

Dead Bryde's whale washed ashore at Veraval, Gujarat

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Bryde's Whale (*Balaenoptera edeni* Anderson, 1879) measuring 10.4 m in length and weighing about 7 tons was found washed ashore on the beach of Veraval on 4th august 2017. Locally called as “*Machchh*” it was found in dead condition with small injuries in the caudal peduncle and genital region. With the intervention and supervision of forest officials, it was towed ashore and a veterinary officer conducted post-mortem after which it was buried on the shore. Occurrence report and details were entered in the data base of Marine Mammal Conservation Network of India (MMCNI) and also

published in local newspaper “Gujarat Samachar” on 6th August 2017. Morphometrics and other observations of the whale recorded were Head Length (2.22m), Length of flipper (1.36 m), Caudal fluke (tip to tip) Dorsal fin height (0.59m), Dorsal fin base 0.48m with body dark gray in color and whitish underneath. On the first day of observation, large quantity of blood was oozing out from the blowholes of the animal. On the second day it started decaying with foul smell emanating and baleen plates became detached from the mouth due to the high wave action.