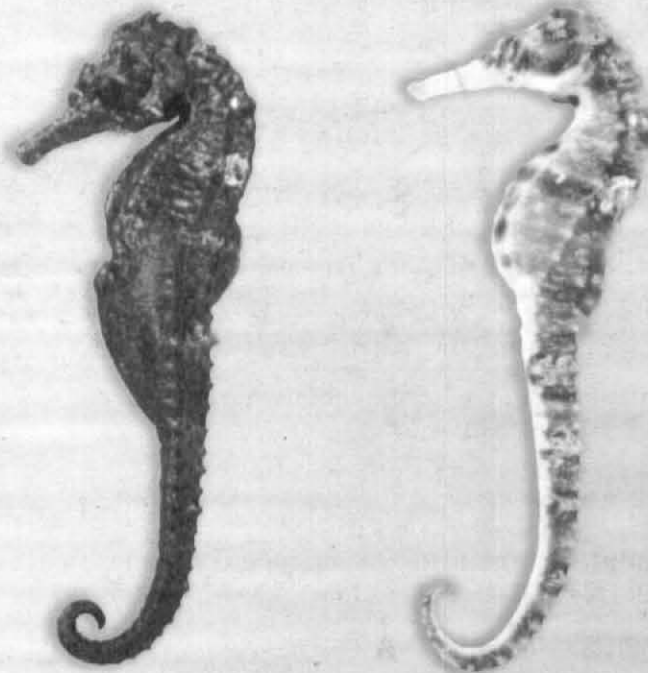




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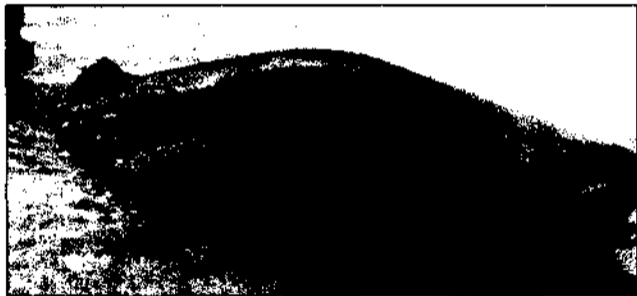
Observations on whale shark *Rhineodon typus* (Smith) caught at Pamban Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar

A male whale shark *Rhineodon typus* of 688 cm in total length caught in a No.4 gill net was landed on 20-01-2001 at Pamban light house land-

ing centre. The whale shark was estimated to weigh around 1.5 tonnes. The fishing ground was 40 km northeast from the landing centre at a

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of the whale sharks (in cm)

	Pamban Light house	Pamban Therkuvadi
Date of Catch	20-10-2001	16-01-2002
Total length (tip of snout to tip of caudal fin)	688	1068
Length from tip of snout to origin of pectoral fin	150	205
Length from tip of snout to spiracle	-	95
Length from tip of snout to first gill opening	98	150
Length from tip of snout to last gill opening	145	220
Length of upper caudal fluke	175	225
Length of lower caudal fluke	75	130
Eye diameter	-	4.5
Head length	-	240
Width of spiracle	-	5
Weight	1.5 tonnes	3 tonnes



Whale shark *Rhineodon typus* landed at
Pamban-Therkuvadi

depth of 14 to 16 metres. As there was no demand for its flesh the whale shark was sold for Rs.700/- for oil extraction.

Another male whale shark measuring 1068 cm in total length and weighing around 3 tonnes was caught in the pair trawl net at Pamban Therkuvadi, Gulf of Mannar on 16-01-2002 from 18 m depth. It was sold for Rs.1200/- for oil extraction. The morphometric measurements of the whale sharks are given in Table 1.