



SCOTTISH ENTANGLEMENT ALLIANCE



Understanding marine animal entanglement in Scottish waters

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 be dispatched 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:

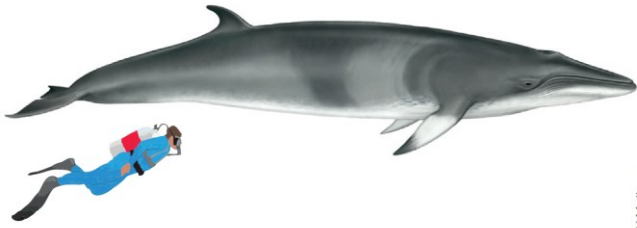
SEA partners – **07746 634757**

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



Diver for scale only NEVER enter the water

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Minke whale

Size

Length: 7-8.5m (23-28ft)

Weight: Up to 9 metric tons (10t)

Behaviours

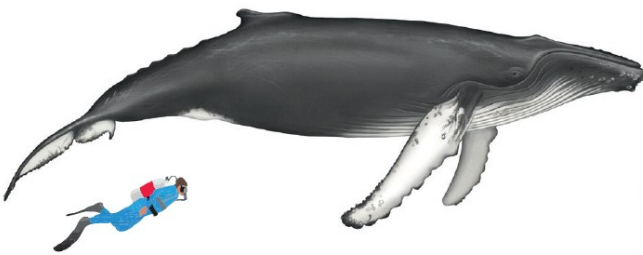
Feed on wide variety of fish (herring, cod and sandeels)

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



Diver for scale only NEVER enter the water

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Humpback whale

Size

Length: 11.5-15m (38-50ft)

Weight: 23-40 metric tons (25-45t)

Behaviours

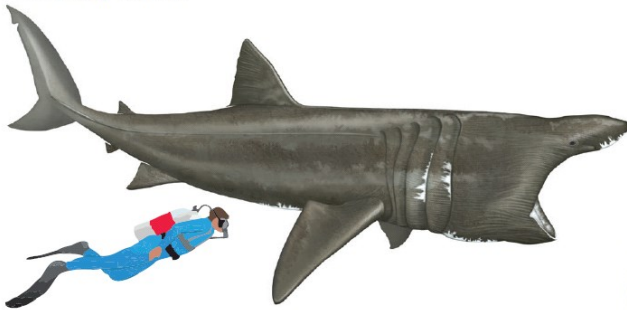
Feeds on young schooling fish such as sandeels, herring and mackerel

Often seen lunge feeding

Dive times are typically around 5 minutes

Typically raises tail (fluke) when diving

Basking shark



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Basking shark

Size

Length: 6.7 to 8.8m (22-29ft)

Weight: c. 2 metric tons (1.9t)

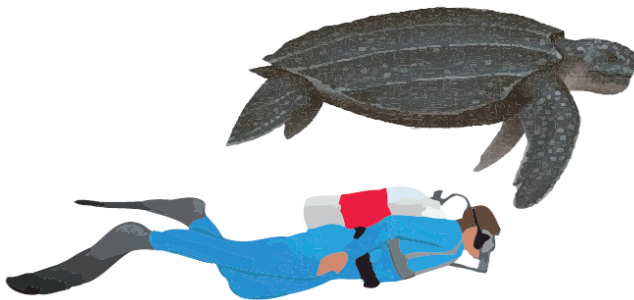
Behaviours

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



Diver for scale only NEVER enter the water

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