

## Landing of giant devil rays at Chennai Fisheries Harbour

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Three numbers of giant devil rays, *Manta birostris* (Fig. 1), locally called as “kombu thirukkai” along with the lesser devil ray, *Mobula diabolus* (Fig. 2) were landed by mechanised gillnet at Chennai Fisheries Harbour on 04-06-2011 (Table 1).

Subsequently on 09-06-2011, six numbers of *M. birostris* (DW 420-450 cm) were landed by mechanised gillnet and these were auctioned for ₹ 1,00,000/-. *M. birostris* and *M. diabolus* were sold at a high price owing to the high value of the gillrakers. The gillrakers were removed, cleaned thoroughly and dried for about 4 - 5 days. The dried gillrakers are sold at the rate of ₹ 2,500 – 5,000 per kg depending

upon their size. The dried gillrakers are exported and used for soup preparation and for medicinal purpose.



Fig. 1. *Manta birostris* landed at Chennai

Table 1. Details of size, weight and price particulars of *Manta birostris* landed at Chennai

| Disc Width (cm) | Disc length (cm) | Sex    | Weight (kg) | Price (₹) |
|-----------------|------------------|--------|-------------|-----------|
| 560             | 255              | Female | 1000        | 22,600    |
| 532             | 244              | Male   | 800         | 16,400    |
| 480             | 240              | Male   | 600         | 10,200    |



Fig. 2. *Mobula diabolus* landed at Chennai