

Dissecting the world's rarest whale



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Title

Dissecting the world's rarest whale

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Caption

Dissecting the world's rarest whale.

Conservationists and scientists in New Zealand were astonished to find the world's rarest whale washed ashore in the South Island in July. As only the seventh spade-toothed whale identified, and with none ever seen alive, this month saw the first dissection of a complete specimen.

Iwi representatives, Department of Conservation and the science community come together at Invermay Agricultural Centre for the dissection of the world's rarest species of beaked whale, a male spade-toothed whale (*Mesoplodon traversii*), which washed ashore near Taieri Mouth in July 2024.

Derek Morrison / Guardian / eyevine

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