

Report of an Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin washed ashore

M. Sakthivel¹, A. Devaki², G. Tamilmani¹, P. Rameshkumar¹, R. Jayakumar¹ and A.K. Abdul Nazar¹

¹Mandapam Regional Centre of ICAR- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam

²Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Dept. of Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Tamil Nadu

A dead female Indo-pacific humpback dolphin, *Sousa chinensis* was washed ashore at Chathiram near Mandapam, Gulf of Mannar on 26 June 2016. Morphological features including teeth pattern were recorded (Table 1). Necropsy findings did not reveal any abnormalities. As the animal was lean and emaciated with a blubber thickness of only 2.0 cm, the cause of death might be related nutritional or disease factors.



Fig. 1. Stranded Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of the dolphin

Morphometric parameters	Measurement (cm)
Length, snout to melon	17
Length, snout to angle of mouth	33
Length, snout to blowhole	44
Length, snout to center of eye	42
Length, snout to anterior insertion of dorsal fin	84

Length, snout to tip of dorsal fin	101
Length, snout to fluke notch (total length)	202
Length, snout to anterior insertion of flipper	62
Length, snout to center of umbilicus	112
Length, snout to center of genital aperture	138
Length, snout to center of anus	147
Length, notch of flukes to center of anus	57
Length of flipper: anterior insertion to tip	33
Length of flipper: axilla to tip	23
Width of flipper: Maximum	13
Fluke span	51
Width of flukes	23
Depth of fluke notch	5
Height of dorsal fin	16
Width of dorsal fin	31
Base of dorsal fin	42
Girth: axillary	86
Girth: maximum (at anterior insertion of dorsal fin)	110
Girth: at level of anus	56
Blubber thickness: ventral	2
Total number of teeth on one side of upper jaw	36
Total number of teeth on one side of lower jaw	32