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Landing of *Neophocaena phocaenoides* at Rameswaram

Finless black porpoise often occur in the near shore waters and are caught on many occasions along Palk Bay coast around Mandapam region. On 16.9.2002, a female porpoise *Neophocaena phocaenoides*, measuring 113 cm in total length was landed at Rameswaram vekode. The porpoise was caught by gill net operated off Rameswaram in the Palk Bay at a depth of 16m. The morphometric characters are given in the table. As there was no bidder it was thrown back.

Table - Morphometric measurements (cm) of *Neophocaena phocaenoides*.

Length from tip of upper jaw to the tip of caudal fluke	-	113
Length from tip of upper jaw to the		

origin of flipper	-	23
Length from tip of upper jaw to the centre of eye	-	10.2
Length from tip of upper jaw to the centre of blow hole	-	11
Length of upper jaw	-	6.5
Length of lower jaw	-	6
Length of blow hole	-	2
Length of flipper (outer margin)	-	20.5
Length of flipper (inner margin)	-	12.5
Length of caudal fluke (outer margin)	-	18.7
Length of caudal fluke (inner margin)	-	15.5

Reported by : M. Bose and A. Palanichamy, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam camp.