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A short note on unusual high frequency of  
cetacean strandings in Northern Norway,  
28th March 2nd May 2020

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INTERNATIONAL  
WHALING COMMISSION

# A short note on unusual high frequency of cetacean strandings in Northern Norway, 28<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

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Six sperm, four humpback, two northern bottlenose, two long-finned pilot whales and one fin and one unknown large whale, together with one white beaked dolphin, one harbour porpoise were found stranded at the coast of Norway during the period 28<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020.

One stranding was in Southern Norway, a long-finned pilot whale that was reported stranded on 26<sup>th</sup> April. The rest of the strandings were between 65.67°N and 70.24°N in Northern Norway. This is an unusual number of stranding in a relatively small area over a short period of time. See the dates, locations and species in the table below.

Date of discovery	Location	Lat	Long	Evidence	Species
28.03.20	Andenes, Toften	69.307°	16.070°	Sampled	Sperm whale
12.04.20	Reine, Lofoten	67.932°	13.088°	Report	Humpback whale
17.04.20	Bleik, Andøya	69.267°	15.920°	Sampled	Sperm whale
19.04.20	Røst	67.461°	11.890°	Report	Large UNK whale
20.04.20	Vikten, Napp, Lofoten	68.141°	13.312°	Report	Humpback whale
21.04.20	Merket, Andenes	69.296°	16.010°	Sampled	Sperm whale
22.04.20	Løksfjord, Troms	70.025°	18.691°	Report	Sperm whale
22.04.20	Tussøya, Troms	69.666°	18.135°	Sampled	Humpback whale
22.04.20	Tjeldsnes, Troms	68.387°	16.126°	Sampled	Sperm whale
23.04.20	Hadsel	68.563°	14.614°	Sampled	Humpback whale
24.04.20	Saltstraumen, Bodø	67.222°	14.611°	Sampled	Harbour porpoise
25.04.20	Nyksund	68.978°	15.020°	Sampled	Fin whale
26.04.20	Eggum, Lofoten	68.304°	13.699°	Sampled	Humpback whale <sup>1</sup>
26.04.20	Selnes	68.710°	15.412°	Sampled	Harbour seal
26.04.20	Hysvær, Vega	65.668°	11.856°	Report	N. Bottlenose whale
26.04.20	Melholmen, Røst	67.461°	11.890°	Report	N. Bottlenose whale
26.04.20	Rubbestadneset Bømlø	59.819°	5.273°	Sampled	Pilot whale
30.04.20	Sandhornøya, Gildeskål	67.100°	14.135°	Report	Pilot whale
02.05.20	Kokkvoll, Vannøya	70.180°	19.638°	Sampled	White beaked dolphin
02.05.20	Andsnes	70.236°	21.241°	Report	Sperm whale

1. This is the same whale as the specimen stranded in Vikten on 20<sup>th</sup> April. It drifted back onshore after being towed out at sea by the Coast Guard.