

First report of the shortfin mako sharks *Isurus oxyrinchus* (Rafinesque, 1810) in commercial landings at Madras Fisheries Harbour

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A pair of shortfin mako sharks *Isurus oxyrinchus*, locally named “singapal sorrah” were landed at Madras Fisheries Harbour by a mechanised gillnetter on 19.07.2012. The shortfin mako is an epipelagic species found in tropical and warm-temperate seas from the surface down to at least 500 m. Although it is known to be distributed in the Bay of Bengal, it is rarely found to occur in the fishery off the north Tamil Nadu coast. The present specimens are first record of mako sharks occurrence in Chennai waters.



Shortfin mako shark *Isurus oxyrinchus* landed at Chennai

Description: Body slender and cylindrical in shape with long and pointed snout. First dorsal long with origin above insertion of pectoral fin. Anal fin origin at middle of second dorsal fin base. Body color blue dorsally and white ventrally. Underside of snout and area around mouth white.

The maximum recorded size of shortfin mako shark is 400 cm with size ranging between 250 and 270 cm reported as common. The two sharks landed at Chennai were one male and one female, measuring 245 cm and 188 cm in total length and weighing 55 and 90 kg, respectively. These sharks were caught in gillnet operations carried out at a depth of 100 m in grounds located to the north-east of Chennai.

The morphometric measurements (in cm) of the two sharks are given below:

Morphometric measurements	Male	Female
Total length	245	188
Pre caudal length	185	130
Head length	80	65
Snout to origin of I dorsal fin dorsal	82	75
Snout to II dorsal	160	150
Snout to pectoral	65	60
Snout to pelvic	134	128
Snout to Anal fin	165	157
Snout to Anus	160	150
Snout to eye	17	16
Eye diameter	5	5
Length of upper caudal fin	48	45
Length of lower caudal fin	38	35
Length of clasper	22	-
Length of mouth	14	14

The shortfin mako shark is probably the fastest of sharks and can leap out of the water when they are hooked. They are potentially dangerous and infamous for unprovoked attacks on swimmers and boats. Fine quality meat, fins and skin of this shark fetch good value in consumer market. The specimens reported here were auctioned by the fishermen at the landing centre, for ₹13,500/- and ₹ 7700/.