study, the specimen of *Oxynoe viridis* was observed grazing upon *Caulerpa racemosa* and not on *Ulva lactuca* that was also being cultured in the same tank. As the growth of the seaweeds deteriorated after 2 days, the slug also could not survive. Species of *Oxynoe* are reported to feed on a variety of species of *Caulerpa* where they are well camouflaged because of their colour.

### A note on a stranded Humpback dolphin

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On 17ᵗʰ September, 2015, a dead dolphin was found at Beyapore beach, Kozhikode. On enquiry with local fishermen, it was reported to be washed ashore eight days before. It was identified as Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphin *Sousa chinensis* (Osbeck, 1765) with the help of external characters especially the number of teeth. It had a stocky, robust body with a well-defined beak set off from the rounded melon. The specimen was a male measuring 107 cm in length and weighing about 18 kg. It had deep cut in the ventral region. The morphometric measurements of the Humpback dolphin are given below.

**Table 1. Morphometrics of *Sousa chinensis***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morphometrics</th>
<th>cm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diameter of eye</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tip of snout to notch of caudal fluke</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tip of snout to origin of dorsal fin</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tip of snout to centre of eye</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sighting of the Short-finned pilot whale

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A small pod of Short-finned pilot whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus* (Gray, 1846) was observed during a fishing cruise of *FV Silver* Pompano on 19ᵗʰ April, 2015 for exploration of the oceanic squid *Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis* in the Southern Arabian Sea. The pod was observed in the
Southeast side of Pitty Islands (10° 38´ 05´´ N; 72° 46´ 02´´ E) and contained nine members of which four were large and five medium sized. The average length of the whales was estimated as 5 metres. They were travelling in a Northwest direction at an approximate speed of 2 knots per hour. The surface water temperature at the location of sighting was 28°C and salinity was 34 ppt. The IUCN lists this species as data deficient in the Red List of threatened species (IUCN 2012). In India all the cetaceans are listed under Schedule-1 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Reports of marine mammal strandings

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A Spinner dolphin, *Stenella longirostris* was washed ashore at Puthankadapuram landing centre in Thrissur district on 10th March 2015. The animal was in decayed condition and had an injury near caudal base. The total length of animal (snout to notch of caudal flukets) was 242 cm. The length of the upper jaw and lower jaw were 38 cm each. The total number of teeth on each side of the upper jaw was 87.

On 29.05.2014, a Baleen whale measuring 16.5 metres (m) in total length was washed ashore at Blangad Landing Centre, Thrissur district, Kerala. The whale was in a highly putrified condition and Panchayat authorities buried it.