

NOTE: IV

CATCH OF A WHALE SHARK, *RHINCODON TYPUS* (SMITH), OFF NORTH WEST COAST OF INDIA (VERAVAL)

A 11 m. trawler of the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, during its regular fishing operations off Gujarat coast, caught a giant shark measuring 6.65m. in total length and 1.5 tonnes in weight on 17th January 1976 in their tra-

wl net. The specimen has been identified as *Rhincodon typus* (Smith) commonly known as whale shark or basking shark (fig.). There is no record of whale shark caught by a trawl net along the Indian Coast.



Catch of a whale shark, Rhincodon typus (Smith), off north west coast of India (Veraval)

Morphometric features of the specimen landed are indicated below:

Colour of the skin	:	Ash grey with white spots
Sex	:	Female
Total length	:	665 cm.
Standard length	:	519 cm.
Girth (maximum)	:	345 cm.
Distance between the snout to the 1st dorsal fin	:	285 cm.
Distance between the snout to the 2nd dorsal fin	:	420 cm.
Distance between snout and pectoral fin	:	155 cm.
Distance between snout to last gill slit	:	165 cm.
Width of the mouth	:	93 cm.
Length of the caudal fin (caudal pit to the tip of the dorsal lobe)	:	161 cm.
Height of the caudal fin	:	205 cm.
Interspace between 1st dorsal and 2nd dorsal fins	:	137 cm.
Interspace between pectoral and pelvic fins	:	185 cm.
Interspace between pelvic and anal fins	:	103 cm.
Interspace between anal and caudal fins	:	72 cm.
Length of pectoral fin	:	115 cm.
Width of pectoral fin	:	90 cm.
Length of 1st dorsal fin	:	72 cm.
Height of 1st dorsal fin	:	52 cm.
Length of 2nd dorsal fin	:	32 cm.
Height of 2nd dorsal fin	:	29 cm.
The liver of the specimen weighed	:	150 kg.

Central Institute of Fisheries
Technology Sub-station,
Veraval. (Gujarat)

K. K. Kunjipalu
P. George Mathai