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ON THE ACCIDENTAL CATCH OF THE SPINNER DOLPHIN FROM GULF OF MANNAR, MANDAPAM*

Among the marine mammals, Dolphins are represented by four species along the Indian coasts. Of these, the accidental catch/stranding of three common species namely *Dolphinus delphis*, *Tursiops aduncus* and *Sousa*

chinensis have already been reported from the Mandapam area. The occurrence of the species *Stenella longirostris* (Spinner dolphin) has so far not recorded from Mandapam in Gulf of Mannar.

*Reported by S. Krishna pillai, M. Bose and R. Subramanian, Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp.

On 29-9-1989, a spinner dolphin measuring 150 cm in total length and 28 kg in weight was caught accidentally

in a gill net, while operating just opposite to Ayyanar Kovil near Mandapam at a depth of 4 m in the Gulf of Mannar. The colour of the species was dark grey to black dorsally and white ventrally. The number of teeth (on one side) on the upper jaw was 44 and 46 on lower jaw. The measurements taken (in cm) are as follows:

Total length	150
Length from the tip of the snout to blow hole	30
Length from the tip of the snout to centre of eye	28
Length from the tip of the snout to anterior insertion of flipper	42

Length from the tip of the snout to origin of dorsal fin	67.5
Length from notch of fluke to posterior end of dorsal fin	62
Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	28.5
Length of lower jaw	26
Total number of teeth on one side of upper jaw	44
Total number of teeth on one side of lower jaw	46
Depth of body at the origin of dorsal fin	62
Total weight	28 kg.
Sex	Female

