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OCCURRENCE OF JUVENILE HUMPBACK WHALE *MEGAPTERA NOVAEANGLIAE* FEEDING PEISOS *PETRUNKEVITCHI*, IN SÃO PAULO COASTAL WATERS, SOUTHEAST BRAZIL

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Adult Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) apparently do not feed during winter (breeding season) off the coast of Brazil, but emerging evidence suggests juveniles may feed during this period. We report the stranding of a Humpback whale juvenil in a beach in southeast coast of Brazil (23°59'38.8"S 46°12'11.9"W), during the "Santos Basin Beach Monitoring Project" (PMP-BS), which is part of the federal environmental licensing process conducted by IBAMA, for the activities of PETROBRAS exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the Santos basin Pré-salt province/Brazil between lat -25° 05' -25° 55' long -42° 35' -43° 34. The carcass show interaction with human activities (fishing nets in caudal fin). Necropsy revealed an evident hematoma on the esqueletal muscle of the body, extending from the abdominal to the pelvic muscular layers. When the abdominal cavity was accessed from its caudal edge, showed enteritis and mesenteric lymphadenomegaly and with the gut full of the Sergestid shrimp *Peisos petrunkevitchi*. This is the second time such event is registered in the coast of Brazil, further supporting the observation that Humpback whales' calves feeding behaviour. Also, small pelagic Sergestid shrimps are known to form dense patches and most species migrate in the water column, being found in the epipelagic zone at night, a behaviour that may facilitate the capture of these organisms by Megafauna. Unfortunately, even though frequently observed in zooplankton samples, little is known about the biology of Sergestid species in the South Atlantic, mainly due to the lack of zooplankton monitoring programs in the region. However, the current evidence suggests *M. novaeangliae* juveniles feed in shallow waters close to the coast in the southwest Atlantic coast. A better understanding of the ecology, distribution and biological production of important food resources such as *P. petrunkevitchi* is essential to guarantee the effectiveness of current conservation efforts of *M. novaeangliae* off the coast of Brazil.