

DEFORMED LOWER JAW OF SPERM WHALE

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There are some reports on a deformed lower jaw of the sperm whale (Clarke, 1957; Tomilin, 1957). The writer of this note intend to report two whales which have these deformed lower jaws observed in the land whaling station and the pelagic whaling.

1. On the 22nd of March, 1956, a whale of which the lower jaw heavily bent was found on the board of the factory ship "Kyokuyo-maru" in $52^{\circ}08'N$, $176^{\circ}47'W$. This whale was a male and 48 feet in body length, which was natural on the external form of the body and the internal organs except the lower jaw (see the fig. 1).

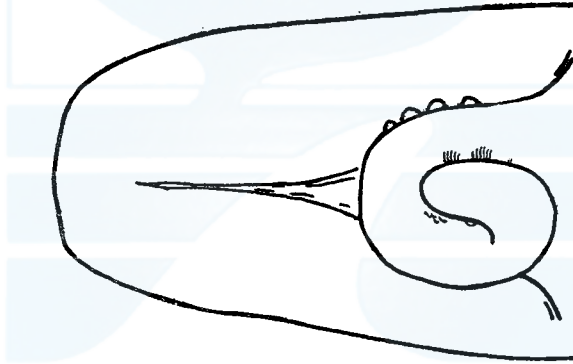


Fig. 1. Bent lower jaw like a swirl. Sperm female 36 feet,
at Kushiro in Hokkaido, 16 September 1957.
(Drawn by Mr. Heihachiro Kawamura)

2. On the 16th of September, 1957, a sperm whale captured in $42^{\circ}48'5''N$, $147^{\circ}10'E$ was treated at the Kyokuyo Hogeï Co. Ltd. at Kushiro in Hokkaido. The whale was a female and 36 feet in body length. It was intensely bent like a swirl as shown in plate I. The whale was deformed only the lower jaw as the foregoing.

3. On the 10th of November, 1957, a whale—a male and 37 feet in body length—bent to the left, captured in the whaling ground off Kinkazan was treated at the Kinkai Hogeï Co. Ltd. at Ayukawa in Miyagi Prefecture. In the deformed lower jaw, *Conchoderma* sp. heavily grew (see the fig. 2 in plate I).

4. On the 10th of December, 1956, a whale whose lower jaw bent was captured by the "Nisshin-maru" expedition in $60^{\circ}06'S$, $126^{\circ}14'W$ (see the fig. 3 in plate I).

It was a male and 44 feet in body length. The whale's lower jaw bent to the right and it also was natural except the lower jaw. Teeth developed completely in external observation, but the extreme point of teeth of the bent part was sharper than of the unbent part.

On the exposed teeth, the interval of the left line was longer than the right one. As for the form of alveolus of the bent part, in general, that of the left line was nearly an ellipse and that of the right line was nearly a circle. Especially, the form of alveolus in the vicinity of the extreme point of the bent part was a longer ellipse.

Then, at the below side of the bent part, the bone of the left side was covered by the right side one, and the left and right bones suited at each other.

REFERENCES

- CLARKE, R. (1957). Sperm whales of the Azores. *Discovery Rep.*, 28:239-98.
TOMILIN, A.G. (1957). Kitoobraznye. *Zveri SSSR i Prilezhashikh Stran*, 9. 756 p. (In Russian).

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- Fig. 1. Deformed lower jaw. Sperm male 48 feet, in the northern Pacific, 22 March 1956. (Photo. by Mr. Heihachiro Kawamura)
Fig. 2. Deformed lower jaw. Sperm male 37 feet, at Ayukawa in Miyagi Pref. 10 November 1957. (Photo. by Nobunori Kimura)
Fig. 3. Deformed lower jaw. Sperm male 44 feet, in the Antarctic waters, 10 December 1956. (Photo by Mr. Yukio Abe)

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