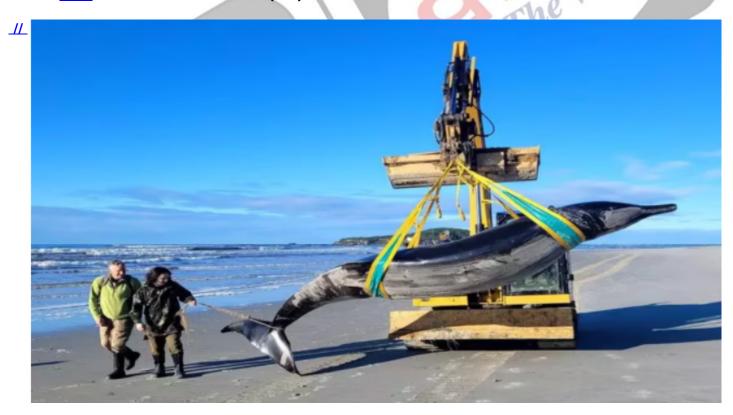


World's Rarest Whale

Source: IE

Recently, New Zealand scientists may have made a breakthrough as the country's conservation agency announced that a creature found washed up on a **South Island beach** is likely a **spade-toothed whale**.

- The spade-toothed whales **considered the rarest in the world**, have **never been observed alive**, which means their population size, diet, and habitat in the vast **southern** <u>Pacific Ocean</u> remain largely mysterious.
 - The first spade-toothed whale bones were found in 1872 on New Zealand's Pitt Island.
- The latest discovered species, a five-meter-long beaked whale, was identified by its colour patterns and the shape of its skull, beak, and teeth after washing ashore.
 - The researchers will collaborate with local Maori tribes to determine how it will be studied.
- Whales are revered as sacred taonga by New Zealand's Indigenous people, with past treaties recognizing them as "legal persons," though not legally binding globally.
- <u>IUCN</u> Status: Data Deficient (DD)



Read more: Sperm Whales

