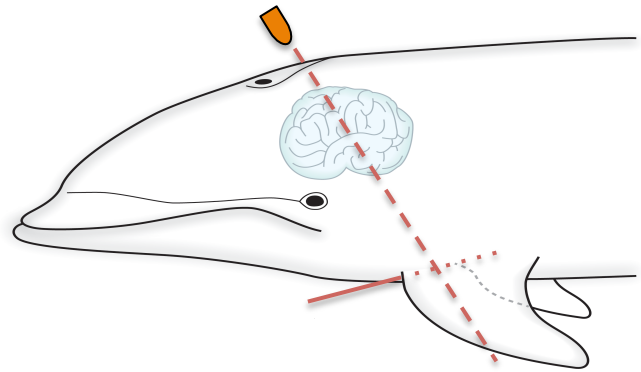


Euthanasia of Whales and Dolphins

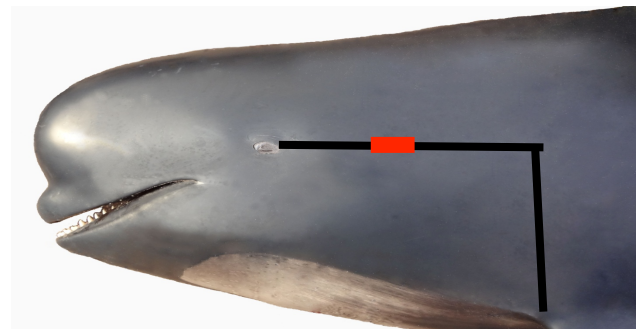
The information on these pages is extracted from DFO document: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/>

Checklist for Whale Euthanasia

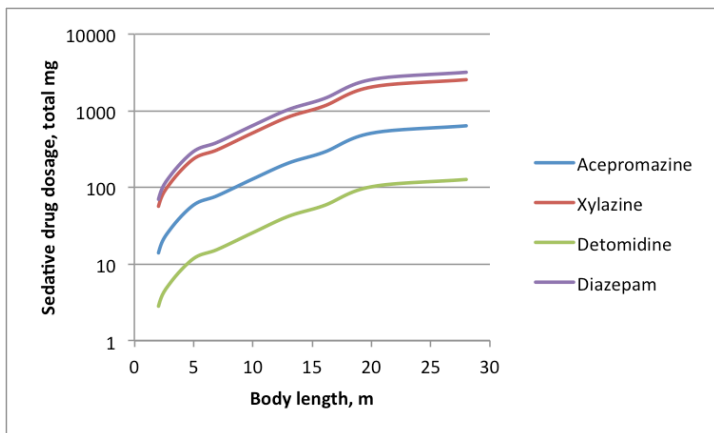
- ❖ Does the animal meet criteria for humane destruction?
- ❖ Locate firearms and appropriate ammunition, or
- ❖ Veterinary drugs and needles, appropriate for the species.
- ❖ Individual skilled in shooting or a veterinarian will be needed.
- ❖ Consider tides, surf, access to whale, crowd control.
- ❖ Consider safe disposal of the carcass after euthanasia if drugs have been used.
- ❖ Protected natural death with palliative care is appropriate when the requirements listed above for euthanasia cannot be met.



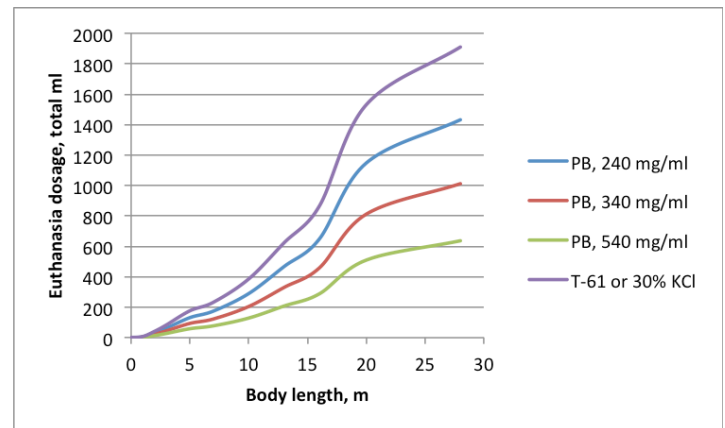
Point of aim for small whales and dolphins.



