

500 penguins found dead on Brazil beaches

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Magellanic penguins swim after being released in the Atlantic Ocean near the coastal city of Santos, Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2008. More than 500 penguins have been found dead on beaches of Brazil's southern Rio Grande do Sul state.

More than 500 penguins have been found dead on beaches of Brazil's southern Rio Grande do Sul state, authorities said Friday.

The Center of Coastal and Marine Studies (Ceclimar) said [veterinarians](#) were investigating the deaths of the 512 [marine animals](#) which beached on the coast between the towns of Tramandai and Cidreira, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the state capital, Porto Alegre.

Some 30 samples from the [penguins](#) were being analyzed at Porto Alegre University and results were to be released within a month, it added.

Ceclimar officials told Globo's G1 website that veterinarians were

puzzled by the large quantity of animals found and by the fact that they appeared well fed, not exhausted and without injuries or oil stains.

These Magellanic penguins, named after the Magallenes region in which they breed, mate in large colonies in southern Argentina and Chile.

They traditionally migrate north between March and September along the Rio Grande do Sul coast to head up to Sao Paulo.

Their diet consists mainly of small fish and marine crustaceans and their chief enemy is the southern [sea lion](#).

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