

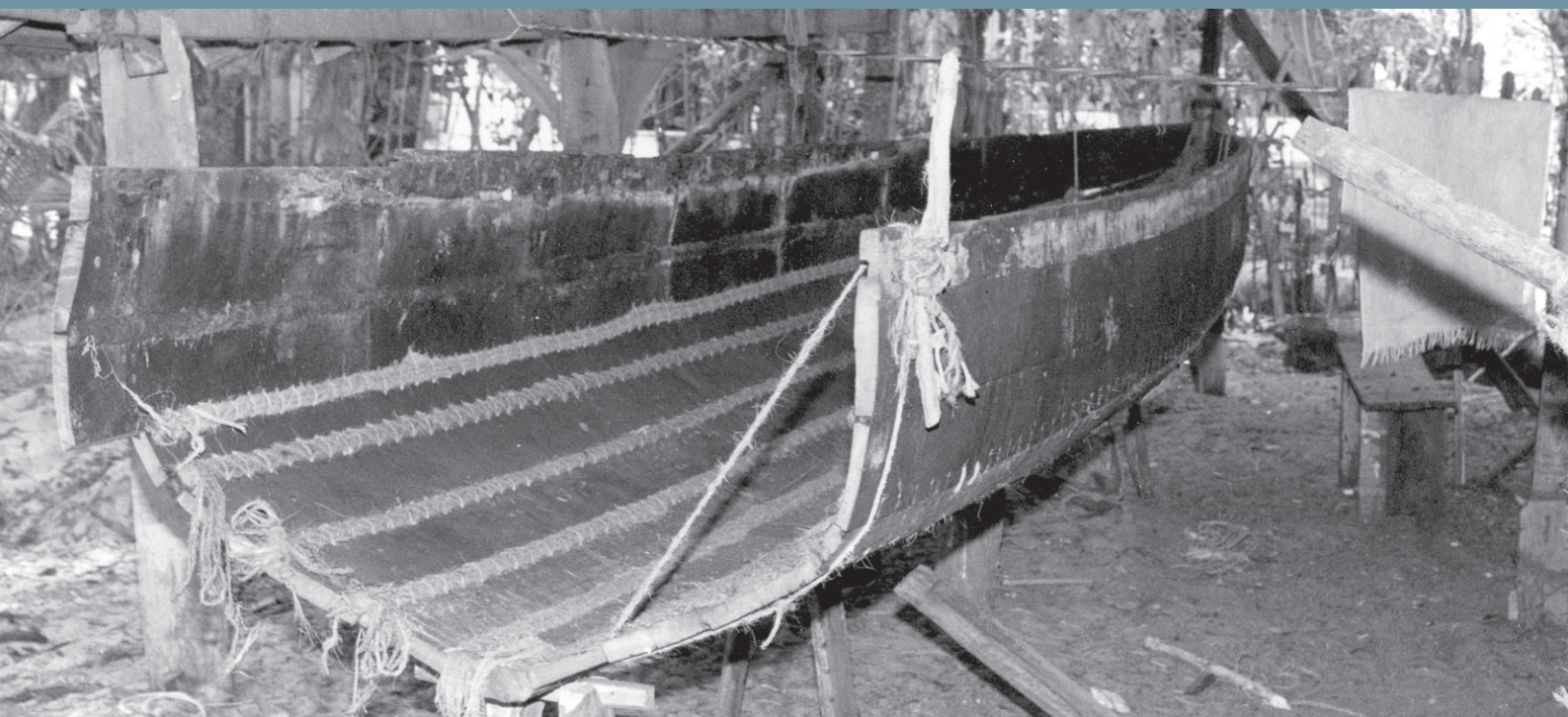
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On the stranding of sea cow *Dugong dugon* at Mandapam along the Gulf of Mannar coast.

In the seas around India, sea cows are distributed in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kutch and Andaman islands. On 18.9.2003, a dead male sea cow *Dugong dugon* (Muller) measuring 194 cm in total length and about 125kg in weight was stranded along the Gulf of Mannar coast at Mandapam, Tamil Nadu. The animal had external wounds in the posterior side of body

and a part of alimentary canal was found protruded outside the body near the genital region. It appeared that the injury might have caused by a propeller of in-board engine vallams operating in the near shore waters. The morphometric measurements of specimen are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Morphometric measurements (in cm) of the sea cow, *Dugong dugon* stranded at Mandapam

Total length (snout to notch of caudal fluke)	194	Depth of body at origin of flipper	38
Tip of snout to centre of eye	20	Depth of body in region of eye	23
Tip of snout to anterior insertion of flipper	42	Tip of lower jaw to notch of caudal fluke	184
Tip of snout to centre of anus	112	Tip of lower jaw to centre of anus	103
Notch of fluke to posterior end of flipper	145	Length of upper jaw	10
Length of fluke on outer curvature	43	Length of lower jaw	8
Distance between the extremities of flukes	61	Notch of fluke to origin of penis	94
Width at insertion of flukes	41	Distance between the two flippers	38
Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	33	Length of muzzle	18
Length of flipper along curve of lower border	39	Width of muzzle	15
Greatest width of flipper	13	Length of eye	2.5
Depth of body at anal region	35	Interorbital length	26
		Weight (in kg)	125