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 estuaries on which they are dependent as nursery areas (Mann and Radebe, 1999) whereas adults are probably spawn at sea, but the transparent leptocephalus larvae migrate to inshore areas and often found in brackish water (Kottelat et al., 1993). The unusual landing is a fish in the sea is related to certain physical and chemical parameters of the water. It was presumed by the fishermen that cold wind coupled with turbid water favours the fish species to congregate in a particular location may be for breeding where the fishes are caught but during the other periods these fishes are generally caught as single.

In addition to *E. machnata* other species landed were *Thunnus albacares* (120 kg), *Euthynnus affinis* (60 kg), *Katsuwonus pelamis* (20 kg), Carangids (4 kg) and Scomberoides (6 kg). The observed length classes are ranging from 930 to 1050 mm weighing 4 to 7 kg. These fishes were sold at a price ranging from 70 per kg. These fishes are edible, but not tasty and full of bones so it was not locally consumed mainly used as dry fish transported to dry fish market at Melayapalayam, Tirunelveli. The total revenue earned from sale on the single unit on the day was ₹ 63,190.
Heavy landing of needle fish, *Ablennes hians* (Valenciennes, 1846) at Sassoon dock, Maharashtra

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On 4th October, 2013 there was an unusual landing of needle fish, *Ablennes hians* (Valenciennes, 1846) by multiday purse seiners at Sassoon Dock (Fig.1). Approximately 8 tonnes of needle fish were landed by 16 purse seiners on the day. Such a heavy catch of needle fish is a rare phenomenon at Mumbai where these fish are landed only occasionally. These fishes are reef associated and highly pelagic. By observing the structural morphology of beak like jaws and teeth it appears that they are highly predaceous and feeds on smaller organisms. As per the information, the fishes appeared as a large shoal near the shore and were caught by multiday purse seiners fishing at depths of 10-15 m off Raigad district of Maharashtra. The fishes were sold for ₹ 80/- per kg and all the catch was bought by traders from Kerala through local venders. The fish is greenish in colour and its flesh and vertebral column appears bluish green even after cooking. Therefore there is no local demand for this fish in Maharashtra.

Random samples were collected from Sassoon dock and brought to the laboratory. The total length and total weight of the fishes were measured and biological studies were carried out. The average weight of fishes was 500-800gm and the length ranged from 600-800mm with the modal length group of 700-730mm. The gonadal examination showed both males and females were in immature stage with a sex ratio of 1:1. It was noticed that in these fishes the gonads were unequal in size; the left lobe was bigger than the right one. Most of the