

# Another dead whale found along Mossel Bay's coastline

■ Melissa Hills

A second much older and bigger male Humpback whale washed up at the Little Brak River Mouth on Sunday.

"The deceased whale probably also died of natural causes, but because it's lying on its back I couldn't see if it had any ship strike damage," Edith Mertz, scientist Oceans Research and a MEC Student at Tuks told the *Advertiser* this week.

"As reported about last week's beached whale, because the whale had been dead at sea for a while already the white that you see is the blubber/fat of the whale as the skin rots off."

It was last year round the same time that Mossel Bay'ers found a number of beached whales, inquiring the reason for this Edith gave her personal opinion.

"Seasons defiantly play a huge role. We are now in the time where the whales migrate along the South African coastline from the Indian Ocean, just north of Madagascar back to Antartika. What I think is happening is that the male who don't feed just breed during the Summer season where expend a lot of energy competing with other males. By the time they have to migrate they are worn out and starving, making them accessible to picking up some type of disease or sickness."

"This is probably why we keep get males beached, but once this is just my theory."

Removal of the carcass should be dealt with by the local authorities as they see fit and safe to the environment.



Samples being taken from the latest beached male Humpback whale.

Photo: [www.fionaayerst.com](http://www.fionaayerst.com)