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## ICAR-CMFRI felicitates Fishermen for saving endangered Whale Shark

4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, Kochi

The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi felicitates the fishermen from Calicut, Kerala for their courageous efforts of saving an endangered Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) on the occasion of ICAR-CMFRI's 73<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day celebrations today. It was the result of the rigorous awareness campaigns being conducted by the ICAR-CMFRI to conserve the endangered marine species that motivated the fishermen to save the Shark.



In a major impact of the awareness programmes, the shark, which was accidentally caught in the trawl boat, was returned to the sea in a dramatic rescue by 9 fishermen who set-off to the sea from Puthiyappa, Calicut on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. The whale shark has been protected under the Schedule - 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act.

The fishermen had to cut the trawl net worth Rs. 1 lakh for rescuing the Whale Shark. The operation took nearly 4 hours. It would cost Rs. 40,000/- to repair the damaged net. The two fishermen sustained minor injuries while releasing the endangered shark measuring about 5m in length and weighed around 900 - 1,000 kg.

The Institute regularly organizes awareness programme on conservation of protected Elasmobranchs. Besides these, the Institute had conducted a workshop on the International Whale Shark Day at Ponnani on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 and another at Calicut on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

(Source: ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi)