

## Landings of Tiger shark along north Andhra Pradesh coast



Female tiger shark landed at Visakhapatnam Fisheries Harbour



Male Tiger shark landed at Pudimadaka landing centre

The Tiger shark of the genus *Galeocerdo* is reportedly represented by a single species *Galeocerdo cuvier* (Peron & Leasueur, 1822) belonging to the family Carcharhinidae. The species is a circumglobal large predator with reports of attacking humans as well. The name 'Tiger shark' is derived from the dark stripes down its body, which resemble the pattern of a Tiger; however, the patterns fade as the shark matures. This species can grow up to a maximum length of 750 cm, reaches maturity at 300 cm (Lm) (approximately 7-10 years) and has a maximum published weight of



Tiger shark landed at Chinthapalli landing centre

Table 1. Data of Tiger Shark landings

Observation record	Total Length (cm)	Total Weight (kg)	Sex	Gear	Location of landing
6-11-2018	152	20	M	Hook and line	Poodimadaka
22-01-2020	129	13	F	Hook and line	Chinthapalli
08-03-2021	202.5	55	F	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
30-10-2021	246	65	M	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
29-11-2021	238	70	M	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
29-12-2021	213	50	F	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
29-12-2021	347	150	M	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
29-12-2021	261	100	F	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
22-07-2022	250	85	F	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
12-09-2022	203	45	F	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
23-09-2022	285	70	F	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
10-10-2022	219	45	M	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
10-10-2022	237	66	F	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
02-01-2023	210	45	M	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
06-04-2023	225	66	M	Trawl*	Visakhapatnam FH
28-04-2023	115	5.5	M	Hook and line	Manchineelapeta

\* Though landed by trawlers, the animals might have been caught by hooks and lines operated off a trawler most of the time



Male tiger shark landed at Manchineelapeta, Srikakulam district

807.4 kg. The maximum reported age for the species is 50 years. The IUCN lists the Tiger shark as 'Nearly Threatened' throughout its range. Along north Andhra Pradesh, Tiger sharks occur as bycatch in trawl and gillnet fisheries and as non-specific targeted catch in hooks and lines. Tiger sharks formed 9-40% of

sharks landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour during 2018-2023.

On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024, a single female Tiger shark was landed as bycatch by a multiday trawler at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour. On enquiry, fishermen reported that the animal was caught

from a distance of 70 nautical miles northeast of Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour, at a depth around 100 m. The animal had a total length of 356 cm and an approximate weight of 200 kg. The animal was mature, with a loose vent, indicating an earlier release of pups from the animal. This was the largest sized Tiger shark to be landed along north Andhra Pradesh during the last five years. A compilation of information on Tiger sharks landed in north Andhra Pradesh from 2018 to 2024 and for Visakhapatnam Fisheries Harbour, where only those above 200 cm TL have been mentioned is given below.

**M. Muktha\*, Jincy Cherian, K. Renuka, V. Ashok Maharshi, P. Pattnaik, Ch. Moshe, R.V.D. Prabhakar, T. Nageswara Rao, Sujitha Thomas and Shoba Joe Kizhakudan** | Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute