

# 15 whales dead in northwest Scotland

July 23 2011

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This file illustration photo, provided by Florida Keys News Bureau, shows two stranded pilot whales struggle in shallow waters. Fifteen pilot whales have died in a mass stranding near the northwestern tip of Scotland, according to a rescue charity.

Fifteen pilot whales have died in a mass stranding near the northwestern tip of Scotland, according to a rescue charity.

Rescuers have been trying to save a pod of around 60 long-finned [pilot whales](#) in the Kyle of Durness, a sea inlet near Cape Wrath.

Around 35 beached as the water receded at low tide and 20 were refloated using inflatable pontoons as the water level rose again.

However, the remainder perished, said the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) charity.

The [rescue effort](#) was stood down following nightfall Friday and was to resume after sunrise Saturday.

Mark Simmonds, head of science at the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, said the Kyle of Durness looked like a "whale trap".

"Something may have startled the group further out to sea and they panicked, came into this unusual situation and were unable to find their way out.

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