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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

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

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