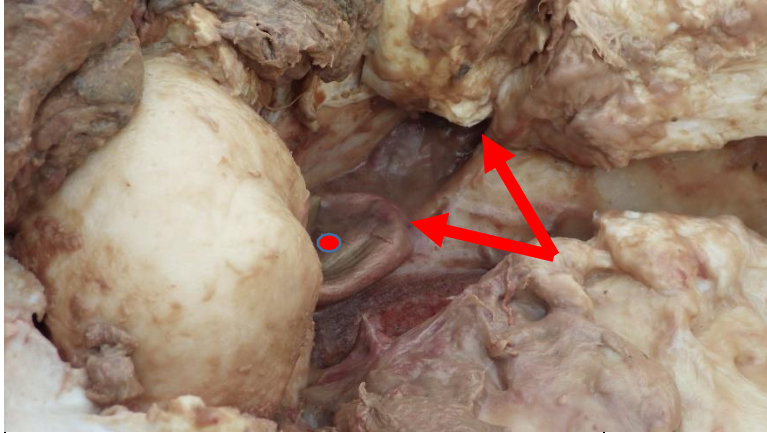


The arrows point at the very dense fibrous material attaching the mandible to the skull on the ventral surface (You don't need to cut that – it's VERY dense). Star is over the intermandibular space. I am sitting in the ventral neck region. Tympanic bullae are at the squares deep, medial to the TM joint.



This was a very young whale. The ear plug was very soft. Tympanic bulla to the left. Glove finger to the right of bulla (red dot). Very soft ear plug at arrows – lateral to the tympanic bulla.



Site of dissection for the ear plug on a 45-foot whale. Approaching the left ear plug. The animal is in dorsal recumbency. Arrow - eye; Star - base of the mandible.



Arrows points to the peripheral tip of the ear plug





The honey-comb like tissue that covers the tympanic bulla. Arrow points to the glove finger. The ear plug extends off the glove finger.



Appearance of the ear plug. It is friable to firm like a peice of rotten wood.



Another humpback whale – 42 feet long. Approach to the ear plug. The arrows point to the peripheral tip of the ear plug exiting out from under a boney ridge at the base of the skull. You can get to this point by following the external ear deeper into the tissue. On gray whales I’ve just followed the external ear canal inward. You need to collect the part cupped over the glove finger.

