



Photo By ROBERT KOWELUK

An 18-foot Minke Whale which beached itself on shore at Cook Inlet in Anchorage last week was apparently saved by massive efforts to keep the animal wet and alive.

The Minke was found by an Anchorage Police patrolman at about 4 a.m. Friday, on the shore near Anchorage's Earthquake Park. Massive efforts to keep the animal protected from the sun and wet, apparently succeeded as the whale was rolled out to the afternoon high tide.

The efforts may have been for naught, however, warned one marine biologist who said whales

usually beach themselves because they are dying.

During the 12-hour battle by bystanders to save the whale,, veterinarians were trying quietly to put the animal to sleep. They were acting on the belief that sick dying whales mean to beach themselves. The attempts to kill the whale were thwarted because the veterinarian couldn't find a vein in the whale's tail in which to inject poison.