

Correlation between strandings of marine mammals at the Kashima-Nada beach and earthquakes

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A mass stranding of Melon-headed whales (*Peponocephala electra*) occurred at the Kashima-Nada beach, Japan, seven days before the 2011 M9.0 Off the Pacific coast of the Tohoku Earthquake (Tohoku EQ). Kashima-Nada beach is located 300 km southwest of the epicenter. Some people said that the mass stranding might be a precursor of the Tohoku EQ. In this study, we performed statistical analyses to determine the level of correlation between strandings at the Kashima-Nada beach and EQs. We concluded that the mass stranding was not correlated with the Tohoku EQ.

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