

Sunshine Coast Daily

Beach 'monster' identified

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By Sophia Browne

A MYSTERIOUS sea monster found at Bulcock Beach on Saturday has been unofficially identified by locals. The beach was closed for most of the day as lifesavers waited to find out whether the animal was dangerous. A member of the Ithaca Bulcock Beach Royal Lifesaving Club described the creature as kind of jelly-like and it has this really bad smell.

Far from being an octopus as was originally thought, the creature was identified as a cunjevoi (a common sea-squirt, which feeds on plankton) with fire weed attached to it resembling tentacles.

Bulcock Beach lifesaver Kate Stow said she suspected the creature was a cunjevoi but could not be sure, so they had to take proper precautions. Ms Stow said she tried to arrange for someone from Underwater World to officially identify it on Saturday, but no-one was available.

Theres no concern now ... the actual fish isnt dangerous, she said. Local recreational fisherman Peter Velentzas said he knew what the animal was straight away. They all thought it was some sort of mysterious sea creature but it was only a cunjevoi, he said.

Its just a big clump ... like a type of moss. All it does, I guess, is filter the water if you step on it, it sort of squirts water at you. You dont normally see them unless you walk right on the edge of the shore near the rocks.

Obviously if someones never seen it before they could come to all sorts of conclusions.