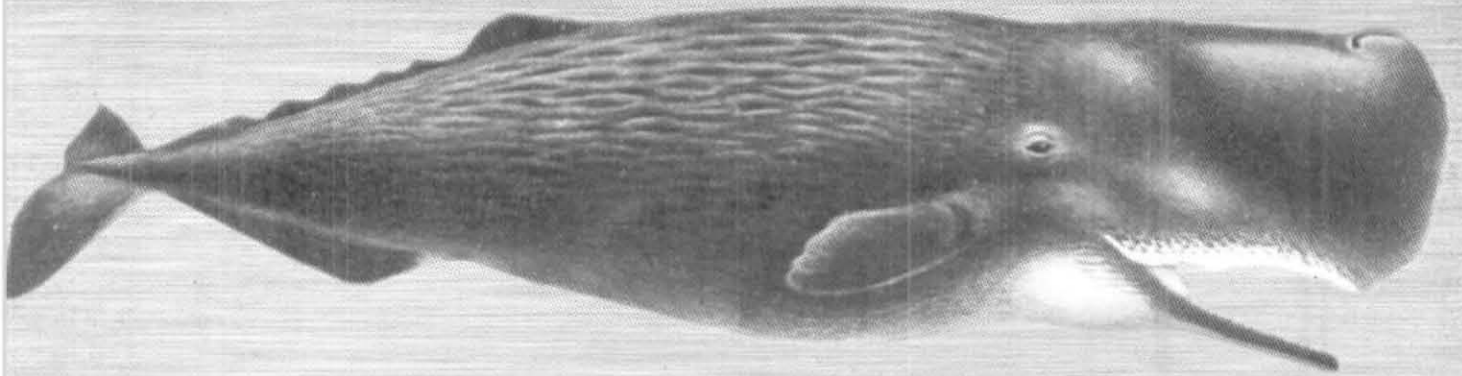




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On a minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* caught at Pudupattinam near Thondi along Palk Bay

The minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* is widely distributed in world oceans. Most of the records on the whales along Indian coast are on their strandings only. The present report is on a female minke whale caught in a fishing net at Pudupattinam, near Thondi along Palk Bay coast of Tamil Nadu.

The whale was accidentally entrapped at a depth

of 10 metres in *katta valai* about a distance of 7 km from shore and brought to the shore by a mechanised boat on 23-8-2000. The caudal peduncle caught entangled in the fishing net and injured. The total length of the whale was 9.4 metres and weighed approximately 3 tonnes. The morphometric measurements of the whale are given in Table 1.

Table 1. The morphometric measurements (cms) of the minke whale.

Total length (tip of snout to tip of caudal fin)	940	Depth of body in the flipper region	200
Length from tip of snout to notch of caudal flukes	880	Depth of body in the genital region	135
Length from tip of snout to blowhole	390	Depth of body in the region of eye	172
Length from tip of snout to origin of eye	160	Depth of body in the caudal peduncle region	50
Length from tip of snout to origin of dorsal fin	580	Length of baleen plate	144
Length from tip of snout to origin of genital opening	509	Length of blowhole	5.5
Length of flipper in the outer curvature	130	Length of upper jaw	157
Length of flipper in the inner curvature	75	Length of lower jaw	182
Greatest width of flipper	25	Number of throat grooves	50
Length of dorsal fin in the outer curvature	53	Approximate weight	3 tonnes
Length of dorsal fin in the inner curvature	27		
Greatest width of dorsal fin	26		

Reported by: **C. Kasinathan, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp.**