



Marine Fisheries Information Service

Technical and Extension Series

Number 197

July - September 2008



Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)

Post Box No. 1603, Cochin - 682 018, Kerala, India

WWW.cmfri.org.in

On a humpback dolphin, washed ashore at Seeniappa Durgah, Gulf of Mannar

V. VENKATESAN AND N. RAMAMURTHY

Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp

A dead dolphin was washed ashore at Seeniappa Durgah along the Gulf of Mannar coast on 22-10-2007. It was identified as humpback dolphin *Sousa chinensis* (Osbeck) with the help of external

Table 1. Morphometric measurements (cm) of *Sousa chinensis* (Osbeck) washed ashore at Seeniappa Durga.

Diameter of eye	2.5
Tip of snout to notch of caudal fluke	228
Tip of snout to origin of dorsal fin	100
Tip of snout to centre of eye	39.4
Tip of snout to blow hole	41
Tip of snout to origin of flipper	62.5
Tip of snout to centre of anus	162
Length of flipper along outer margin	36
Length of flipper along inner margin	25
Length of dorsal fin along outer margin	41.5
Length of dorsal fin along inner margin	12.3

Height of dorsal fin	18.7
Width at anal region	35.4
Depth at origin of flipper	42
Depth at origin of dorsal fin	70
Depth at origin of eye	13.8
Length of upper jaw	32
Length of lower jaw	31
Fork length from tip to tip	54.9

characters especially the number of teeth. The specimen was a female of 228 cm in length and 100 kg in weight having deep cut at the ventral region which might have been caused by a boat propeller. The morphometric measurements of the humpback dolphin is given in Table 1. From local fishermen, it was understood that one more dolphin of same size belonging to same species was washed ashore fourteen days before.