

## Long-beaked common dolphin beached off Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh



A dead dolphin was washed ashore at Bethalapuram, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Based on morphological features, it was identified as Long-beaked common dolphin, *Delphinus capensis* Gray, 1828 (Fig.1). Characterized

by a slender body and a long beak separated by a crease from the melon. It has a long and thin rostrum with 49 numbers of small, sharp teeth on each side of each jaw. The prominent dorsal fin is falcate, and the flippers taper to a pointed tip. The back is dark including

the dorsal fin, tail flukes, beak and flippers and the belly is white. Juvenile has an hourglass pattern which form V shape below dorsal fin and usually juveniles are darker than adult. A black stripe from the black patch surrounding the eye to the front of the melon and another from the chin to the flippers is observed. The dolphin measured 137 cm in total length and weighed approximately 35 kg while length of beak was 13.50 cm. Reporting of stranding instances of Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species that includes marine mammals, is done by ICAR-CMFRI that is useful for developing appropriate conservation measures.

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