



## FISH & FISHERIES

### NEWS LETTER OF THE FISHERIES TECHNOCRATS FORUM, CHENNAI-600 006

No. 76

#### MANTA RAYS UNDER THE THREATENED SPECIES OF IUCN



Manta ray (*Manta birostris*) grows to maximum size of 6.7m wide and weighs up to 1,400 kg and it is the largest ray among its co-geners. The manta rays face a new threat from the Chinese medicine trade. According to the report released from the environmental charities, the demand for its cartilage by the shark fin traders of Guangzhou city of the mainland China is on the higher side. The fishing of these rays, especially in countries like Indonesia has increased tremendously in recent years and 1,500 nos have been fished in a 6-month period. Increased fishing has given a higher income for local fishermen, as the manta ray is in great demand for not only its meat,

April-June 2013

but also for its medicinally important fins. Further, the population of manta rays has shown a declining trend in several regions of the world oceans, with a reduction in numbers by as much as 80 per cent during the last 75 years. Globally, the decline is believed to be more than 30 per cent. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Shark Specialist Group (SSG), based at Simon Fraser University, has added the Giant and Reef manta rays to its Red List of Threatened Species.

#### RECORDS OF MANTA RAY FROM INDIAN WATERS

- 1) Day (1878)-Taxonomy; The fishes of India, being a Natural History of the fishes known to inhabit the seas and fresh waters of India, Burma and Ceylon. 4 Parts. London, 778 pp.
- 2) Llyod (1908)-off Puri; *Rec of Indian Mus.*, 2: 175-180
- 3) Mishra (1947)-Taxonomy. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 45: 1-46.
- 4) Mishra (1952)-Taxonomy. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 49: 89-137.
- 5) Mishra (1962)-183 cm; *Rec. Indian. Mus.*, 57 (1-4): 1 -320.

- 6) Misra (1969)**-Taxonomy; Fauna of India and adjacent countries. Pisces. (Second Edition) 1. Elasmobranchii and Holocephali. XXN+276, 19 pls. Issued by Zoological Survey of India. Controller of Publications, Government of India, Delhi.
- 7) Sivaprakasam (1964)**-28-12-1961, off Veraval, 626 cm/1000 kg; 15-3-1962-off Veraval, 482 cm; *J. mar. biol. Ass. India*, 7(1): 204-205.
- 8) Jones (1969)**-Minicoy; *Bull. Cent. Mar. Fish. Res. Inst.*, No. 8: 1-35.
- 9) Jones & Kumaran (1980)**-Minicoy, 375 cm long; Fishes of the Laccadive Archipelago. The Nature Conservation and Aquatic Sciences Service, Trivandrum, 757 pp.
- 10) Kunjipalu & Boopendranath (1981)**-26-3-1980, off Veraval, 40 m depth, 680 cm/2000kg; *Indian J. Fish.*, 28(1&2): 278-280.
- 11) Talwar, P.K. and R.K. Kacker. 1984.** Taxonomy; Commercial sea fishes of India. Zoological Survey of India, 997 pp.
- 12) James (1985)** - off Chennai, 23-3-1981, gill net, 1 female 427 cm/750 kg/Rs. 200; *Indian J. Fish.*, 32 (4). pp. 492-494.
- 13) Kumaran & Gopakumar (1986)**-Caught in good number by the islanders other than Minicoy; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 68: 41-45.
- 14) Telang & Harikkantra (1988)**-1-12-1987-off Karwar, 40 m, 447 cm/800 kg/Rs. 500; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 85: 11.
- 15) Rajapackiam, et al. (1990)**-3-5-1990, off Tuticorin, gill net, 50 m, 1 female, 554 cm/1250 kg/Rs. 200.; 1 male 525 cm/1125 kg/Rs. 200; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 106: 11.
- 16) Koya et al. (1993)**-15-2-1993, off Veraval, trawl net, 35-40 m, 490 cm/1350 kg; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 122: 23.
- 17) Gurusamy & Balasubramanian (1994)**-29-3-1993, off Tuticorin, bottom-set gill net, 50 m, 1 female, 567 cm/1350 kg/Rs. 550; 1 female, 570 cm/1475 kg/Rs. 600; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 127: 15.
- 18) Kakati & Dinesh (1995)**-16-9-1995, off Karwar, purse seine, 1 female, 550 cm/1200 kg/Rs.360; three newly delivered young ones, 100 cm each; 20-9-1995, off Honavar, young one, 120 cm; 4-10-1995, Binaga Bay, gill net, 4 nos, 150 cm/35 kg each; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 140: 9-10.
- 19) Rajapackiam, et al. (1997)**-28-4-1997, off Tuticorin, trawler, 100-125 m, 2 females, 553 cm and 542 cm across disc; together weighed 2420 kg/Rs. 1,500; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 149: 16.
- 20) Arumugam (2001)** - 24-3-2001, off Tuticorin, trawl net, 50 m, 576 cm/1850 kg/Rs. 875; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 171: 9.
- 21) Rane (2002)**-24-9-2002, off Kelwa-Dandarpada (Maharashtra), 594 cm/1500 kg; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 174: 14.
- 22) Arumugam et al. (2006)**-31-3-2006, off Tuticorin, bottom-set gill net, 40 m, 1 female, 620 cm/1550 kg; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 188: 20.
- 23) Kasinathan et al. (2006)**-9-3-2006, Palk Bay, bottom-set gill net, 30 m, 166 cm/42 kg; 154; 154 cm/10 kg; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 188: 21.
- 24) Rajapackiam, et al. (2007)**-15-4-2006, off Chennai, 1 female, 520 cm/1050 kg; 8-10-2006, off Chennai, 1 female, 520 cm/1000 kg; 10-10-2006, off Chennai, 1 male, 480 cm/850 kg; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 191: 29-30.
- 25) Manojkumar (2009)**-18-10-2009, -off Beyapore, trawl net, 80 m, 594 cm/1400 kg;  
*CMFRI Newsletter No.123: 9.*

