

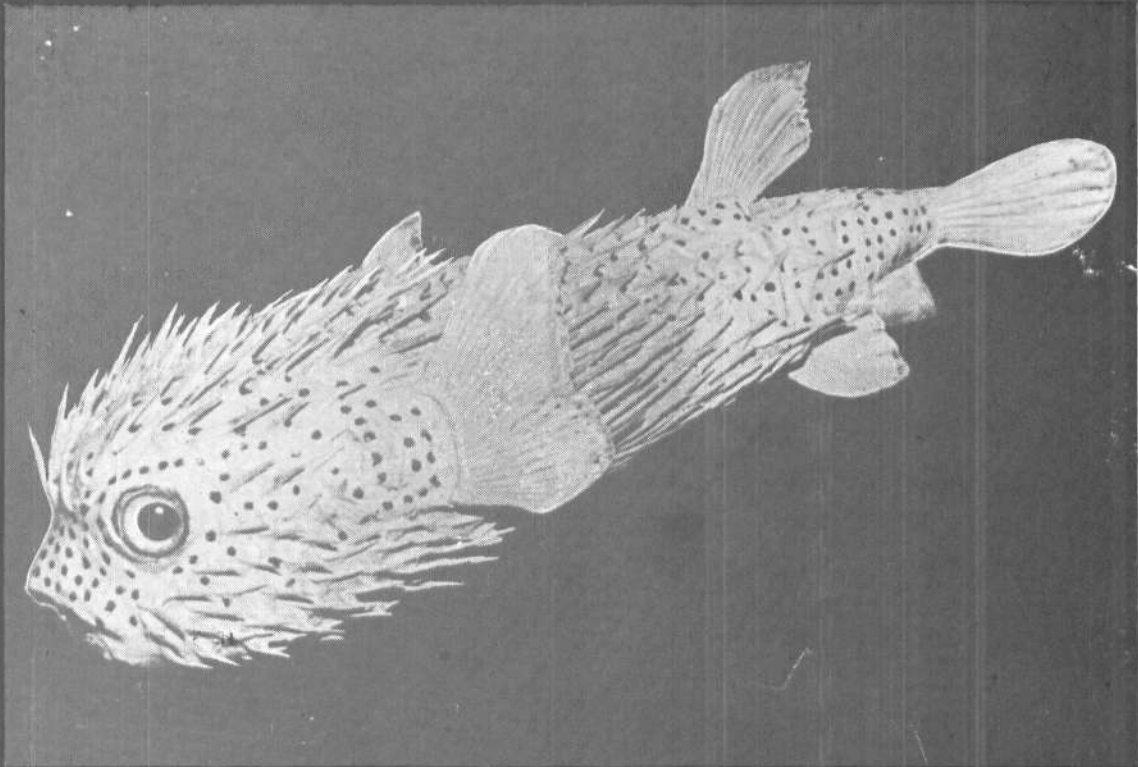


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# समुद्री मात्स्यिकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 142

APRIL, MAY 1996



तकनीकी एवं विस्तार अंकावली TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

## Report on a whale shark *Rhincodon typus* (Smith) caught in shore-seine from the Palk Bay\*

In India majority of the catch of whale shark *Rhincodon typus* come from the southeast and west coasts. Recently Silas (*Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T & E Ser., No. 66*: 1-19, 1986) updated the capture of whale shark in the Indian coastal waters. The present report is on the capture of a live female whale shark on 25.7.1989 from the Palk Bay in a shore-seine (Karavala) operated at Pirappanvalasai, near Mandapam. The tip of the upper caudal lobe was damaged and healed. The specimen weighed approximately 3.5 tonnes. The measurements (cm) are as follows:

Total length	595
Snout to 1st dorsal fin base	320
Snout to 2nd dorsal fin base	448
Length of pectoral fin	137
Width of mouth	122
Height of 1st dorsal fin	61
Length of 1st dorsal fin	61

Height of 2nd dorsal fin	30.5
Length of 2nd dorsal fin base	30.5
Distance between 1st to 5th gill-slit	61
Length of gill-slit	61
Distance between extremities of lobes	122
Length of upper caudal lobe (damaged)	88.5
Girth of body at caudal peduncle	91.5
Length of lower caudal lobe	91.5
Girth of body at 1st dorsal fin	229
Girth of body at region of belly	268
Length of pectoral fin	137.2
Distance between eye and pectoral fin origin	125
Distance between eye	150
Eye diameter	5
Sex	Female

TABLE 1. Earlier records of capture of *Rhincodon typus* (Smith) at Mandapam and nearby areas

Date of capture	Gear	Place	Length (m)	Weight (tonnes)	Sex	Recorded by
16-5-1958	—	Irumani (Palk Bay)	7.72	5.5	Female	Silas 1976. <i>Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T &amp; E Ser., No. 66</i> : 1-19.
July, 1960	—	Thondi (Palk Bay)	-	-	-	Silas 1986. <i>Op. Cit.</i>
15-4-1967	—	Pamban (Palk Bay)	5.52	-	Male	Kuthalingam <i>et al.</i> 1973 <i>Indian J. Fish., 20</i> (2): 646-651.
7-2-1983	Gill net	Kilakarai (Gulf of Mannar)	4.00	2.0	-	Nammalwar and Krishna Pillai 1983. <i>Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T &amp; E Ser., No. 49</i> : 24-35
23-2-1983	Gill net	Kilakarai (Gulf of Mannar)	4.75	2.5	Male	Nammalwar and Krishna Pillai 1983. <i>Op. Cit.</i>
7-2-1983	Gill net	Kilakarai (Gulf of Mannar)	3.15	1.5	-	Nammalwar 1986. <i>Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T &amp; E Ser., No. 66</i> : 30.
23-10-1991	Gill net	Dhanushkodi (Gulf of Mannar)	5.56	3.0	Male	Nammalwar <i>et al.</i> 1991. <i>Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T &amp; E Ser., No. 116</i> : 20.
26-10-1992	Shore-seine	Athankarai (Palk Bay)	10.22	5.0	Male	Kasinathan and Ramamoorthy 1995. <i>Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T &amp; E Ser., No. 138</i> .

Earlier records of capture of the whale shark from the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar are given in the Table 1.

**\*Reported by S. Krishna Pillai and M. Badrudeen, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp - 623 520**