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FROM THE RESEARCH FRONT

A Record of Sun Fish (Mola mola) from the North East coast of Bay of Bengal.



A Sun Fish belonging to the Family: Molidae was caught from the North East coast of India by MFV Matsya Drusti (Monofilament tuna longliner) attached to the Chennai Base of FSI. The species was identified as Mola mola

(Linnaeus, 1758).

The sun fish occur in the offshore waters, close to the surface and swim upright. Molas are registered as a heaviest bony fish. The females of the species can produce as many as 300 million eggs at a time, more than any other vertebrates. They found in tropical and temperate waters across the world. They prefer the open ocean and occasionally ventures shallow waters. Researchers opined that Molas enters into the shallow water in order to be cleaned off parasites by other fishes. Molas are rarely caught as an incidental catch in long line gear.

The specimen was caught from the area Latitude (Lat.) 17°23.0'N and Longitude (Long.) 86°08.01'E at a depth of 2567m during her May 2013 voyage. The Sun fish was hooked in the 2nd hook of the basket which lies at a depth of 70-75m below the surface. The total length of the species was 78.7cm and weighed 30kg. The stomach of the specimen was half filled and was composed of Jelly fishes and digested teleost fishes. The sex was identified as a male. The detailed morphometric measurements and meristic counts of the specimen are as below.

MORPHOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS				
Total length	78.7cm.	Snout to Origin	30.2cm.	
		of Anal fin		
Standard length	53.4cm.	Snout to Origin	18.3cm	
		of Pectoral fin		
Body depth	43.2cm.	Height of Dorsal	31.0cm.	
		Fin		
Eye diameter	3.0cm.	Height of Anal	37.2cm	
		fin		
Snout to Origin of	34.2cm.	Total weight	30kg.	
Dorsal fin				
Meristic count : D:16, A:15, P:11				

(Communicated by Dr. M. K. Sinha, Jr. Fisheries Scientist, Chennai Base of FSI)

II. OUTREACH AND TRAINING

a) MOVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY-AN INTERACTIVE TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR FISHERS at Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai (HQ)

Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai (HQ) organized a two days workshop on *MOVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY-AN INTERACTIVE TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR FISHERS* during 20-21 April 2013 for the benefit of local fishermen in the Mumbai region. Around 25 Fishers from different localities and adjoining region of Mumbai including the officials of State fisheries, Fishermen cooperative association attended the workshop. Shri Dilip S. Garde, Traffic Manager, Mumbai Port Trust inaugurated the workshop and appreciated the FSI activities and keen interest shown for conducting awareness programme on sustainability of Fishery resources.

Dr. K Vijayakumarn, Director General FSI, Mumbai presided over the function. In his presidential address he briefed about the importance of workshop and its objectives.

During the workshop, Technical session was also conducted including presentations by Shri B.B. Chavhan, Technical Officer, Central Marine Fisheries Research



Institute (CMFRI), RC, Mumbai on Marine Fisheries of Maharashtra state - Present status, Conservation and Management. In

his presentation he appealed to all the fishermen to use big size mesh to avoid juvenile fish catch. Dr. Nariman, St. John Ambulance Association delivered a talk on *First aid at Sea*. He explained the participants about preliminary measures and some Do's and Dont's at sea with practical demonstrations. The Scientists of FSI made presentations on *Fishing gear technology, Eco friendly fishing methods, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and Sustainability of Resource exploitation*. The fishermen were actively participated and interacted with the scientists on various issues and clarified their doubts in the technical sessions. Shri P. Anilkumar, Deputy Director, Marine Product Export Development Authority was the chief guest during valedictory function. Information on the assistance provided by MPEDA for the benefit of fishermen was provided during the function.

b) Participation in "Tamil Nadu Fish Festival 2013"

Chennai Base of Fishery Survey of India participated in the Tamil Nadu Fish Festival 2013 held at Chennai from 9 May to 12 May 2013 organised by the Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. Chennai Base displayed charts, models of various fishing gears, survey vessels and specimens of fishes such as Yellow fin tuna, Skipjack tuna, Blue marlin, Sail fish, Sword Fish, Octopus, Pomfrets, Crabs, Squids etc. Among the 110 stalls in the Tamil Nadu Fish Festival 2013, Chennai Base of FSI stall was awarded as Best popular stall. They received the memento along with the merit certificate from Smt. P. Valarmathi, Hon'ble Minister for

social welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu The FSI activities was briefed during the exhibition. Necessity to explore the oceanic resources to reduce the fishing



pressure in the coastal waters was explained to the media and it was telecasted in local news channels. More than one lakh visitors including fishermen and students benefited by the FSI stall.

