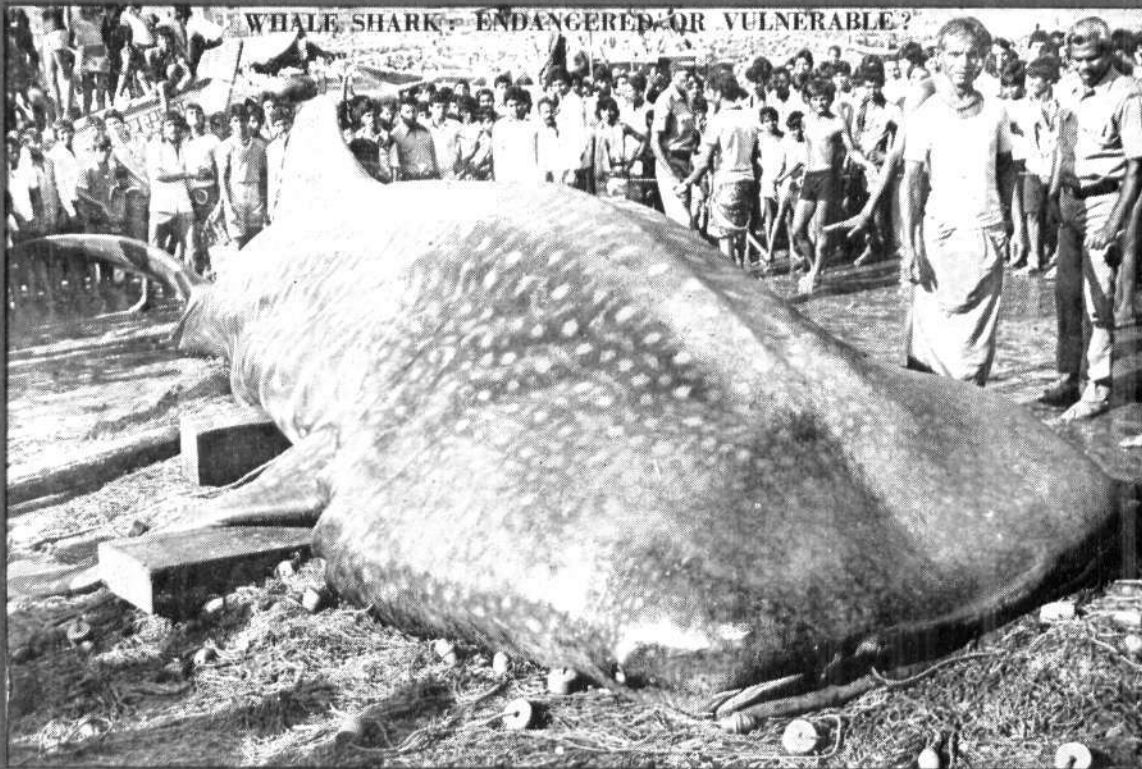




MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



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THE MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE: Technical and Extension Series envisages the rapid dissemination of information on marine and brackish water fishery resources and allied data available with the National Marine Living Resources Data Centre (NMLRDC) and the Research Divisions of the Institute, results of proven researches for transfer of technology to the fish farmers and industry and of other relevant information needed for Research and Development efforts in the marine fisheries sector.

Abbreviation - *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, No. 66: 1986

ON A WHALE SHARK *RHINEODON TYPUS* SMITH LANDED AT CUFFE PARADE BEACH, BOMBAY*

On the 8th January, 1980 a female whale shark, which got entangled in a nylon gill net (locally called 'Tarti') and let off Alibag (about 40 nautical miles south of Bombay) at a depth of 13 m was landed alive at Cuffe Parade. The fish reportedly was caught at about 0130 hrs on 8th instant and died at about 1530 hrs, the same day (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of a 7.58 m whale shark landed at Cuffe Parade, Bombay, on 8th January, 1980.

Details of morphometric measurements (in cm) recorded on the lines suggested by Silas and Rajagopalan (1963) (*J. mar. biol. Ass. India*, 5 (1): 153-157) are given below:

1. Total length	... 758
2. Standard length	... 622
3. Head length	... 185
4. Width of mouth	... 88

Vertical height of:

5. First dorsal fin	... 84
6. Second dorsal fin	... 58

7. Length of caudal fin from caudal pit along upper margin	... 183
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Snout to:

8. First dorsal fin	... 375
9. Second dorsal fin	... 533
10. Pectoral fin	... 155
11. Inter-space between first and second dorsals	... 137

Length of:

12. Pectoral fin along outer margin from anterior insertion	... 144
13. Pectoral fin from angle of inner base to tip	... 123
14. First dorsal fin along outer margin from anterior insertion	... 87
15. Second dorsal fin along outer margin from anterior insertion	... 52
16. Least height of caudal peduncle	... 41
17. Diameter of orbit	... 6.5
18. Inter-orbital distance	... 165

Anterior margin (mid-point) of snout to:

19. Eye	... 83
20. Spiracle	... 108
21. First gill opening	... 163

The colour of the specimen was dark grey with numerous yellowish white spots over the body. There was a median ridge on the back and three lateral ridges on each side.

As the local fish merchants did not evince interest to buy the fish the fishermen towed it back to the sea on the next day and sank it by tying heavy sinkers to its body.

*Reported by J. P. Karbhari, Bombay Research Centre of CMFRI, Bombay.

