

A SWORD-FISH SWORD FOUND FROM A NORTH PACIFIC SEI WHALE

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On July 14, 1969, a part of sword (rostrum) from a sword-fish was found in a sei whale, immature male and 40 feet in length, treated on the factory ship "Nisshin Maru". The sword was found in the musculature of the left side neck, close to the cervical vertebrae, and the surrounding meat was in abscess filled with yellowish pus. No visible external wound was observed on the surface of the whale body.

This sword was broken into two pieces. Its total length was 30.5 cm, and it is seemed to be an anterior of the sword (Fig. 1). This sei whale was taken at a position of 50°52' N, 169°12' W. It is possible that the whale was stabbed by a sword-fish while the former was staying in warmer waters, presumably to the south of 45°N, judging from the known distribution of the sword-fish.

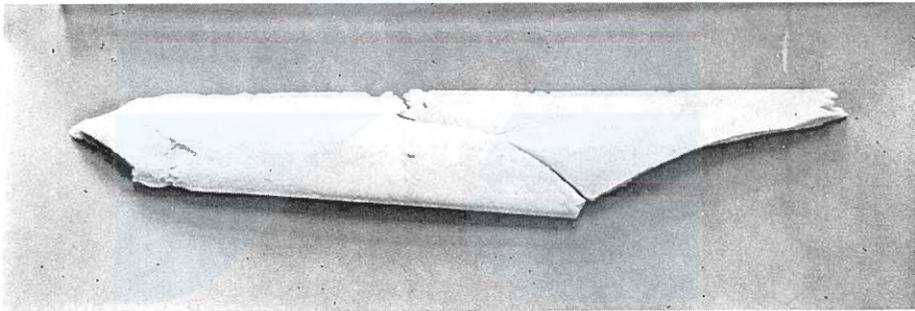


Fig. 1. A sword from a sword-fish found in a sei whale.

The occurrence of the sword of the sword-fish in whale body has already been reported by Ruud (1952), Nemoto (1959), and Jonsgård (1959, 1962), amounting to four occasions in fin whale and two in blue whale. This recovery will add one instance in sei whale. Attacking of the sword-fish on the whale was discussed by Brown (1960).

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