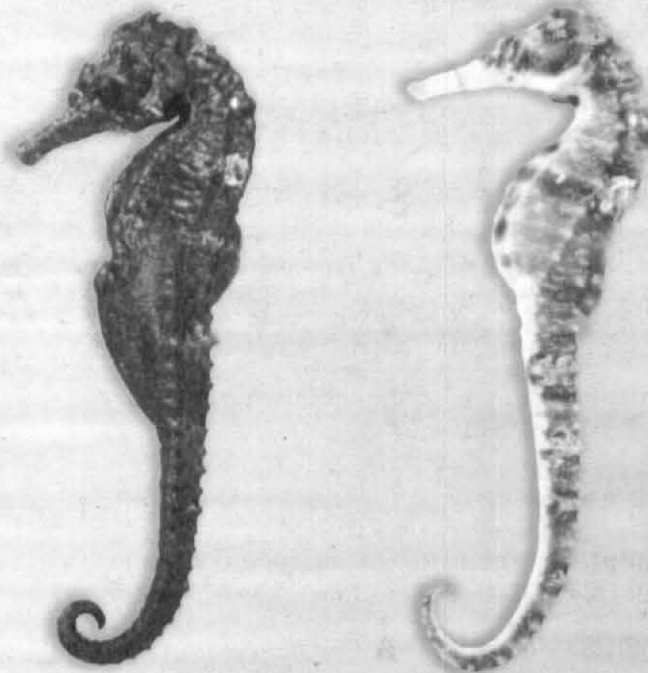




# MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

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CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

Ocean sunfishes of the family Molidae has three genera namely *Ranzania*, *Masturus* and *Mola*. The occurrence of some of the species like *Ranzania truncata*, *R. typus*, *R. laevis*, *Masturus oxyropterus*, *M. lanceolatus* and *Mola mola* have been reported from Indian waters.

On 12-06-2001 and 08-07-2001 two sunfishes *Mola mola* measuring 630 mm and 650 mm total length and weighing 11.5 kg and 12 kg respective-

ly were caught at a depth of 60-80 m in the drift gill net (paruvilai) operated off Keela Vaipaar, a fishing hamlet situated 30 km north of Tuticorin.



Sun fish *Masturus lanceolatus* landed at Tuticorin on 4.4.2002

On 04-04-2002 a male sunfish *Masturus lanceolatus* (Leonard) measuring 1150 mm in total length and weighing 40 kg was caught by a deep sea trawler at a depth of 200 m off Tuticorin. The fish was brought to Tuticorin Fishing Harbour. Morphometric measurements are presented in Table.

Table. Morphometric measurements (mm) of sunfishes

<i>Mola mola</i>				
	12-06-01	08-07-01		
Total length	630	650	Eye diameter (Vertical)	55
Length from snout to dorsal fin	450	480	Eye diameter (Horizontal)	55
Length from snout to anal fin	510	526	Eye ball diameter	22
Length from snout to pectoral fin	195	201	Inter orbital distance	165
Length from snout to anus	440	454	Length from snout to insertion of dorsal fin	644
Length from snout to eye	135	139	Length from snout to insertion of anal fin	632
Inter orbital distance	187	139	Length from snout to anus	614
Eye diameter (Vertical)	35	35	Length from snout to insertion of pectoral fin	280
Eye diameter (Horizontal)	35	34	Dorsal to tip of clavus	420
Mouth breadth	55	54	Breadth at head region	546
Mouth length	20	21	Breadth at middle region	609
Number of teeth (Only in upper jaw)	1	1	Length of mouth	56
Length of dorsal fin	300	310	Breadth of mouth	66
Length of pectoral fin	90	93	Length of gill opening	46
length of anal fin	275	283	Height of dorsal fin	403
Caudal length (along margin)	540	555	Base of dorsal fin	179
			Height of anal fin	393
<i>Masturus lanceolatus</i>			Base of anal fin	157
Total length		1150	Pectoral length	123
Standard length		890	Pectoral breadth	104
Snout length		131	Length of posterior projection	198
Head length		318	Breadth of posterior projection	146
			Weight (approximate)	40 kg
			Sex	Male

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