

Kaleidoscope

Note on the stranding of marine mammals on Chavakkad beach, Kerala.

Sujit Sundaram*

*E-mail:sujitsundaram@hotmail.com (Retd. Technical Officer, ICAR-CMFRI)

The observation of marine mammals from Chavakkad beach, Kerala is reported. On 16.03.2019, a carcass of finless black porpoise, *Neophocaena phocaenoides* (Fig. 1) was observed on Akkalad beach. The porpoise measured 95 cm in total length and being in highly decomposed state morphometrics could not be recorded. The cause of death could not be ascertained and the local people buried it on the beach. On 15.02.2019, a humpback dolphin, *Sousa plumbea* (Fig. 2) was

found on Akkalad beach in Chavakkad. The dolphin measured 220 cm in total length and was in a totally decomposed condition. It was buried on the beach by locals. On 26.03.2019, a Baleen whale, was found on Edakkazhiyur beach in Chavakkad (Fig. 3). The species could not be confirmed at the body was decomposed and measured about 25 feet in total length and 10 t in weight. The carcass was disposed in the sea after the stomach was cut open.



Fig. 1. Finless black porpoise, *Neophocaena phocaenoides*



Fig. 2. Humpback dolphin, *Sousa plumbea*



Fig. 3. Baleen whale *Balaenoptera* sp.