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Unprecedented landing of sharks by hook and lines at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai

About twelve hand-operated hook and liners from southern Tamil Nadu regularly fish off Okha, Gujarat for pelagic sharks and these vessels land their catch at New Ferry Wharf.

On 31.08.06, an unprecedented catch of about 3.2 t (300 Nos.) of sharks was landed by two hook and liners. The catch comprised of 270 numbers (90%) of *Carcharhinus limbatus* measuring 110-125cm in total length, 21 numbers (7%) of *Galeocerdo cuvieri* measuring 173-210 cm and

3 numbers (3%) of *Carcharhinus sorrah* measuring 115-128 cm. The weight range was 8-11 kg. The catch was sold for Rs. 2 lakhs at the rate of Rs. 60/kg.

Catch of small sized sharks of this magnitude is of great concern and would require conservation measures to protect this resource.

Reported by: Thakur Das, K.B. Waghmare and Miriam Paul Sreeram, Mumbai Research Centre of CMFRI, Mumbai