

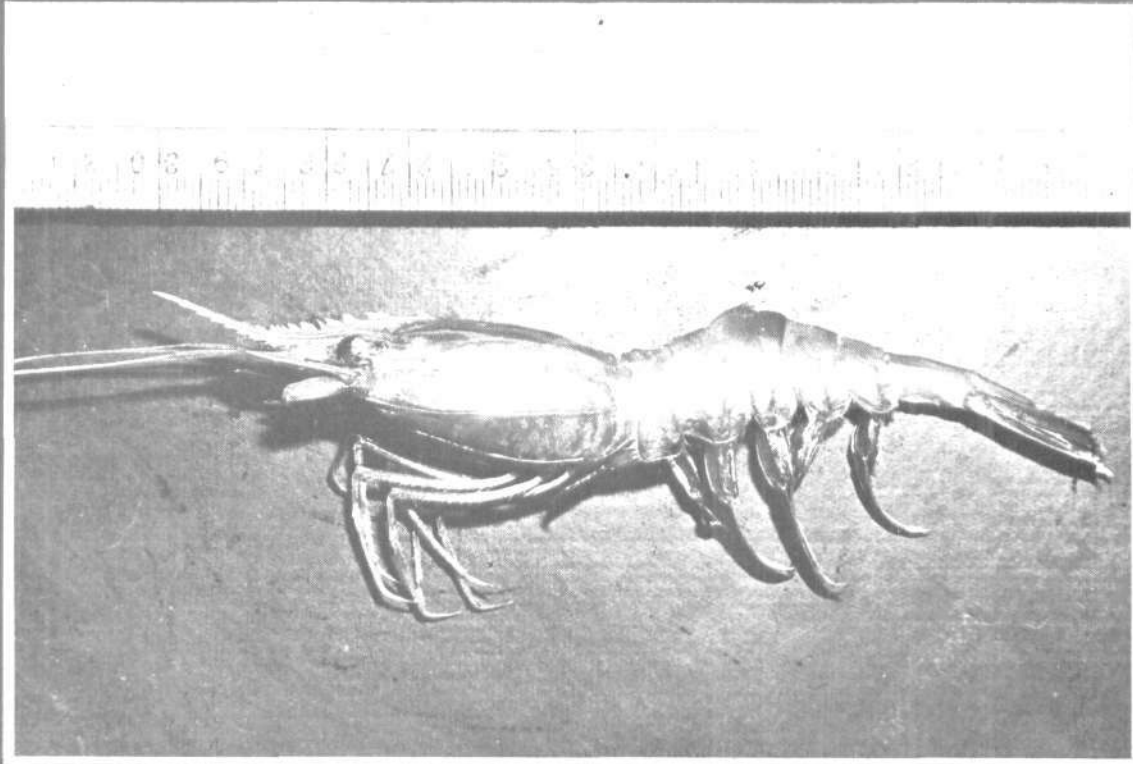


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# समुद्री मात्स्यिकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

## Stranding of a baleen whale

On the evening of 28th September, 1996 the fishermen at Keni, Harikantrawada, Ankola, Karnataka found the carcass of a whale floating near the coast. However, the same whale was seen stranded two days earlier at Belambut, Ankola slightly 2 km south of Keni. The decaying whale got stranded again on the sandy beach of Harkantrawada, Keni on the early morning of 29th September 1996.

The whale measured 16.0 m in total length even in its unstretched shape. The jaw bones were

exposed. Only the dorsal fin was clearly visible. Generally the whales get stranded when they are on the breeding run or when they are chasing fishes like *Sardinella*, anchovies etc. in shallow waters for their food. At such times their ecolocation system fails and they get stranded.

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