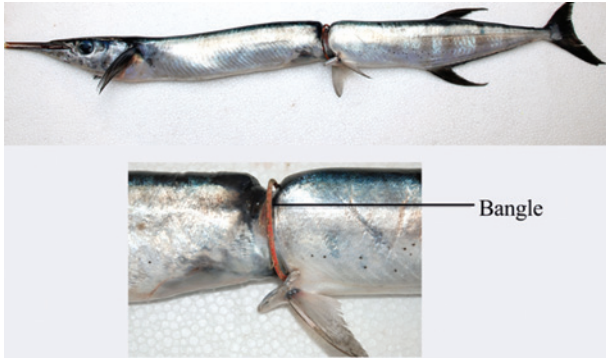


Belonid fish *Ablennes hians* caught with entrapped plastic bangle, off Mangalore

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During our regular observation at Mangalore Fisheries Harbour, on 6th March 2012, a belonid fish, *Ablennes hians* (Valenciennes, 1846) was collected

along with seerfish and mackerel landed by drift gillnet operated at 36-40 m depth, south-west off Manjeswara. This belonid fish was found to be



Ablennes hians caught off Mangalore with plastic bangle encircling the body

encircled with a plastic bangle in its belly part, with distinct deformation in the entangled part. The circumference of the plastic bangle (14.3 cm) was smaller than the circumference of the fish head which indicated that the fish got entangled with this plastic bangle when it was small. The body depth of the fish, anterior as well as posterior to the bangle ensnared area is much higher and the deformed base

of the pelvic fin must have been caused due to the drag forces, which would have acted on the fish body as the fish grew. From this incidence, it could be understood how plastic can affect animals in the sea. Plastic garbage and used fishing nets lead to “ghost fishing” and entrap numerous marine organisms like seabirds, turtles and fishes.

Morphometric measurements of *Ablennes hians* with the plastic bangle

Parameter	Measurement
Total length	86 cm
Head circumference	17 cm
Circumference of bangle	14.3 cm
Body depth (anterior to the bangle)	17 cm
Body depth (posterior to the bangle)	17 cm
Body depth (at the bangle trapped area)	11.7 cm
Wet weight of the fish	958 g