

STRANDINGS OF MARINE MAMMALS

(Whales, Porpoises, Dolphins,
Seals, Dugongs, "Sea Monsters")

In its work on the distribution and relationships of the marine mammals of Western Australian waters, the W.A. Museum is very keen to hear of any finds of stranded material, particularly cetaceans (Whales, Porpoises, Dolphins).

Any information on strandings should be relayed immediately to Dr. R.W. George or Mr. Athol Douglas, W.A. Museum, Perth, Telephone 28.4411 (or, if after hours, to Mr. Douglas, 29.1175), who will arrange for someone to examine the material at the site. Finders are asked not to remove or disturb any material except to prevent its disappearing (into either the sea or craypots!) If there is any danger of the carcass washing away, the head (at least) should be carried above the high-tide mark and a note made of the total length of the animal.

Recent reports by inspectors of strandings, such as that of 35 false killer whales at Doubtful Island Bay, a small sperm whale at Torbay and a dolphin at Shark Bay are adding considerably to our knowledge of these interesting animals. Several species are known only from a few remains found on isolated beaches in various parts of the world and further information and material is badly needed.