



समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा

MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 122

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1993



तकनीकी एवं TECHNICAL AND
विस्तार अंकावली EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
अनुसंधान संस्थान RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कोचिन, भारत COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

ON A GIANT RAY, *MANTA BIROSTRIS* LANDED AT BHIDIYA IN VERAVAL*

On 15-2-1993 a giant devil ray *Manta birostris* (Walbaum) was caught at 35-40 m depth in a trawl net operated by a short trip trawler. Among the devil rays, *Mobulus* form fishery in *Jadajal* gill nets during November-December and April-May but Mantas are a rare sight in Veraval.

In India, a special and organised harpoon fishery exists for devil rays in Andhra and Kalpeni islands of the Union territory of Lakshadweep. Other than this, little information is available about the species and its fishery. Appreciable number of devil rays are caught by harpooning during September to December and the flesh is very much relished by the Lakshadweep islanders. In Lakshadweep Mantas are known as "Kottar" and "Thirandi" and *Mobulus* as "Thirandi".

The present specimen attracts special attention due to its enormous size. The following observations were made on the morphometry (in m) of the specimen.

Total length (including tail)	:	2.86
Breadth (width)	:	4.90
Length of cephalichorn	:	0.60
Width of cephalic horn	:	0.28
Distance between cephalic horn	:	0.79
Width of mouth opening	:	0.74
Width of wings (right and left)	:	1.85

Skin rough with innurable tubercles. colour dark brown dorsally and white venterally. Approximate Weight 1350 kg.

* Reported by K. P. Said Koya, Y. D. Savaria and J. D. Vanvi, Veraval Research Centre of CMFRI, Veraval - 362 265.