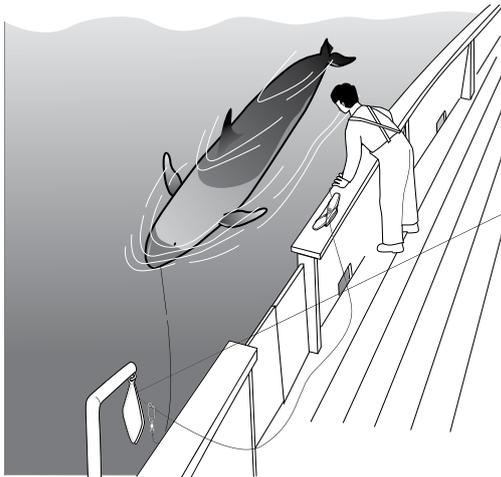


Whale and Dolphin Handling and Release Guidelines for Longline Fishers

For all interactions:

- Hooked and entangled marine mammals can be extremely dangerous because they are powerful and unpredictable. Don't get in the water with a caught whale or dolphin.
- Have dehooking and line-cutting equipment readily available – somewhere on deck where crew can get it quickly when a whale or dolphin is caught.
- Write down a description of the animal and its injuries. Take photos if possible. Use your species ID book to try to identify the animal. Record all required information on your logbook form.
- If whales or dolphins are eating your caught fish and bait, or you catch a marine mammal, consider moving 100 nautical miles or more before making your next set.

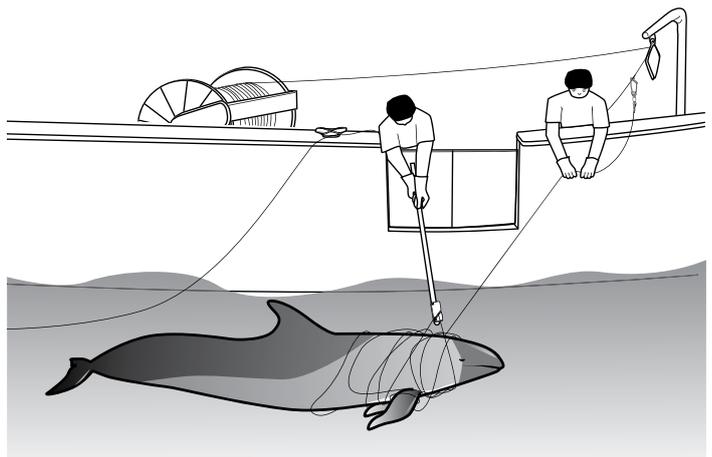
Small whales and dolphins



- Avoid sudden actions that might scare the animal.
- Don't use a gaff or similar devices to grab or hold the animal.
- Don't prevent the animal from reaching the surface with its blowhole (e.g., don't lift its tail out of the water).
- Attempt to determine if it is hooked and where the hook is located, entangled, or both hooked and entangled.

If **entangled** in the mainline or branchline:

1. Move the vessel close enough to the animal to reach it using a long-handled line cutter.
2. Secure the far side of the mainline to the boat. This keeps any remaining gear in the water from pulling on the line and the animal.
3. Determine how the line is wrapped and where to cut first in order to remove as much line from the animal as possible.
4. Use a long-handled line cutter to cut as much line off the animal as possible.
5. If the animal is now free (not also hooked), then wait for the whale/dolphin to swim away before resuming fishing operations.

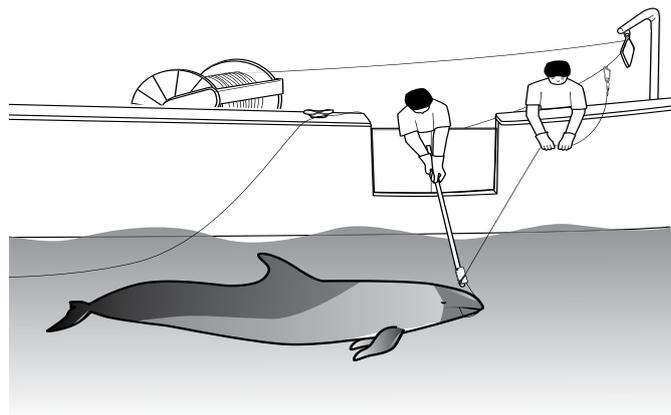


CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.



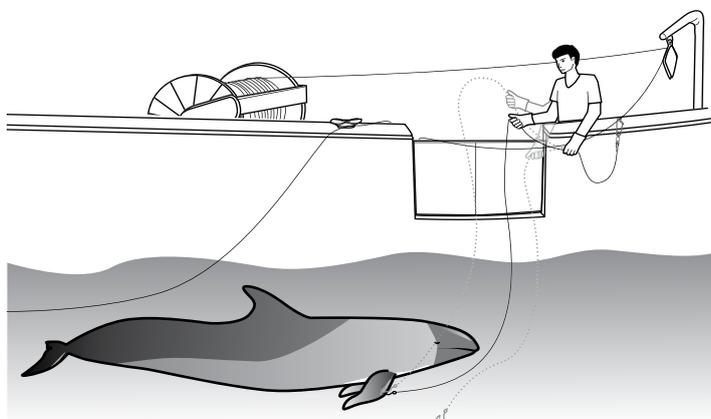
If not entangled, or after disentangling, if **hooked**, and either you think that the whale/dolphin **ingested the hook or you can't tell where it is hooked**:

1. Move the vessel close enough to the animal to reach it using a long-handled line cutter. Don't pull on the line to bring the animal to the boat.
2. Use a long-handled line cutter to cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
3. Wait for the whale/dolphin to swim away before resuming fishing operations.



If not entangled, or after disentangling, if the animal is **hooked in the mouth or body**:

1. Try lightly flicking the branchline to see if that dislodges the hook. If that works, then go to step 4. If not, then go to step 2.
2. If close enough and safe, try and remove the hook with a dehooker.
3. If you can't remove the hook with a dehooker, then use a long-handled line cutter to cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
4. Wait for the whale/dolphin to swim away before resuming fishing operations.



Large whales

1. If the captain determines that the situation poses an immediate risk to the vessel or crew, then keep the vessel as far from the whale as possible and cut the line and move away from the whale.
2. If the captain determines that there is minimal risk to the vessel and crew, then move the vessel as close as safely possible and cut as much mainline and branchline from the whale as possible using a long-handled line cutter.
3. Wait for the whale/dolphin to swim away before resuming fishing operations.