26) Rajapackiam, *et al.* (2011)-4-6-2011-off Chennai, 1 female, 560 cm/1000 kg/Rs. 22000; 1 male, 532 cm/800 kg/Rs. 16400; 1 male, 480 cm/600 kg/Rs. 10200; *Mar.Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 209: 24.



Source: WoRMS

### NEW SHRIMP FROM WORLD'S DEEPEST SEA VENTS

A cluster of new vents called Beebe vent Field was discovered at 5000 m deep on the sea floor of Caribbean sea in the Cayman Trough. Among the several unusual creatures, a new species of shrimp, named as *Rimocaris hybisae* was discovered.



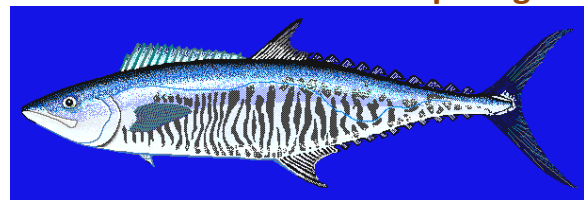
The new shrimp lacked normal eyes, but it had a light-sensing organ. The water temperature is about 450 C°. This new discovery was made by the marine geochemist Dr Doug Connelly of Briton's National Oceanography Centre and the biologist Dr Jon Copley of University of

Southampton by using a deep-diving robot submarine.

### CAGE CULTUR IN RESERVOIRS OF INDIA

The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad has proposed for cage culture to be undertaken in reservoirs, in order to increase the overall fish production of the country. In the initial stage, each state will look upon the possibility of cage culture in two reservoirs. The inputs such as suitable cages, brooder fish, fingerlings and feeds will be provided.

#### COSTLY FISH – Rs. 1000 per Kg



Seer Fish-*Scomberomorus commerson*

### TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE FISHERIES TECHNOCRATS FORUM, CHENNAI

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Body Meeting of the Fisheries Technocrats Forum, Chennai was held on 9-6-2013. The following were elected for the Executive Council for 2013-14.

- Dr. R. Soundararajan – Chairman
- Dr. Syed Ahamed Ali – Vice Chairman
- Mr. M. Kathirvel – Secretary
- Mr. P. Thirumilu – Treasurer
- Dr. M. Paramasivam – Member
- Mr. P. Mohanakrishnan - Member
- Dr. D.B. James – Member
- Dr. A.R.T. Arasu – Member
- Dr. P. Nammalwar – Member

The photos taken on that occasion are given below.





