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भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
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Landing of whale shark *Rhiniodon typus* at the Kakinada coast*

One male whale shark *Rhiniodon typus* entangled accidentally in a nylon gill net (monofilament) at a depth of 15 metres, 10 kms away from the shore of Mayapatnam in Uppada region on 6-2-'96 was landed on 7-2-1996. The whale shark was towed by two mechanised *Navas*.

The morphometric measurements (in cm) of the whale shark are given below:

Total length	530
Standard length	448
Head length	116
Vertical height of first dorsal fin	80
Length of caudal fin along upper margin	130
Snout to first dorsal	149
Length of pectoral fin along outer margin	98
Length of first dorsal	90
Sex	Male
Weight	1,000 kg

As there was no demand for flesh, the fishermen cut the fins of the whale shark and on 8-2-'96 they towed back the whale shark and disposed into the sea.



Fig. 1. The whale shark landed at Kakinada coast.

*Reported by Ch. E. Thathayya, Kakinada Research Centre of CMFRI, Kakinada - 533 004.