

Five sperm whales stranded on Dutch beach

January 13 2016



Five sperm whales are stranded on the beach of Texel, The Netherlands on January 12, 2016

Five sperm whales were stranded on a Dutch beach on Tuesday, leading local authorities to urge people to stay away in order not to further distress the giant mammals.

"Five sperm whales got stranded at Texel this afternoon," the municipal authority for the small island in the Dutch northwest said on its [internet site](#).

"Only authorised persons may approach the animals to avoid disturbing

them or causing them stress," the statement added.

A whale specialist, cited on public television, said the chances of the whales surviving their ordeal wasn't high.

"The animals have already suffered significant damage.. and two of them are already on their sides," said the expert, Adrie Vonk.

The reasons for the whales getting beached were not known.

The [sperm whale](#) is the largest of the toothed whales, and the largest toothed predator. It can measure up to 20 metres (67 feet) long and weigh over 50 tonnes.

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