

Marine mammal strandings along the Indian coast mapped

Shelton Padua, V. Rupa, K. Seyabaskaran, S. Jayasankar, D. Prem, K. Lavanya, Subir Saha and P. Vysakhan

ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi
*e-mail: shelton_padua@yahoo.com

The stranding locations of marine mammals namely blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), Bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) along the Indian coast were mapped (Fig. 1) using passive method. The data was collected for the period 1874 to 2016. It

was seen that the western coast is more prone to marine mammal strandings. But all the five species studied were found to be stranded along both eastern and western coast. This possibly indicates better reporting of marine mammal strandings from the west coast than the east coast. Among the strandings, 68% of the stranding occurred after 2000 and 32% occurred during the period 1874-2000.

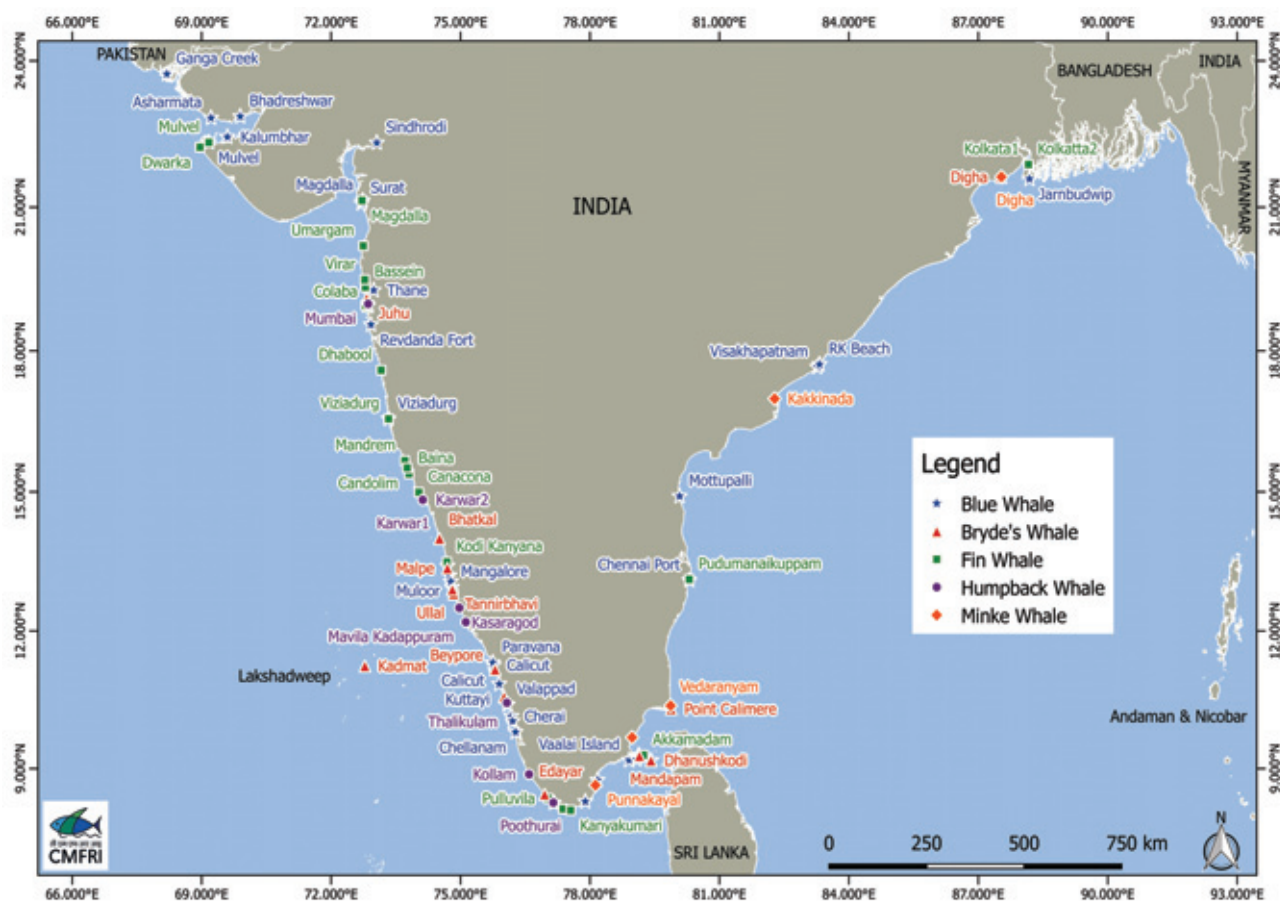


Fig. 1. Locations of marine mammal strandings along the Indian coast