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**On the landing of largetooth sawfish,
Pristis microdon at Mangalore**

Largetooth sawfish, *Pristis microdon* measuring 520 cm in total length and 600 kg in weight was caught by a trawler off Mangalore from a depth of 50-60 m and brought to Mangalore Fisheries Harbour on 04-03-2005. The shark belongs to the family Pristidae, under order pristiformes. This species is distributed in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Eastern, Western Central Pacific along the coast of Australia, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, South Africa and Thailand. The biggest recorded size of saw fish around the globe was a 705 cm long female caught off Chennai coast in 1988. The species is known to have life span of 30 years.

This species is treated as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and listed in the 'Red List of threatened species'. Along the Karnataka coast, 'sawfish' is not a targeted species and fishermen try to avoid

catching the species in order to avoid damage to their nets. Fishermen of the coast also have a belief that catching a saw fish is a bad omen.

The shark caught off Mangalore coast was a female with a massive saw of about 4 feet long. Saw was broad-based, slowly tapering and with 16 large teeth on each side. The free end of the saw was blunt. Pectoral fins were high and angular, 1st dorsal fin was in front of pelvic fins. Caudal fin has a lower lobe. Dorsal and anal spines were absent. Colour was greenish grey above and cream below. Skin and fin of the shark have great export value. The shark landed was auctioned for rupees 24,000.

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