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## CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

## First record of snaggletooth shark, *Hemipristis elongatus* (Klunzinger, 1871) from Malabar Coast

Unusual landings of the shark, *Hemipristis elongatus* by multi-day trawlers were noticed for the first time along Malabar Coast in September, 2003. It is a slender bodied shark with a long broadly rounded snout; large curved, saw-edged teeth in the upper jaw and hooked lower teeth protruding from mouth. Fins are strongly curved. The morphometric character of *H. elongatus* is given in Table 1.

1065

There were caught in trawl net of 35 m with a cod end

mesh size of 18 mm operated at a depth of 100-120 m off Malabar Coast. The fishing units were conducting voyage fishing of 6-7 days duration. These landings continued for a period of two weeks in September, 2003. The sharks formed 3.6 t of the trawl landing during this period and out of this *H. elongatus* formed 29%. (Table 2). Local enquiry revealed that a change in the area of fishing by multi-day trawlers has resulted in the unusual yield of *H. elongatus*. They feed on cuttle fishes, loligo, Octopus, crabs and prawns.

Table 1 : Morphometric data of Hemipristis elongatus				Head l	ength	•	22.37
S.No.	Particulars	% to total length	27	Head height			10.74
1	Total length	100	28	Head width Trunk length Tail length Body depth Inter orbital length Mouth width Upper jaw length			7.06
2	Standard Length	78.98	29				29.80
3	Snout length	4.88	30				49.47
4	Eye diameter	3.68	31			14.94	
5	First dorsal length	11.79	32				7.96
5	Second dorsal length	9.38	33				6.08
7	Inter dorsal space	23.80	34				5.11
3	Caudal length	21.10	35	Lower jaw length			4.65
9	First dorsal fin base length	9.61		No. of	specimens ex	amined	20
10	Second dorsal fin base length	7.73	Tablo	2 · Speci	owieo catch	and CPLIE	of charke ir
1	Caudal fin length	20.50	Table 2 : Speciewise catch and CPUE of sharks in trawl during September,03				
2	Upper lobe length - Caudal	14.26					D (
13	Terminal lobe length - Caudal	5.11	Specie	es	Catch (kg)	CPUE (kg)	Percentage
14	Lower lobe length - Caudal	6.38					shark land
.5	Caudal peduncle	11.41	C. melenopterus		767	0.92	21.14
.6	Length of pectoral fin	13.06	C. sori		132	0.16	3.64
17	No. of gill slits	1.13	C. lim		580	0.70	15.98
18	Pectoral fin base length	5.78	S.zyge		1098	1.32	30.26
19	Pectoral fin margin length	10.51	H.elon	gatus	1052	1.26	28.98
20	Pelvic fin length	5.26	Total		3629	4.36	-
21	Pelvic fin base length	4.80	Its length-weight relationship was calculated as log = -2.7149+3.0421 log L (r=0.9646)  Prepared by: P.P. Manojkumar and P.P. Pavithran, CRC of CM				
22	Pelvic fin margin length	5.56					
23	Anal fin length	5.48					
24	Anal fin base length	5.86					

Calicut

4.20

25

Anal fin margin length