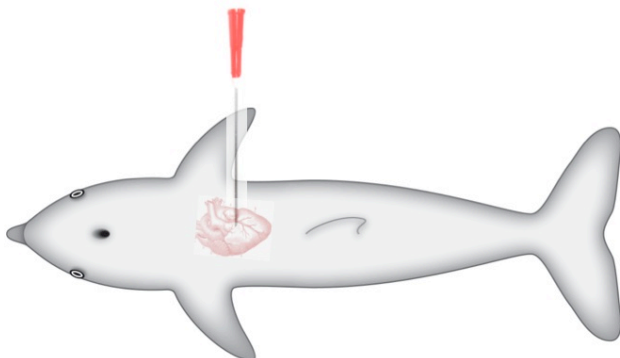
Lateral point of aim for small whales, one-third to one-half the distance from the eye to the front of the flipper.



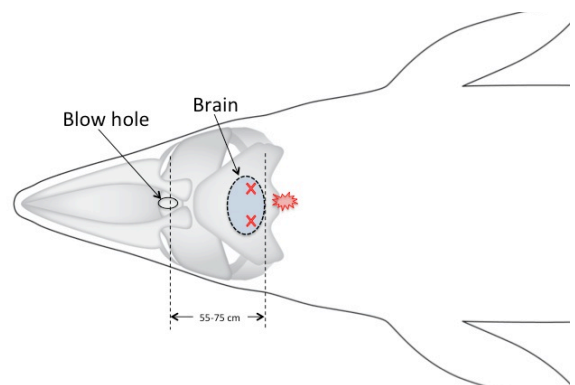
Sedative drug doses for whales, based on body length, for intravenous or intramuscular administration.



Euthanasia drug doses for whales, based on body length, for i.v. or intracardiac administration. PB=pentobarbital



Lateral approach for intracardiac administration of euthanasia drugs. A long needle is inserted just behind and at the level of a flipper, aimed to the same point on the opposite side.



Point of aim for adult Minke whale, 55-75 cm caudal to the blowhole and slightly to one side of dorsal midline.

CANADIAN FIELD GUIDE FOR EUTHANASIA OF WHALES AND DOLPHINS

Size ¹ and Number	Gunshot (minimum caliber)	Explosives	Chemical	Protected natural death with palliative care (PNDPC)	Likelihood of success	Problems	Comment
one small whale	#2- ² .222 for porpoise, dolphin; .308 for pilot whale; .375 for minke whales	NR ³	#1- acepromazine, 30 minutes, then intravenous or intracardiac pentobarbital	not appropriate	high		chemical methods preferred
few small whales	#2- simultaneous shooting recommended	NR	#1- sedate all animals first, then euthanize in sequence	not appropriate	high	difficult to prevent live animals from seeing death of others or hearing gunfires	chemical methods preferred
many small whales	#1- simultaneous shooting recommended	NR	deep sedation of most animals may be possible	may be unavoidable	moderate	significant ecotoxicity may result with chemical methods	viable animals must be rescued prior to euthanasia of terminal cases
one large whale	#2- only with training and appropriate equipment (e.g., .458 or .50 BMG)	#4- only with training and appropriate charges	#1- requires training, special needles, and large quantities of euthanasia drugs	#3✓ ⁴	moderate	significant ecotoxicity may result with chemical methods	gunshot possible in whales up to 12 m long; requires minimum muzzle energy of 4600 ft-lbs
few large whales	NR	NR	#1- requires training, special needles, and large quantities of euthanasia drugs	#2✓	low	significant ecotoxicity may result with chemical methods	human safety may be a consideration with chemical method
sperm whale	NR	NR	NR	#1✓	not available	considered the most difficult species to euthanize	chemical methods may be possible; efficacy of shooting has rarely been shown

¹ Small whales are defined as less than 8 m long, large whales as more than 8 m long.

² #1-#4: ranking of methods for most likely circumstances, in decreasing order of preference.

³ NR - not recommended due to potential for inhumane results or low success.

⁴ ✓ - recommended at the present time, although euthanasia may be possible where expertise and equipment permits.