MARINE ANIMAL ENTANGLEMENT AWARENESS

Whales and other marine animals can become entangled in fishing gear and other man made materials. These incidents pose welfare and safety concerns for the animal in question, and for those who have discovered it. The Scottish Entanglement Alliance (SEA) is a partnership between six organisations dedicated to promoting and protecting Scotland’s wildlife, heritage and sustainable marine industries. Funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), SEA will work closely with fishermen and other marine users to research the incidence and impacts of marine animal entanglements in Scottish waters. SEA also has a specially trained large whale disentanglement team (LWDT) who are on stand-by to respond to entanglement reports.

What to look for:
- Buoys and lines moving, unusually clumped near, or trailing behind an animal.
- An animal at the surface that is not moving, or appears to be anchored to one spot.

What to report:
- Species or a description of the animal (see reverse) e.g. size, colour, injuries, tags.
- Location of the animal - record co-ordinates.
- Condition of the animal - alive, mobile, injured, inactive, dead.
- A description of the entangling material.
- Your contact details.
- Please take photos wherever possible.

What happens next:
- You may be requested to stand by the animal or help track it on a voluntary basis.
- A vessel or aircraft may will be despatched to assess the situation.
- SEA will alert the large whale disentanglement team.

Remember:
- Whales are extremely powerful and unpredictable wild animals.
- Keep a safe distance and do not approach the animal.
- Do not attempt to disentangle the animal yourself. This puts you in a very dangerous position and can result in only partial disentanglement, which may put the animal at greater risk in the longer-term.
- NEVER get in to the water.

If you encounter an entangled marine animal (live or dead, at sea or stranded) please contact:
SEA partners – 07746 634757
Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (SMASS) – 07979 245893
HM Coast Guard - VHF ch. 16
Species most likely to be encountered entangled in Scottish waters

**Minke whale**

**Size**
Length: 7-8.5m (23-28ft)
Weight: Up to 9 metric tons (10t)

**Behaviours**
Feed on wide variety of fish (herring, cod and sandeels)
Can be seen at surface feeding beneath flocks of seabirds
Dive times are typically 10 minutes
Usually does not produce a visible blow

**Humpback whale**

**Size**
Length: 11.5-15m (38-50ft)
Weight: 29-40 metric tons (25-45t)

**Behaviours**
Feeds on young schooling fish such as sandeels, herring and mackerel
Often seen lunge feeding
Dive times are typically around 5 minutes
Typically raises tail (fluke) when diving

**Basking shark**

**Size**
Length: 6.7 to 8.8m (22-29ft)
Weight: c. 2 metric tons (1.9t)

**Behaviours**
Feeds on zooplankton (small copepods, fish eggs, larvae)
Feeds by swimming with mouth open
Dorsal fin and tail fin can protrude from the water, can look like two sharks following each other

**Leatherback turtle**

**Size**
Length: up to 2m (6.5ft)
Weight: up to 600kg (1320 lbs)

**Behaviours**
Feeds on jellyfish
Summer visitor to Scottish waters
Commonly seen at the surface, and can look like an upturned saucer.
Head protrudes from the water

For more information about the Scottish Entanglement Alliance please visit

www.scottishentanglement.org