

Probable Reasons for Marine Mammal Stranding

- Disease
- Parasite Infestation
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Injuries Due to Ship Strikes
- Fishery Entanglements
- Pollution Exposure
- Trauma
- Starvation
- Unusual Weather or Oceanographic Events



Reasons for Necropsies

- Pathological process responsible for diseases/parasitism
- reproductive biology data
- feeding habits, survival, number of calves they have, age at first calving, etc.)
- pollution
- normal biology and physiology parameters
- incidence of human interactions including:
 - ship strikes
 - Entanglements
 - Hooks
 - marine debris ingestions





What to **DO** during stranding

- Keep people and dogs away.
- Observe and report the following:
 - ✓ Identification: Color, size, vocalizations.
 - ✓ General condition: Is the animal alive or dead, lethargic, injured, bleeding, entangled?
 - ✓ Location: Be as precise as possible, making note of landmarks and beach accessibility.
 - ✓ If you find a live cetacean provide supportive care:
- Protect animal from harsh wind or sun
- Dig trenches for pectoral flippers
- Rinse any sand out of eyes
- Keep the area quiet
- Make sure the animal is not too hot or too cold. Keep live cetaceans cool and moist by covering them with wet towels or gently pouring water on them. But be very careful not to cover or pour water down the blowhole



What **SHOULD NOT BE DONE** during stranding

- Move, touch, or disturb the animal
- Drive animals back into the water
- Try to feed the animal
- Sit or hamper the animal
- Pour freshwater into the blowhole

