



## 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 Pacific Ocean** 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**.
- [IUCN Status: Data Deficient \(DD\)](#)

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Read more: [Sperm Whales](#)

