

Stranding report on Indian Ocean humpback dolphin along Kerala coast, India

Kuberan Ganesan, Chandrasekar K, Madhu Magesh K, and Sendhil Kumar R
Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Kochi
Email: gkuber006@gmail.com

Stranding's of three Indian Ocean humpback dolphins along Kerala coast of India, during June, 2022 and November 2022 is reported. Three dead dolphin was washed ashore at Puthuvypin beach, Kochi on 05.06.2022 and 06.08.2022 and Arthukkanal beach, Alleppey district (Fig 1, 2 & 3). Based on the external morphological characters, it was identified as Indian Ocean humpback dolphin *Sousa plumbea* (G. Cuvier, 1829). The total length of the dolphin ranges between 2.4-3 m and weight approximately 80 to 120 kg. The cause of death has been identified as "natural". Tissues samples were collected from each stranding event and deposited to Referral Centre (Bavasagara), CMLRE, Kochi with the help of Forest officials and Veterinary surgeon. The dolphins were buried by concerned officials and Gram Panchayath authorities at their respective stranded localities. We thank Department of Forest, Department of Fisheries and local fishing community for providing the dolphin stranding information.



Figure 1. The Indian Ocean Humpback dolphin (*Sousa plumbea*) at Puthuvypin, Kochi on 5.6.2022



Figure 2. The Indian Ocean Humpback dolphin (*Sousa plumbea*) at Puthuvypin, Kochi on 6.8.2022



Figure 3. The Indian Ocean Humpback dolphin (*Sousa plumbea*) at Arthukkanal, Allapppy on 3.11.2022