

**ON THE LANDING OF A WHALE SHARK, *RHINCODON TYPUS* SMITH
AT TUTICORIN**

ABSTRACT

Details of measurements of a male whale shark, *Rhincodon typus* Smith measuring 7.45 m in total length landed at Tuticorin on 16-6-1970 are given here.

ON 16th June, 1970 a male whale shark, *Rhincodon typus* measuring 7.45 metres in total length was landed at Tuticorin. The shark got entangled in the sardine gill net of a local canoe operating off Hare island at a depth of about 20 metres. The

* We deeply regret to inform our Members the untimely demise of Professor D. S. Johnson, while in England on 29th August 1972. Dr. Johnson was a Life Member of the Marine Biological Association of India.

shark was towed ashore with the help of the Offshore Fishing Station vessel, M.F.V. 'Jheenga', and was not put to any use other than for display to the public on a nominal entrance fee which enabled the owners to get about Rs. 300.

Details of morphometric measurements (in cm) recorded on the lines as suggested by Silas and Rajagopalan (1963) are given below :

Total length	..	..	..	..	745
Standard length	..	..	..	..	610
Head length	..	..	..	..	175
Width of mouth	..	..	..	..	74.7
<i>Vertical height of :</i>					
First dorsal fin	..	..	..	..	73
Second dorsal fin	..	..	..	..	45
Length of caudal fin from caudal pit along upper margin	..	..	..	..	172
<i>Snout to :</i>					
First dorsal fin	..	..	..	..	364
Second dorsal fin	..	..	..	..	522
Pectoral fin	..	..	..	..	143
Inter-space between first and second dorsals	..	..	..	..	123
<i>Lengths of :</i>					
Pectoral fin along outer margin from anterior insertion	..	..	..	..	130
Pectoral fin from angle of inner base to tip	..	..	..	..	110
First dorsal fin along outer margin from anterior insertion	..	..	..	..	77
Second dorsal fin along outer margin from anterior insertion	..	..	..	..	41
Least height of caudal peduncle	..	..	..	..	29
Diameter of orbit	..	..	..	..	5.2
Inter-orbital distance	..	..	..	..	152
<i>Anterior margin (mid-point) of snout to :</i>					
Eye	..	..	..	..	73
Spiracle	..	..	..	..	97
First gill opening	..	..	..	..	151

Remarks : It is interesting that the whale sharks landed along the Tuticorin coast (Silas and Rajagopalan, 1963 ; Pai and Pillai, M. S.) are caught during the months of June-July.

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REFERENCES

- SILAS, E. G. and RAJAGOPALAN, M. S. 1963. *J. mar. biol. Ass. India*, 5 (1) : 153-157.