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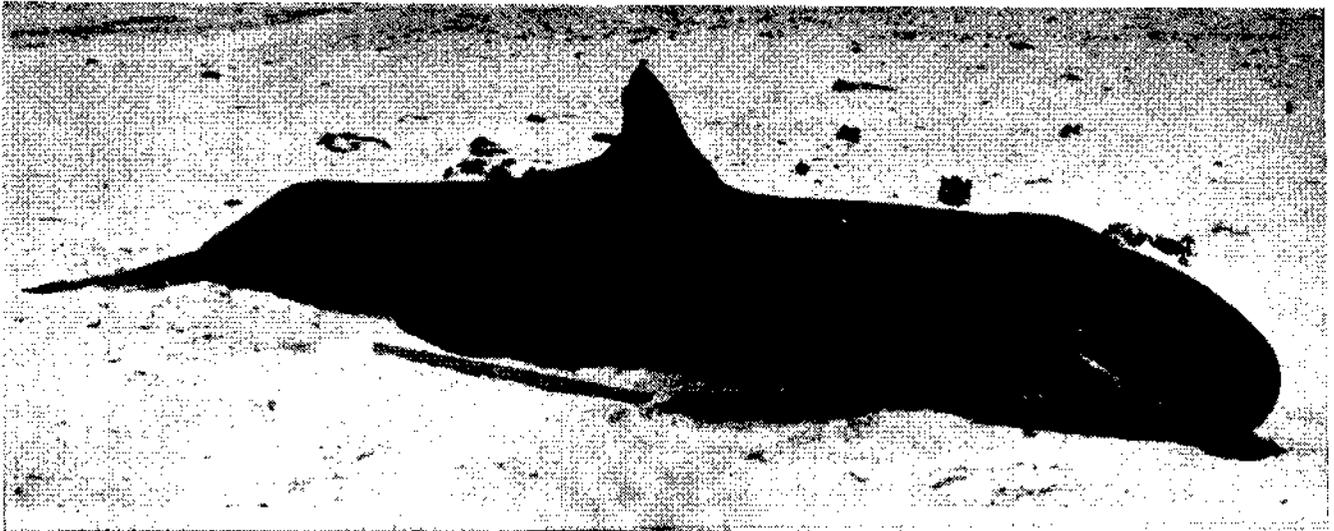
CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

COCHIN, INDIA

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

**THE MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE:** Technical and Extension Series envisages the rapid dissemination of information on marine and brackish water fishery resources and allied data available with the National Marine Living Resources Data Centre (NMLRDC) and the Research Divisions of the Institute, results of proven researches for transfer of technology to the fish farmers and industry and of other relevant information needed for Research and Development efforts in the marine fisheries sector.

Abbreviation – *Mar. Fish. Infor. Ser. T & E Ser.*, No. 55: 1984



## 2. Stranding of *Pseudorca crassidens* at Rameswaram, Gulf of Mannar

On 18th October, 1975 at 08.00 hrs a whale was seen struggling near Rameswaram in Gulf of Mannar and was towed to the shore (Fig. 3). By the time the whale was brought to the shore it died.

Occasional strandings of whales have been reported by several authors along the Indian coasts. The present specimen was identified as a male of the false killer whale *Pseudorca crassidens* (Owen). The diagnostic characters of the species are the head tapering anteriorly into a rounded snout, the teeth large, powerful, circular in cross section and 8 to 11 pairs in upper and lower jaws, the dorsal fin small, directed backwards and with a concave posterior border and dark black body colouration. In the specimen, eight pairs of teeth were present in the upper jaw. In the lower jaw there were ten teeth on right side and eleven teeth on left side. The front five pairs of teeth in each jaw were blunt.

The morphometric measurements are given below:

	Measurements in cm
Total length (from tip of snout to fork of caudal flukes)	384
Snout to origin of dorsal	160
Snout to origin of flipper	70
Snout to front end of eye slit	45

Diameter of eye	4.5
Snout to anterior margin of blow-hole	50
Snout to penis	194
Snout to anus	247
Snout to origin of upper jaw	42
Snout to origin of lower jaw	39
Width of blow-hole	8
Base of dorsal	53
Anterior margin of dorsal	55
Height of dorsal	30
Base of flipper	19
Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	55
Breadth of the flipper at the middle	21
Horizontal length of flukes	89
Girth at the dorsal origin	165
Length from the lower base of the flipper to the tip	40
Length from the anus to caudal fork	129
Length from origin of dorsal to caudal fork	224
Length from origin of flipper to caudal fork	308
Girth at the genital slit	139
Girth at the caudal peduncle	44
Girth at the origin of the flipper	141
Penis length	44
Penis girth at the base	20
Penis tip narrow, penis girth at the tip	1

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