

THE SIZE AT FIRST MATURITY, FECUNDITY AND SPAWNING SEASONS
OF HAMMERHEAD SHARK (SPHYRNA ZYGAENA) IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

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About one to seven percent of the sharks landed at the Negombo main fish landing centre are Hammerhead sharks. They are caught in the north western Indian Ocean using gill-nets and long lines. According to Goonewardene (1971), there are four species of Hammerhead sharks in sea surrounding Sri Lanka. The present study revealed that Sphyrna lewini and S. zygaena are common in the above catch and the latter is the most common species. The fork length of the males and females of S. zygaena caught ranged from 74-202 cm and 71-212 cm respectively. The length of the spawning females ranged from 155-212 cm, their fecundity ranged from 11-15, the size at birth ranged from 23-35 cm. The spawning season appears to be from May to November.

References: Goonewardene, T.P. 1971. The Hammerhead Sharks in Ceylon Seas (Family : Sphyrnidae). Bull. Res. Stn. Ceylon. Vol.22, 1 & 2, 1-5.