“Timmy” autopsy reopens rescue debate

Scientists hope a post-mortem examination will reveal what killed “Timmy” the humpback whale, whose dramatic rescue attempt drew global attention and fierce criticism from some marine experts

TIMMY’S JOURNEY

1 Mar 3: “Timmy” first sighted in Lübeck Bay, on German Baltic coast

2 Mar 23: Whale becomes stranded on Timmendorfer Beach

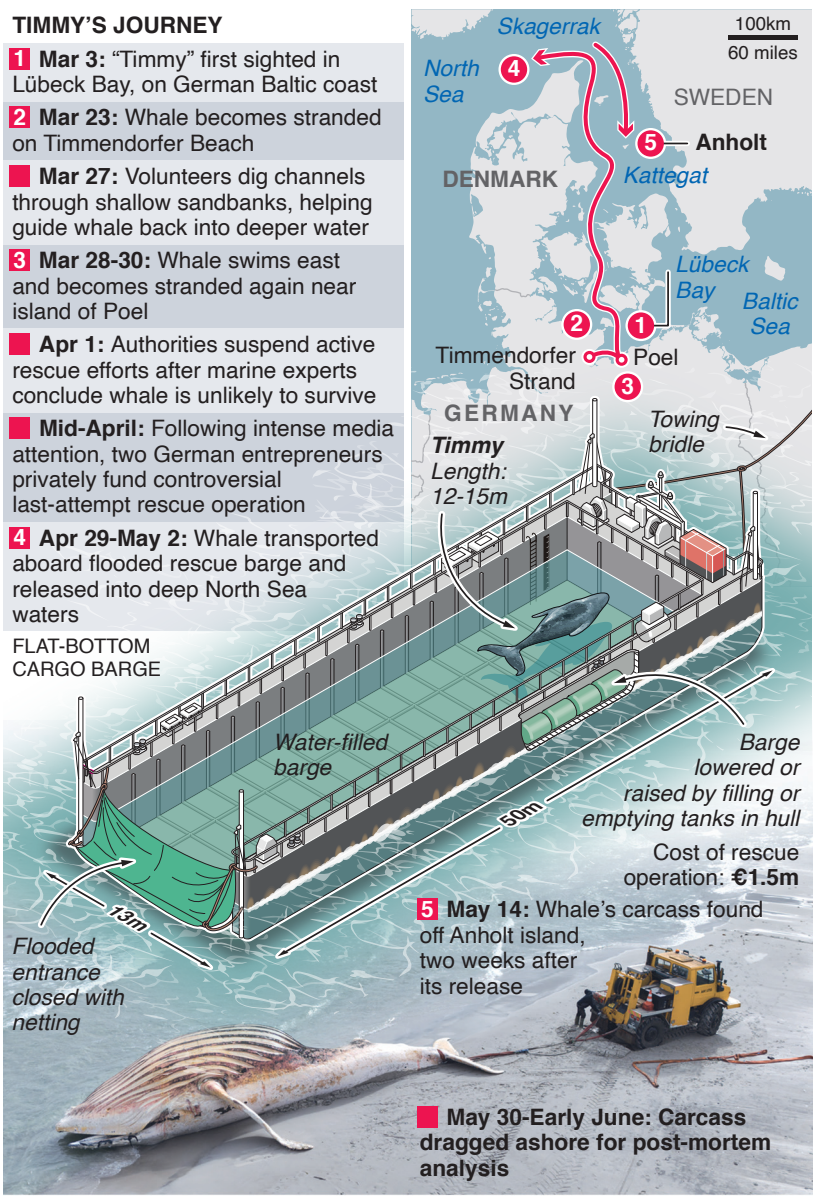
Mar 27: Volunteers dig channels through shallow sandbanks, helping guide whale back into deeper water

3 Mar 28-30: Whale swims east and becomes stranded again near island of Poel

Apr 1: Authorities suspend active rescue efforts after marine experts conclude whale is unlikely to survive

Mid-April: Following intense media attention, two German entrepreneurs privately fund controversial last-attempt rescue operation

4 Apr 29-May 2: Whale transported aboard flooded rescue barge and released into deep North Sea waters



Cost of rescue operation: **€1.5m**

5 May 14: Whale’s carcass found off Anholt island, two weeks after its release

May 30-Early June: Carcass dragged ashore for post-mortem analysis

Sources: BBC, AFP, Timmywhale.com Picture: Newscom © GRAPHIC NEWS