

# Rarely-seen whale washes up on Massachusetts beach

July 26 2015

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This undated photo provided by the New England Aquarium shows the carcass of rarely-seen deep water beaked whale that washed ashore on Jones Beach in Plymouth, Mass. Aquarium biologists and staff from the International Fund for Animal Welfare are performing a necropsy at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on the carcass after it was found Friday, July 24, 2015. (New England Aquarium via AP)

Biologists with the New England Aquarium are investigating what may have caused a rarely-seen deep water whale to wash up on a Massachusetts beach.

The carcass of the 17-foot female, weighing almost a ton, was found Friday on Jones Beach in Plymouth.

Aquarium biologists and staff from the International Fund for Animal Welfare are performing a necropsy at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. They believe the whale is a Sowerby's beaked whale, but the aquarium hasn't handled a beaked whale since 2006.

Several species of [beaked whales](#) are found about 200 miles offshore in the North Atlantic.

The whales have long, slender snouts and feed in cold, deep water on small fish. Commercial fishermen sometimes net them accidentally.

The carcass offers a chance for biologists to learn more about them.

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