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On a Sei whale, *Balaenoptera borealis* stranded at Narikuzhi near Rameswaram along the Palk Bay coast

A male sei whale, *Balaenoptera borealis* was stranded at Narikuzhi near Rameswaram along the Palk Bay coast on 1.1.2003. The total length of the whale was 15 metres with an approximate weight of 12 tonnes. The whale might have died in the mid sea, most probably due to collision with a fishing boat. There were injuries in the notch of the caudal fluke and flipper region. The animal had 52 throat grooves which terminated half way between tip of flipper and umbilicus. The morphometric measurements (cm) are given below

Total length	1500
(snout to notch of caudal flukes)	370
Tip of snout to origin of flipper	1250
Tip of snout to centre of anus	180
Length of flipper in the outer curvature	120
Length of flipper in the inner curvature	45
Greatest width of flipper	1090
Length from tip of snout to origin of dorsal fin	Male
Sex	12 tonnes
Weight (approximate)	

Reported by : C. Kasinathan and N. Ramamoorthy, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam