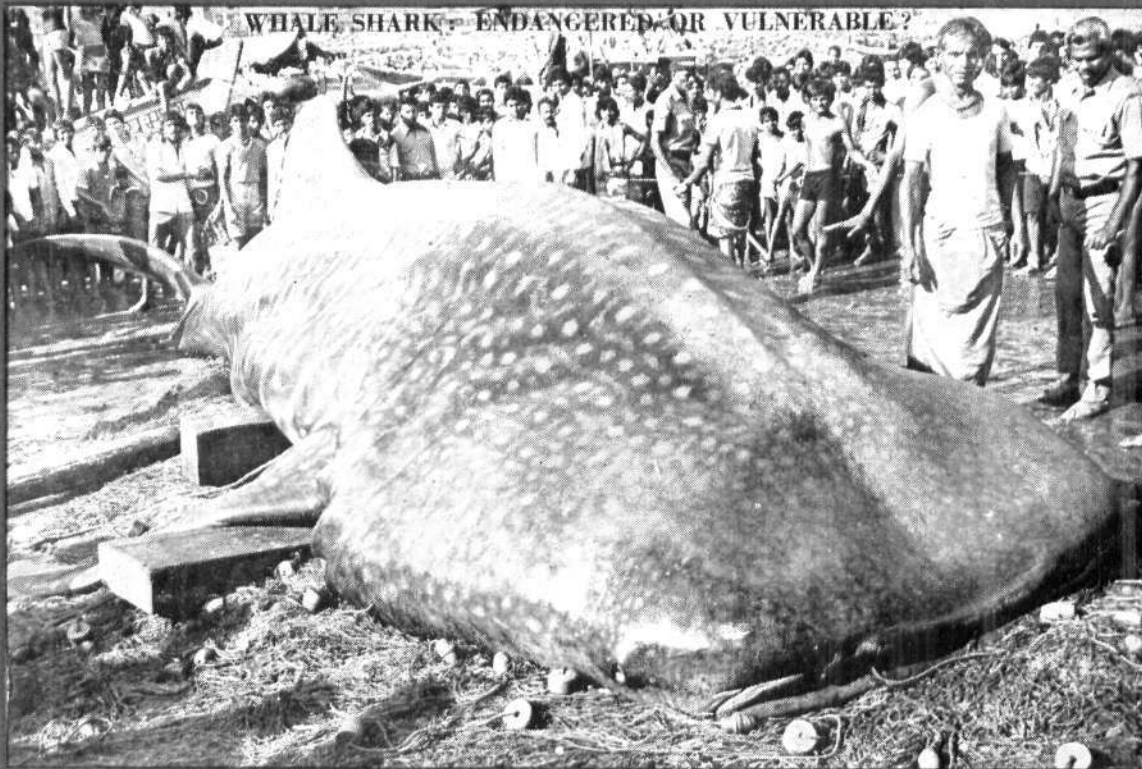




# MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



No. 66  
JANUARY, FEBRUARY  
MARCH  
1986

*Technical and Extension Series*  
CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
COCHIN, INDIA

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

**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 TWO JUVENILE WHALE SHARKS *RHINCODON TYPUS* SMITH CAUGHT AT MADRAS\*

The present report provides details regarding two juvenile whale sharks *Rhincodon typus* Smith, one caught at Mullikuppam (Thiruvanmiyur) and the other at Royapuram, Madras.



Fig. 1. Whale shark *Rhincodon typus* Smith caught at Mullikuppam (Thiruvanmiyur).

The first one a male whale shark measuring 740 cm was caught by the fishermen on 23-3-1980 at 0900 hrs in the shore-seine net operated by thirty persons near the inshore area at Mullikuppam. Immediately after capture, the whale shark entered the cod end of the net which was severely damaged. The shark was alive until about 1500 hrs on 23-3-1980. The second shark measuring 563 cm was landed at Royapuram on 2nd July, 1984. The morphometric measurements (in cm) of the two specimens are given below:

	Specimens	
	1	2
1. Total length	740	563
2. Tip of snout to origin of first dorsal fin	350	—
3. Tip of snout to origin of pectoral fin	127	129
4. Breadth of pectoral fin	83	—
5. Length of pectoral fin	—	104
6. Tip of snout to anal opening	—	325
7. Maximum height of body	111	68
8. Girth of body at head region	185	—
9. Breadth of first dorsal fin	91	53
10. Height of first dorsal fin	60	50
11. Breadth of second dorsal fin	45	27
12. Height of second dorsal fin	25	20
13. Length of upper caudal fluke	167	147
14. Length of lower caudal fluke	88	81
15. Tip of snout to first gill slit	—	96
16. Breadth of snout/head	198	63
17. Width of mouth	—	93
18. Length of first gill slit	66	60
19. Estimated weight	3.5 tonnes	2.75 tonnes

\*Reported by: D.B. James, P. Nammalwar and S. Srinivasarengan, Madras Research Centre of CMFRI, Madras.

