carnivores that feed on a wide variety of fishes, cephalopods, and crustaceans, especially crab. Cobia often follow sharks, turtles and manta rays in hope of scavenging a meal. The present finding reveals that under confinement, the fish becomes indiscriminate eaters, feeding even on anthropogenic wastes.

**A simple and portable seawater filtering device using pipette filler**

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Filtration of seawater from the intertidal and coastal areas for separating chlorophyll pigments or particulate organic matter (POM) requires vacuum and for creating vacuum, a suction pump operated using AC/DC is essential. From the field or sea, large quantities of water samples have to be saved, brought to the laboratory and preserved by freezing until the filtration. Seawater filtration in remote areas with no power supply or portable suction pump is difficult but can be made possible by deploying a simple device involving filtering flask, a rubber hose and a safety pipette filler.

**Requirements**

1. Filtration funnels with magnetic base (300 ml, Gelman Sciences Inc)
2. Glass fibre filter paper (GF 52, Schleicher & Schuell)
3. Vacuum filtering flask with a glass hose connection- (1000 ml, Merck- 0101730)
4. Safety pipette filler (Cole - Parmer KH- 24805-10)
5. Rubber hose (10 mm dia., 25 cm long)

**Procedure**

Connect one end of rubber hose with the side arm of filtering flask and the other end with safety pipette filler by inserting the hose about 0.5 cm as shown in the Fig. 1. Place GF filter paper in between filter funnel and magnetic base and place it over the flask. Pour known quantity of seawater on the filtering funnel. To create vacuum for suction of seawater, press the filler bulb to expel the air and then squeeze the valve with the thumb and the index finger. Repeat this for 3-5 times until sufficient...
Landing of a tagged black marlin *Istiompax indica* (Cuvier, 1832) at Tharuvaikulam, Tuticorin

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In Tharuvaikulam (8°53′42″N, 78°09′56.6″E), Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, India, there is a regular drift gill net (mesh size 120-140 mm) fishery targeting mainly tunas and seer fishes. The fishing trip is multiday (5 to 6 days) and the operation is only during night, with normally one haul per day. In this gear, bill fishes are also landed being entangled and not gilled. Normally four species of billfishes are landed such as *Istiophorus platypterus*, *Tetrapterus angustirostris*, *istiompax indica* and *Xiphias gladius*. On 1.2.13, two numbers of *I. indica* was landed along with other fishes. Out of this two, one was with a tag which was on the body immediately below the dorsal fin. This was actually caught on 31.1.13 off Mandapam (8°30′04″N; 79°14′06″E) where the depth was more than 300 m.

The size of the fish was: Body length (From tip of lower jaw to fork length): 268 cm, Eye - fork length: 237 cm. The fish was released by African Billfish Foundation on 3.2.2012 at 3°41′S; 40°12′E (near Tanzania). The days at liberty was nearly one year and this is the first report of a tagged bill fish recovered from Indian waters.

![Fig. 1. Black marlin with the tag](image1)

![Fig. 2. The tag with the number and other details](image2)

Largest black marlin, *Istiompax indica* (Cuvier, 1832) landed at Tharuvaikulam, Tuticorin

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Black marlin is a highly migratory, large oceanic apex predator that inhabits tropical and subtropical waters of the Indian and Pacific oceans. Little is known on the biology of black marlin in the Indian Ocean. In the present observation, a black marlin landed on 25.3.2013 by drift gill net operated from