



Fishery Guidance

To reduce the risk of large marine animals becoming entangled in fishing gear, the following fishing practices should be followed;

➤ Project details

The fishery guidance was developed with the aim of reducing the risk of entanglement of large marine animals in fishing gear. The project was set up with the Scottish Entanglement Alliance, British Divers Marine Life Rescue, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Whale and Dolphin Conservation and Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme. Cornwall IFCA have used the information from the project to develop this guidance.

➤ Project partners

Cornwall IFCA would like to thank the British Divers Marine Life Rescue, Scottish Entanglement Alliance, and Whale and Dolphin Conservation for providing the content for this guidance document.



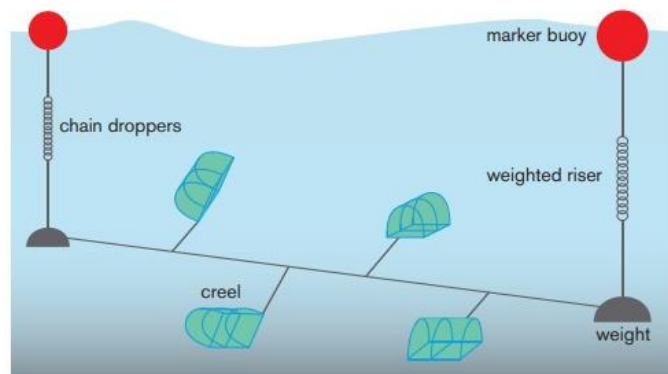
SCOTTISH
ENTANGLEMENT
ALLIANCE



➤ How to set gear

To reduce excess rope in the water column to minimise the risk of entanglement

- Set riser length to minimum required avoiding any excess water depth (suggested set up pictured below)
- Use a weighted rope on the riser
- Use sinking rope for the backline where appropriate
- Only use sinking rope in areas without fragile species or habitats (seagrass, live maerl beds, pink sea fans, sponges, corals and anemones), for example sand or coarse sediment
- Minimise soak time
- Only set gear when actively fishing
- Immediately report all incidents of entanglement (contact details below)





Project information and contact details

➤ Encountering an entanglement

Report all entanglements to improve knowledge and minimise damage to fishing gear

- Look for buoys and lines moving or unusually clumped near an animal
- Remember your own safety when approaching a wild animal and never enter the water. Large whales are extremely powerful and can be unpredictable

Seek advice from BDMLR before attempting a rescue. Cutting an animal free could result in partial disentanglement only. This may leave the animal at risk and lead to the loss of gear

➤ To report an entangled animal or for advice and assistance

Call the BDMLR hotline on **01825 765546** for assistance from their Large Whale Disentanglement Team.

Provide key information if possible, as suggested below.

➤ Key information

All information shared will be treated in strictest confidence. The data will be used to assist rescue attempts and improve understanding and guidance.



Date and time found



Location of animal, record coordinates



Take photos and video wherever possible



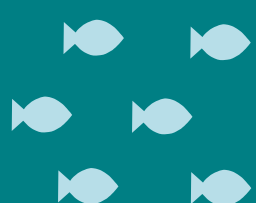
Species, size, and condition of the animal; alive, mobile, injured, inactive, dead



Description of the entanglement configuration



Ask for help if you require assistance

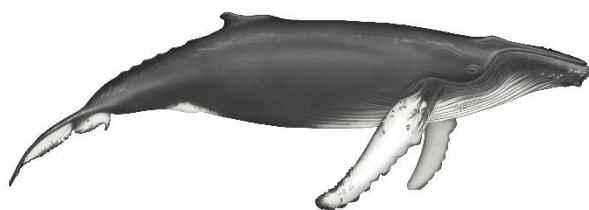




Species most likely to be entangled in Cornish waters

*Drawings are not to scale

➤ Humpback whale



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

Weight: 23-40 metric tonnes

When to see: Late summer/ winter

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

➤ Minke whale



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Size: Length: 7-8.5m

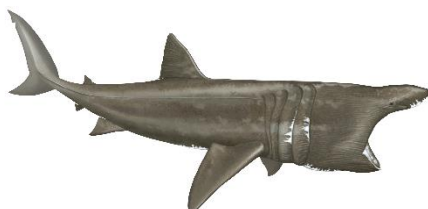
Weight: Up to 9 metric tonnes

When to see: All year round

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

➤ Basking shark



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

Weight: c. 2 metric tonnes

When to see: April to September

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



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Size: Length: up to 2m (6.5ft)

Weight: up to 600kg

When to see: May to September

Behaviours:

- Feeds on jellyfish
- Commonly seen at the surface, and can look like an upturned saucer.
- Head protrudes from the water

CORNWALL IFCA CONTACT INFORMATION



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