Hyalonema (Cyliconema) apertum apertum recorded in the eastern side of North and Central Andaman waters

The hexactinellids constitute one of the important members of deep-sea communities, many of which remain unsampled or poorly sampled. One of the sponges collected during the cruise on board FORV Sagar Sampada (Cruise No.252) from the eastern side of North Andaman waters at 13°06’ N lat. and 93°11’E long. was identified as Hyalonema (Cyliconema) apertum apertum. This species, collected at a depth of 402m, belonged to the Class Hexactinellida, Order Amphidiscosida and Family Hyalonematidae. The body was spindle-like, followed by basalia in the form of long twisted spicules. Identical specimens collected from 12°57’N lat. & 93°07’E long. and 12°45’N lat. & 93°09’E long. confirmed the presence of H. (Cyliconema) apertum apertum in the Central Andaman waters too.

(Pelagic Fisheries Division & Marine Biodiversity Division)

Dolphin washed ashore at Kamat Bay, Karwar

A dolphin was found washed ashore in a mutilated and putrefied condition on 22nd June, 2008 at Kamat Bay, Karwar. Samples of skin and bones were sent to CMFRI Headquarters, Cochin for confirmation of species by DNA analysis.

(Karwar Research Centre)

Baleen whale washed ashore at Dona Paula beach, Goa

A baleen whale was washed ashore on 18th June, 2008 at Dona Paula beach, Goa.

(Karwar Research Centre)

Landing of larger sciaenids by gill netters at Veraval

There was significant landing of larger sciaenids Protonibea diacanthus (12 t) and Otolithoides biaritus (9.2 t) by gill netters in the month of April and May 2008. The catch of 10.2 t of gholf recorded in the month of May is the highest catch recorded by gillnetters in a particular month at Veraval.

(Veraval Regional Centre)

Virgin landing of triggerfish Canthidermis maculata by gill netters at Veraval

The spotted oceanic triggerfish, Canthidermis maculata was landed for the first time at Veraval on 2nd
April, 2008 and approximately 5 kg were landed by two gill netters at Old Light House gill net landing centre.

(Veralav Regional Centre)

Marbled electric ray, *Torpedo sinuspersici* noticed in Malabar coast

Occurrence of a marbled electric ray, *Torpedo sinuspersici* was noticed in the trawl landings during the last week of May, 2008. This is the first record of this species along the Malabar coast. The marbled electric ray is a demersal species usually found on sandy or muddy seabeds at depths between 10-30m and well offshore from the surf zone down to 200m. It often remains buried during the day, but swims in search of prey at night. *T. sinuspersici* is a small-sized ray, rarely reaching over 130 cm in length. This species is characterized by thick and flabby dorso-ventrally flattened body, rounded snout, small eyes, spiracles at the top of head, rounded wings, pectoral discs and a well developed caudal fin. *T. sinuspersici* has a marbled, pale and dark brown colouration. The observed specimen measured 52 cm and the disc measured 28 cm.

(Calicut Research Centre)

*Stegostoma fasciata* - a rare shark landed at Puthiyappa Harbour

A rare shark, *Stegostoma fasciata* measuring about 3 ft. and weighing 5.6 kg was landed at the Puthiyappa Fisheries Harbour on 6th June, 2008.

(Calicut Research Centre)

Whale shark landed at Visakhapatnam fishing harbour

A whale shark was landed at Visakhapatnam fishing harbour on 24th June, 2008. The shark which measured 401 cm in fork length was found entangled in a large mesh sized gill net locally known as Panduvala. This shark was found to have no demand in the local market.

(Visakhapatnam Regional Centre)