



MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 172

April, May, June, 2002



TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

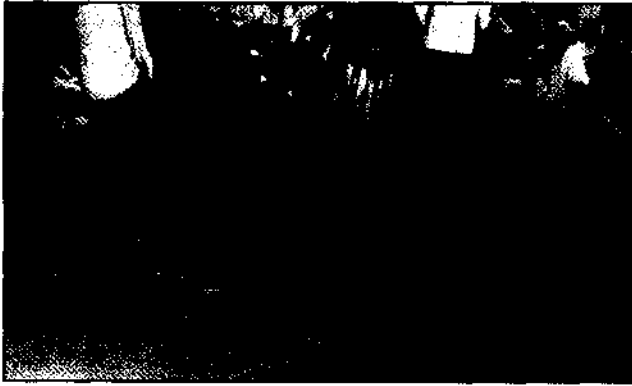
COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

Sawfishes belonging to the family Rajidae usually occur in deeper waters beyond 80m depth. They are irregularly distributed along the Indian coast. The fishery for this species is not fully established. In India they are generally caught in hook & line from a depth of 80 to 150m.

On 27-07-2000 a large male saw fish *Pristis microdon*, locally known as "Makarasravu" landed

at Thikkodi, about 30km north of Calicut. The sawfish was accidentally caught in a bottom set gillnet, "Thirandivala" off Thikkodi 2 km from the shore at 12m depth. The sawfish had 20 pairs of rostral teeth. The colour was uniformly olive green above and creamy white below. The stomach was empty. The specimen measured 592cm in length and weighed 1200, was transported to Thallassery,



The sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) landed at Thikkodi, Calicut

which is one of the wholesale market for sharks and shark related product in Malabar area. The shark had oil content of 75kg. The fins were sold for Rs.3000/- The meat weighing 590kg was sold at the wholesale rate of Rs.40/- per kg. The total amount realised including the sale of oil was Rs.28,000.

Rare landing of a 705 cm long female specimen was recorded in 1988 at Madras (Mar.Infor.Serv., T&E Ser., 98:13). Another specimen of 540 cm was landed at Contai (West Bengal) in 1992 (Mar. Fish. Infor.Serv., T&E., Ser., 135:16). Similarly a 363 cm long sawfish was landed at Kanyakumari in 1996 (Mar. Fish.Infor. Ser., T&E Ser., 161:913).

The morphometric measurements are given in Table-1

Table-1 Morphometric measurements of the sawfish in cm

Total length	592
Standard length	486
Disc length	295
Width of the mouth from angle to angle	37
Horizontal diameter of the orbit	7
Vertical height of first dorsal fin	52
Vertical height of second dorsal fin	47
Length of first dorsal fin	69
Length of second dorsal fin	58
First dorsal base	54
Second dorsal base	41
Interdorsal base	70
Length of caudal fin along the upper margin	94
Snout to anterior end of orbit	129
Snout to first dorsal fin origin	332
Snout to second dorsal fin origin	451
Snout to pectoral fin origin	214
Snout to pelvic fin origin	368
Total weight	1200 kg

Prepared by : **P.P. Manojkumar, A.K.V. Naser and K. Chandran, Calicut Research Centre of CMFRI, Calicut**