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Cuvier's beaked whale is known mainly from strandings. In Oceania it is a rare species and a second stranding record from the Marshall Islands is here reported.

The Marshall Islands is an island country in Oceania, located near the equator in the Pacific Ocean, and comprises over 1100 individual islands and islets.

On 17 April 2009 two beaked whales were found dead, stranded in Langor Island, located in Arno Atoll (approx. 7.124°N 171.93°E) (**Fig.1**). Both whales were identified by the author as Cuvier's beaked whales, (*ziphius cavirostris*) (Heyning 1989). One of them was clearly an adult male (**Fig.2**), with a length estimated as ~600cm. The sex of the second whale (**Fig.3**) was impossible to determine and its length was estimated at 450-500cm. There were no registered morphometric measurements. The animals were not collected, remaining in the same location at the beach. The same day many local people ate the whales. Some part of them were used to catch sharks.

This is the second stranding record of the species from the Marshall Islands (Bachara and Norman 2013). In August 2008 a ~200cm female calf was found dead at Majuro (Smithsonian database, stranding STR15250), incorrectly identified as a mesoplodont in Brownell et al. (2013) (V. Martin pers. comm.).

This stranding increases the total number of the Cuvier's beaked whale strandings in Oceania to 35: 4 in American Samoa (David Schofield pers. comm.), 2 in Federated States of Micronesia (Smithsonian database and A. Mignucci pers.comm.), 5 in French Polynesia (Poole 1993 and <http://www.apodstrandings.org>), 3 in Guam (David Schofield pers. comm.), 2 in Johnston Atoll (Smithsonian database), 2 in Kiribati (Ross et.al.1989 and David Schofield pers. comm.), 2 in U. S. Line Islands (Smithsonian database), 1 in New Caledonia (C. Garrigue pers.comm., and Garrigue 2007), 2 in North Mariana Islands (David Schofield pers. comm.), 2 in Papua New Guinea (Hale 1931 and Ross et.al.1988), 1 in Pitcairn Islands (Irving and Dawson 2012), 3 in Samoa (2 in 2010 http://www1.mnre.gov.ws/documents/newspaper/newsline_30May_2010.pdf and 1 in 2005- "unidentified beaked whale" <http://www.apodstrandings.org/encounters/encounter.jsp?number=12> V.Martin pers.comm.), 1 in Solomon Islands (Guppy 1887), 1 in Tonga (<http://www.apodstrandings.org>), 2 in Wake Island (David Schofield pers. comm.), and 2 in the Marshall Islands this paper.

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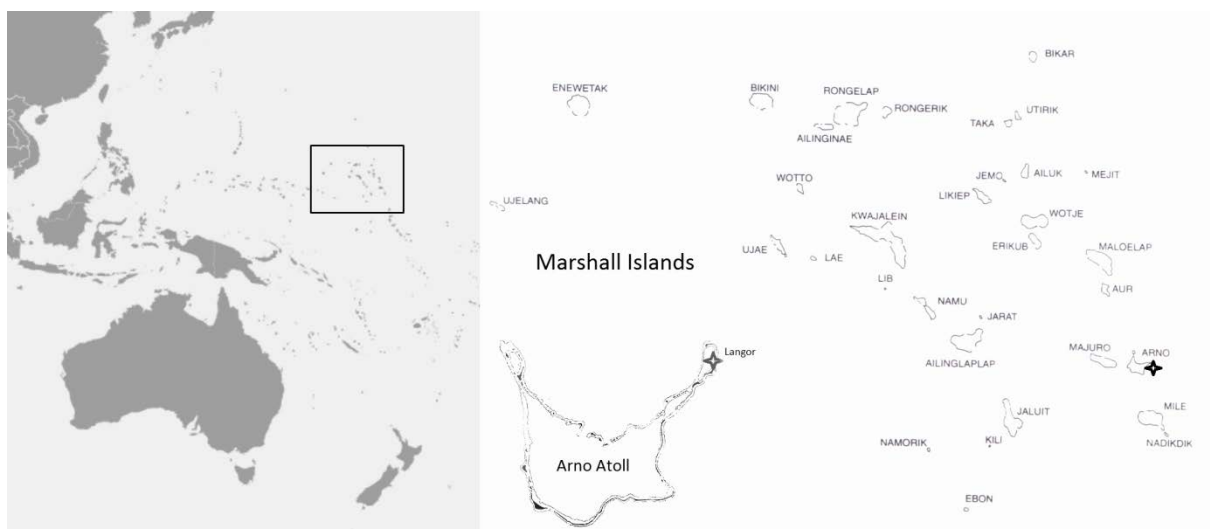


Fig. 1. The stranding site



Fig. 2. Photo: Annie K. Perkins



Fig. 3 Photo: Annie K. Perkins