


# California Whale Entanglement Team (W.E.T.)

## Response and Reporting Card

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Now you have an easy way to report whales that are entangled by calling our toll-free number:

**(877) SOS-WHAlE**  
(877-767-9425)



### LARGE WHALES IN DISTRESS

— Response and Reporting Card —


California W.E.T. (Whale Entanglement Team) is a group of marine mammal professionals and volunteers under the direction of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Protected Resources. W.E.T. is tasked with responding to whales entangled in fishing gear and marine debris. These highly trained and experienced teams include marine biologists, veterinarians, mariners, and other volunteers coordinating with several governmental agencies including NMFS, NOAA Enforcement, US Coast Guard, and state agencies under the authority of the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program permit #932-1489.

Ocean users can play an important role in efforts to save whales in distress from pain, deformity, and death. Please report injured, entangled, and ship-struck whale concerns to the 24/7 W.E.T. hotline at (877) SOS-WHAlE (767-9425) or hail the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF CH-16. Prompt reporting is the best way to help the distressed animal. Standing by until responders can arrive is also valuable. The back of this card prompts important information necessary to launch an appropriate response. The information provided may also help reduce incidents in the future.

Please be aware that it is sometimes not possible or appropriate to respond to every entangled or otherwise distressed marine mammal. Ship-struck animals may be monitored and assessed.

Safety first! Rescue attempts can be dangerous for would-be rescuers and the animal. Do not assist distressed marine mammals without guidance from authorities. Stay a safe distance away—100 yards minimum. Don't touch, feed, pursue, disturb, or otherwise approach marine mammals unless authorized to do so.

If possible, draw an approximation of the entanglement (below), indicating lines, objects, color, and distinguishing marks on the whale.



**Entangled Whale Hotline: (877) SOS-WHAlE (767-9425)**

### Marine Mammals in Distress Reporting Card

Report injured, entangled, stranded, and ship-struck whale concerns as soon as possible. Reports will be relayed to responders. Authorized personnel will guide you as to what to do next. Prompt reporting is the best way to help distressed animals. The following information will aid responders in mounting an appropriate response.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF LAST SIGHTING: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

VESSEL NAME/CALL SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL LOCATION (Landmarks): \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIFIC LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ °N \_\_\_\_\_ °W

SPECIES (If known; use a guide): \_\_\_\_\_

APPROXIMATE SIZE/AGE CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

NATURE OF THE DISTRESS (Describe what you see): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE WHALE: \_\_\_\_\_

WEATHER/SEAS (Wind, swell, visibility): \_\_\_\_\_

IS THE ANIMAL MOVING? Y / N speed \_\_\_\_\_ heading \_\_\_\_\_

CAN YOU STAND BY? Y / N HOW LONG? \_\_\_\_\_ PHOTOS? Y / N VIDEO? Y / N

Report incidents of marine mammal harassment to NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement at (800) 853-1964. In Northern California, report live stranded marine mammals (on the beach) to The Marine Mammal Center at (415) 289-SEAL (7325). Report injured/stranded sea turtles to the Moss Landing Marine Lab Turtle Research Program at (831) 771-4422. Report dead marine mammals to California Academy of Sciences at (415) 379-5381. There are ten other organizations authorized to respond to stranded marine mammals in California. The W.E.T. Hotline operator will be able to route the report to the appropriate responder(s).




Photo taken under the authority of MMS/HRP permit #932-1489

**Prompt reporting is the best way to help a whale in distress.**

The Large Whales in Distress Response and Reporting Card is available printed on waterproof paper.

Actual waterproof card is two-sided (size 3 1/2" x 9").

For a waterproof card please call 831-901-3833 or email [peggy@marinelifestudies.org](mailto:peggy@marinelifestudies.org). For a PDF version to post on your website go to [www.marinelifestudies.org](http://www.marinelifestudies.org) and click on "Download a copy of the Response and Reporting Card here".

Please print on recycled paper.  Please pass on or please recycle.