and the other was female. The male pelagic thresher shark measured 940 mm and weighed 900 g. The female measured 829 mm (caudal fin tip was absent) and weighed 750 g. The specimens were characterised by large eye size and very long upper lobe of caudal fin. According to Compagno (1984) and Fisher and Bianchi (1984), the pelagic thresher is ovoviviparous, with at least two young, born at a length greater than 96 cm. Based on this information, the two specimens of pelagic thresher sharks landed at Visakhapatnam can be

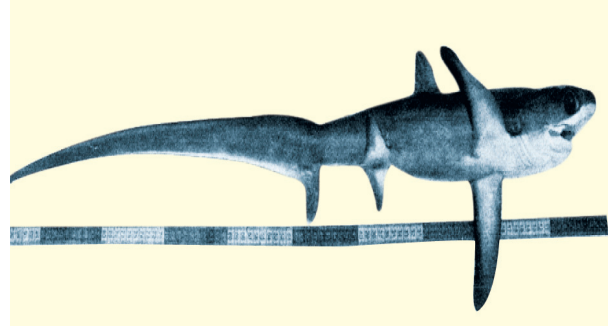


Fig. 1. Male thresher shark *Alopias pelagicus* landed at Visakhapatnam

considered as either newborn or foetus. The various morphological measurements (based on Compagno, 1984) of the two specimens are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of *Alopias pelagicus* landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour

Measurements (mm)	Male specimen	Female specimen
Total length	940	829
Fork length	462	431
Pre-caudal length	445	389
Pre-first dorsal length	245	217
Pre- pectoral length	155	149
Pre-pelvic length	335	294
Pre-anal length	410	369
Interdorsal space	108	93
First dorsal length	60	49
Second dorsal length	17	19
Pelvic length	54	46
Anal length	19	22
Dorsal caudal margin	505	439*
Eye length	32	24
Eye height	34	25
Clasper outer length	20	-
Total weight (g)	900	750

*denote incomplete measurement as caudal tip was absent