























# <image><section-header><list-item><list-item><list-item>



# Hazard Mitigation Physical Injury

Keep away from cetacean's tail

Be aware of the size, weight and strength of the animal





# <text><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><table-container>

# Initial Response & Stabilization

- Confirm cetacean is alive
- Stabilize the animal
- Health assessment & prognosis
- Data collection







### Stabilize the Animal

#### Caution:

MARS

- Blowhole don't block or put water in it
- Skin sensitive, keep cool
- Appendages sensitive, no bone in tail or dorsal fin, flippers easily dislocated
- Minimize stress keep noise and contact to a minimum





#### **Stabilize the Animal**

- Dig trenches under flippers & flukes
- Provide shade or shelter to protect from sun & wind
- Remove sharp rocks or hazardous objects from the area and beneath the animal
- Flush eyes with saline or salt water





# Monitor breathing

 Small cetacean (dolphin) : 2-5 breaths/min

- Medium cetacean (pilot whale): 1-2 breath/min
- Large cetacean (sperm whale): 1 breath/20min

# **Behaviour**

- Alert/responsive or unresponsive
- Calm or thrashing?



![](_page_12_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **Stranding time**

Time on beach is a crucial factor:

- Porpoises & dolphins (<3m): 12hrs
- Small toothed whales (3-6m): 12 hrs
- Large toothed whales (>6m): 6hrs
- Small baleen whales (<6m): 12 hrs
- Large baleen whales (>6m): 6 hrs

![](_page_13_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Transportation

- Keep animal comfortable
- Cover in sheets, keep cool & moist
- Monitor breathing
- Lift in stretchers with pectoral fins folded down
- Cushion body using air mattresses

#### Caution:

- Avoid dragging animal over rocky beaches if possible
- Do not pick them up by flippers or drag by flukes
- Do not roll the animal completely over

![](_page_15_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_13.jpeg)

# **Refloatation of Animals <10 feet**

- Plan your travel path & coordinate safe lifting
- Move into waist deep water, supporting with a stretcher or hands
- Keep blowhole above water and don't let go right away

![](_page_16_Picture_5.jpeg)

# **Refloatation of Animals <10 feet**

- Rock animal gently from side to side
- Resolve equilibrium, circulation, muscle stiffness
- Monitor behaviour
  - Powerful tail motions
  - Listing
  - Tremors & persistent flexion
- Release when ready

![](_page_16_Picture_14.jpeg)

# **Refloatation of Animals 10-20 feet**

Use refloatation pontoons

- Provides stability on land
- Provides stability and control in the water
- Must know how and when to use them

![](_page_17_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_7.jpeg)

# **Refloatation of Animals 10-20 feet**

Use refloatation pontoons

- Hold alongside boat to take animal to deeper water
- Lift or transport the animal
- Modifications for large dolphins

Mats alone can be used to drag

![](_page_17_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_15.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_2.jpeg)

# **Mass Strandings**

- Stabilize and assess all animals (triage)
- Release animals together if possible

![](_page_20_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_2.jpeg)