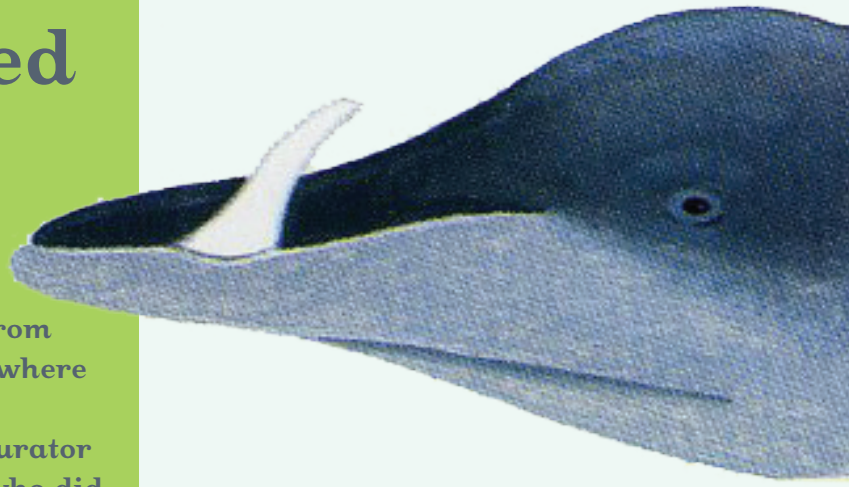


Straptooth Beaked Whale

Mesoplodon layardi

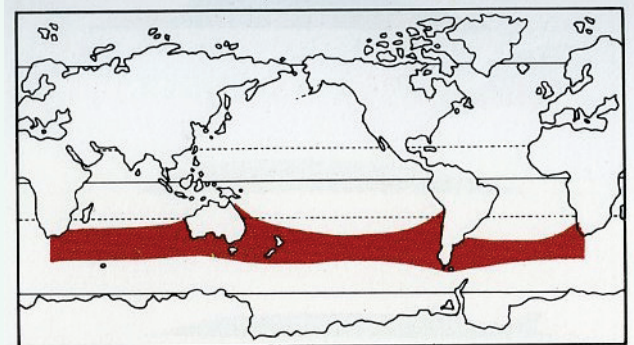
(Greek *mesos*=middle, *ploe*=floating, *odos* from *odontos*=tooth. Literally a tooth floating somewhere in the middle of the jaw.

The rest of the species name comes from the curator of the South African Museum, Edgar Layard, who did drawings of the whale in 1865)

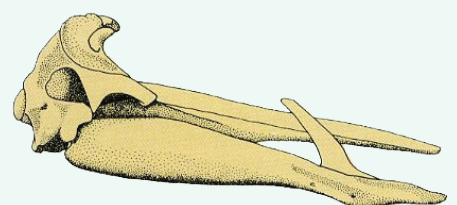


The *Mesoplodon* genus of medium-sized whales is a large group known mainly from strandings in New Zealand and Australia. Elsewhere this species is known from South Africa and South America. Similar species include Arnoux's, Cuvier's Beaked Whales, Hector's and the Southern Bottlenose.

The Straptooth Beaked Whale is a squid eater and the male measures some 6 meters, with the female some 6.2 meters. The lifespan of this species is not known.



ABOVE: This map shows the waters where the straptooth beaked whales are found.



The skull showing the unusual teeth that emerge from the lower jaw and encircle the upper jaw, nearly closing it completely and affecting the size of prey it can consume.

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WHALE
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