

Report of *Mola mola* (Linnaeus, 1758) from coastal waters of Maharashtra, Arabian Sea



Molas or Ocean sunfishes of family Molidae (Tetraodontiformes) have a flattened and oval truncated body and thick leathery skin. They are targeted fishery in the western Pacific and South Atlantic but mostly bycatch in other fisheries globally. A single specimen of immature female *Mola mola* (810 mm TL, 28 kg) was observed in the Naigav

night market, Palghar (Maharashtra) on 12.11.2021, caught by gillnetter operated off Vasai (19°37.621 N, 71°31'278 E), in the Arabian Sea was recorded during survey. There were no takers for the *Mola mola* fish in the Market due to unfamiliarity. The fish was identified following Sawai *et al.* 2017. Fin rays count for

pectoral (12), Dorsal (18), Anal (17) and clavus (12) fins were recorded. Other sunfish species recorded in the region are *Ranzania laevis* and *Masturus lanceolatus*.

Table. 1. Morphometric and meristic characteristics of *Mola mola* from Maharashtra

<u>Morphological characters</u>	<u>Measures (mm)</u>
Snout length	128
Head length	270
Head depth	320
Eye diameter	45
Pre-anal fin length	560
Pre-dorsal fin length	505
Pre-clavus band length	660
Depth of the body	600
Total body depth	1365
Dorsal fin height	400
Dorsal fin base width	220
Anal fin height	380
Anal fin base width	310
Pectoral fin length	106
Pectoral fin base length	44

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