fetches a price of Rs.6-8/kg. When there is demand from the dealers, *P. polynema* is sold for Rs. 3/kg. Otherwise the catch is discarded on the beach itself.

The annually recurring increased occurrence of *T. vagina* and *P. polynema* in the yendi shoreseine fishery is purely a monsoon phenomenon and is absent during other seasons of the year. As these fishes are poor swimmers and most of the catch is comprised of adults, it is possible that they are ordinarily denizens of the Kali river mouth, which is 2 km north of the current fishing ground, and that they get transported to the nearshore areas by local currents during the monsoons. A southerly drift of currents along the North Kanara coast has been mentioned by earlier workers (Noble, 1968). Dominant commercial species such as *Sardinella longiceps* and *Rastrelliger kanagurta* fail to make any significant contribution to the shoreseine monsoon fishery unlike in other months. Their absence is probably due to the lowering of surface salinity (6-15.5 ppt) in nearshore areas due to heavy river discharge during the monsoon, these species being highly susceptible to definite changes in hydrological conditions. The smooth blassop *Lagocephalus inermis*, which causes loss to shoreseine fishers by damaging the gear is also absent during this period.

The yendi shoreseine fishery provides income to traditional fishers during the monsoon months and also fresh fish to local communities. Being a comparatively non-destructive gear and the mainstay of livelihood during the lean period, this fishery should be encouraged with better marketing facilities and value addition of catch.

### A large ray *Mobula diabolus* landed at Ponnani, Kerala

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On 23rd June 2009, a large ray *Mobula diabolus* was landed at Ponnani. The gear used was driftnet which was operated at 34 m depth. The weight of the ray was approximately 900 kg.

The measurement details are given below:
- Fin to fin length : 492 cm
- Cephalic horn length : 59 cm
- Gap between cephalic horns : 60 cm
- Length (from head to caudal base) : 221 cm
- Length of tail : 54 cm
- Body width : 188 cm

**Fig. 1.** *Mobula diabolus* landed at Ponnani