

'The BIG Questions'

Lecture Series

Sperm whales in deep mud – Why did so many run aground in the southern North Sea during the last winter?

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On the way back from their feeding grounds in the northeastern Atlantic to the Azores sperm whales take the route north of the British Isles, where they can safely navigate in calm deep water. Occasionally, some groups may get lost on their return and enter the North Sea, a shallow and unfamiliar habitat which makes the whales unoriented. As a fatal consequence they beach in the coastal North Sea and die - like during the recent mass stranding of 30 young males in January/February 2016. The presentation will illustrate and discuss possible reasons of this dramatic event.

➔ **Venue: Lecture Hall, GEOMAR Westshore**
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