

Unusual landing of the sharks at Sassoon dock landing centre, Mumbai

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On 5th June 2013, unusual landing of the tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*), the spot-tail shark (*Carcharhinus sorrah*), the bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*) and the blacktip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) belongs to the family Carcharhinidae was observed at Sassoon dock (Fig. 1). About 4 tonnes of sharks of the above species in the length range of 1.5 - 3.25 m and weight ranging from 50 to 120 kg were landed by trawler. The fishermen from Thoothoor, Tamilnadu operated hook line consisting of 1,200 to 1,300 hooks in the North-West direction off Mumbai coast at a distance of 100-150 km from



Fig. 1. Unusual landing of sharks at Sassoon dock, Mumbai on 5th June, 2013

the coast. These sharks were landed in stray numbers by mechanised gillnets, hooks and line units in combination. This is the first time bulk landing of shark was observed at Sassoon dock and sharks were sold out @ ₹ 157/- per kg. The fishermen in the area operate 2 to 3 different types of gear to catch the fish in the same boat, which is attributed to rising fuel cost and scarce catch in far off waters.

The IUCN has assessed the tiger shark, the spot-tail shark, the bull shark and the blacktip shark as Near Threatened, noting its numbers are dwindling due to increasing levels of unregulated fishing activity across its range. The slow reproductive rate and limited habitat preferences of species renders sharks populations vulnerable to overfishing.