

Q- A 5 kg fish swimming at 2 m/sec swallows an absent minded 1 kg fish swimming toward it at a velocity that brings both fish to a halt immediately after lunch. What is the velocity of the smaller fish before lunch?

Momentum of the first fish in magnitude is given by

$$P_1 = (m \cdot v) = 5 \cdot 2 = 10 \text{ kg.m/s}$$

If the velocity of the second fish is  $v$  then its momentum will be

$$P_2 = (m \cdot v) = 1 \cdot v = v \text{ kg.m/s}$$

Total momentum of the system will be  $P_1 + P_2 = 10 + v$

As there is no external force acting on the system of the two fish, the momentum will remain conserved and hence

$$\text{Initial momentum} = \text{final momentum}$$

$$\text{Gives } 10 + v = (5 + 1) \cdot 0$$

$$\text{Gives } v = -10 \text{ m/s}$$

The negative sign shows that the second fish was moving in opposite direction with speed **10 m/s**