

Incidence of whale strandings in Uttara Kannada, Karnataka

Praveen N. Dube*, Narayan G. Vaidya, Sonali S. Mhaddolkar and Navanath P. Kumbhar
Karwar Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Karwar - 581 301, Karnataka

*E-mail: pndube27@gmail.com

Two instances of the whale strandings were observed in the Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka recently. The first one occurred on 06.05.2017 at Mungodlu, Kumta and the second at Karwar on 18.02.2018. The whale stranded at Mungodlu, near Vannalli village of Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka ($14^{\circ} 26' 034''$ N and $74^{\circ} 23' 005''$ E) was washed ashore in highly decayed condition with its dorsal portion upside down and species could not be identified. The total length of the whale was approximately 9 metres. The vertebrae were found exposed in the beach and a few numbers were collected and preserved in the museum of Karwar Research Centre of ICAR- CMFRI (Fig. 1).

The second dead whale washed ashore on the Tagore beach ($14^{\circ} 82' 37''$ N and $74^{\circ} 12' 55''$ E) of Karwar city on 18.02.2018 in the early morning hours was identified as *Balaenoptera* sp. by external characters. It was found in two pieces, one near the Tagore beach (Fig.2.) and another near the Kodibag beach. Detailed morphometric measurements could not be taken since it was in decomposed condition, probably dead 8-10 days before it washed ashore. It was measuring

approximately 15 metres in length and around 12 tonne weight. No external injuries were observed on the body while trunk portion was tied with the rope (Fig 3).



Fig. 1. Whale stranded at Mungodlu, near Vannalli of Kumta Taluk



Fig 2. Part of the whale stranded at Tagore beach, Karwar



Fig 3. Whale tied with the rope