III. Resource Survey Programme

Annual Review of Operational and Scientific Activities (ROSA) meeting held at FSI, Mumbai (HQ) during 18-19 February 2013 and fourteenth meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai, held on 11 March 2013 finalised the resource survey programme of the Institute for the year 2013-14

Base/ Vessel	Resource survey programme 2013-14
Mumbai	Demersal fishery resources survey,
/ Matsya	assessment and monitoring of fish stocks
Nireekshani	along North Maharashtra and Gujarat
	coast between Lat.18° and 23°N
Mormugao /	Demersal fishery resources survey,
Sagarika	assessment and monitoring along South
	Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and North
	Kerala coast between Lat.11°-18°N
Kochi / Matsya	Demersal resources survey, assessment
Varshini	and monitoring of fish stocks along
	South-West coast, Wadge Bank and Gulf
	of Mannar
	Survey of Myctophid and other pelagic
	fishery resources by mid water trawling
	along South West coast
Kochi /	Demersal fishery resources survey,
Lavanika	assessment and monitoring of fish stock
	along South-West coast.
Chennai/	Demersal resources survey, assessment
Samudrika	and monitoring of fish stocks along South
	East coast between Lat.10° and 16°N

Visakhapatnam/	Demersal fishery resources survey,
Matsya Shikari	assessment and monitoring along the
	Upper East coast between Lat.16° and
	21°N
Visakhapatnam/	Demersal fishery resources survey,
Matsya Darshini	assessment and monitoring along the
	Upper East coast between Lat.15° and 21°N
	Survey of coastal pelagic resources by
	mid-water trawling along the Upper East
	coast between Lat.15° and 21°N in 30-
	200m depth
Mormugao /	Survey of oceanic tuna and allied
Yellow Fin	resources using regular longline in the
	Indian EEZ along South-West coast
	including Lakshadweep between Lat.08°-
	18°N
Port Blair / <i>Blue</i>	Survey of oceanic tuna and allied
Marlin	resources by using regular tuna long
	lining in Andaman and Nicobar Waters
	Survey of sword fish by using drift
	longline with light sticks in the Andaman
	and Nicobar waters
	Survey of Big eye tuna resources by
	using Modified Deep Long Line gear in A & N waters
	Survey of perch resources by using
	bottom set vertical longline
	Satellite Telemetric Studies on Migration
	Pattern of Tunas in Andaman & Nicobar
	waters.
Chennai/	Tuna resources survey using
Matsya Drushti	monofilament longline in the Bay of
	Bengal between Lat.10° and 20°N
	Tuna resources survey using
	monofilament longline in International
	water between Lat.10° and 15°N
	(Bounded in Long 83° – 85°E).
Mumbai/	Tuna resources survey by using
Matsya Vrushti	monofilament longlining along Maharshtra
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IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Participation in TOLIC Meeting

Dr. K. Vijayakumaran, Director General & Smt. Meera Vellan Rajiv, Jr. Hindi Translator participated in the Town Official Language Implementation Committee Meeting held on 29 May 2013 at Western Railway (HQs.) Churchgate, Mumbai.

Hindi Workshop

A one day workshop was organised on 14 June 2013 at Fishery Survey of India, (Hqs) Mumbai to motivate and guide the staff members to work in Hindi. Dr. Suntia Yadav, Assistant Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme, Navi Mumbai delivered lectures on Terminology & Translation. Twenty Officials actively participated in the workshop.

Visakhapatannam Base

The Visakhapatnam Base of Fishery Survey of India has

been adjudged fifth among the Central Govt. offices for promotion of official language Hindi during the year 2012-13. The Regional Town Official



Language Implementation Committee, Visakhapatnam conducted their 59th Town Official Language Implementation Committee on 30 May 2013 under the chairmanship of Shri Anil Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair. Dr. S.K. Naik, Zonal Director and Shri N. Jagannath, Jr. Fisheries Scientist attended the meeting. During the meeting, a memento and commendation certificate was awarded and the contribution of Dr. S.K. Naik, Zonal Director was highly appreciated.

Port Blair Base

As a part of Official language Implementation, a Hindi workshop was conducted by Port Blair Base office on 12 June 2013. Smt. Nirmala, Hindi Translator, Directorate of Light House and Light Ship, Port Blair was the resource person.

V. PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING/SEMINAR/ WORKSHOP/SYMPOSIUM/MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES

International

Shri D. K. Gulati, Sr. Fisheries Scientist and Dr. M. K. Sajeevan, Jr Fisheries Scientist participated in the BOBLME-IOTC *Fisheries Stock Assessment Training Workshops* from 20-23 May 2013 at Thialand.

National

- Dr. S. K. Naik, Zonal Director inaugurated the Technical Skill upgardation training of the fisher folk sponsored by ICZMP, Ganjam On value added product development and cold chain marketing at NIPHATT, Visakhapatnam on 2 May 2013
- Dr. L. Ramalingam, Zonal Director, Dr. S. K. Dwivedi, Fisheries Scientist and Shri Swapnil Shirke, Sr. Scientific Assistant attended the Inaugural Function of Diamond jubilee and National Seminar on Livelihood Strategies and Technologies among the Hunters and Gathers on 6 May 2013 in Anthropological Survey of India, Port Blair
- Shri K.S.N. Reddy, Fishing Gear Technologist attended an interactive meeting on 17 May 2013 organised by Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) at Conference hall of the Centre for Studies on Bay of Bengal, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam
- Dr. L. Ramalingam, Zonal Director attended the Inaugural function of Bio-safety Level- 3 Laboratories on 17 May 2013 at Regional Medical research Centre, ICMR, Dollygunj, Port Blair.
- Shri Dharmvir Singh, Mechanical Marine Engineer (MME) served as a Member of a committee constituted by Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) for the inspection of 02 No.s of fishing boats on 04 June 2013
- Shri H. D. Pradeep, Fisheries Scientist and Shri S. Kanthen MS (Sr.) served as Member of the committee constituted by Directorate of Fisheries, Andaman and Nicobar Administration for the Inspection of 3 nos. of fishing boats on 06 and 16 June 2013.
- Dr. S.K. Naik, Zonal Director attended Seminar on Marine Pollution Response at Visakhapatnam on 19 June 2013 organised by Indian Coast Guard. During the occasion he presented a paper on Effect of Marine Oil Pollution on Fisheries.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

Appointments

- Shri Laxman Singh, Jr. Hindi Translator reported for duty on 8 April 2013 at Visakhapatnam Base of FSI
- Ms. Diksha Chandrakant Gaikwad reported for duty on 26 April to the post of Telex/Telephone operator at Fishery Survey of India Mumbai, (HQ)
- Shri Sujil Sudham M. Sr Deckhand reported for duty on 8 May 2013 at Cochin Base of FSI
- Shri T. K. Saju, Staff Car Driver reported duty on 10 June 2013 at Cochin Base of FSI
- Ms. Sadhana K. Kawale, MTS (Safaiwala) reported for duty on 13 June 2013 at Mumbai Base of FSI

Promotion

 Shri A. Udayakumar, Stenographer, Gr. I promoted (on deputation) as Office Superintendent and posted in Visakhapatanam Base of FSI on 15 June 2013

Transfer

 Shri Dharamvir Singh, Mechanical Marine Engineer (MME) was relived from duty on 04 June 2013 A.N. on his transfer to Cochin Base of Fishery Survey of India

Retirements:

- Shri Rajan V. John, Jr Draughtsman retired on superannuation on 30 April 2013 from Fishery Survey of India Mumbai (HQ).
- Shri G. H. Paradkar, Asst Accounts Officer retired on superannuation on 31 May 2013 from FSI, Mumbai (HQ).
- Shri P. Murukan, Service Assistant retired on superannuation on 31 May 2013 from Cochin Base (MED)
- Shri P. K. R. Dude, Sr. deckhand retired on superannuation on 30 June 2013 from Mumbai Base of FSI.
- Shri N. S. Gajbhiye, Fitter retired on superannuation on 30 June 2013 from Mumbai Base of FSI.
- Shri S. Appa Rao, Sr. Deck Hand / Cook retired on his superannuation on 30 June 2013 from Visakhaptnam Base of FSI.