

SHELLFISH GROWERS: HELP KEEP MARINE WILDLIFE FREE FROM ACTIVE OR LOST GEAR

Active or lost gear can entrap or injure marine wildlife, including whales, sea turtles, and sharks.

Improper activities on a shellfish farm can also damage sensitive and important coastal habitat, such as eelgrass beds, rocky reefs, salt marshes, and kelp forests.

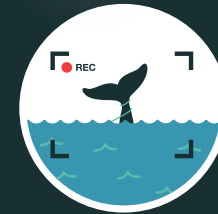
How you operate can make a difference in protecting wildlife and their habitat.

REPORTING MARINE WILDLIFE INCIDENTS

If you see an entangled, injured, stranded, or dead marine mammal or sea turtle, please take the following steps:



Report sighting of any entangled, injured, or dead animals immediately to the DFO 24/7 Incident Hotline below.



Take photos and videos of any entangled gear and the animal. Photos can provide useful information about the animal and the nature of the incident.



Do not attempt to help or disentangle the animal without first obtaining direction from DFO officials. You could injure yourself and/or the animal.



Stay with the animal, if safe to do so, until an authorized responder arrives or DFO gives you further direction. Maintain the minimum required approach distance from marine wildlife.¹

¹ 100 m distance from most whales, dolphins, and porpoises; 200 m if an animal is in resting position or with a calf. At-risk Killer Whales require more distance (200-400 m); distances may vary by area or time of year. See the DFO website for the latest regulations: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/mammals-mammiferes/watching-observation/index-eng.html>

This brochure is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all of your responsibilities as required by the federal and provincial governments. For full requirements, consult your authorization and licence documents from DFO, the Province of B.C., Transport Canada, and any other relevant regulatory bodies.

Report marine mammal or sea turtle incidents to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO):



1-800-465-4336



VHF Channel 16



Or email DFO.0RR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Report sightings or incidents involving sharks to: 1-877-50-SHARK (1-877-507-4275)



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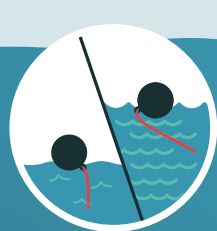
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THE ROPES, NETTING, AND OTHER MATERIALS IN USE AT SHELLFISH FARMS CAN POSE A THREAT TO MARINE WILDLIFE

Take these measures to help protect marine wildlife and their habitat:



Design and install all infrastructure to withstand all types of weather conditions.

Regularly inspect your gear to ensure that it is secured, in good condition, and functioning as intended.

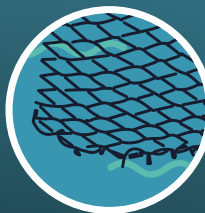


Reduce excess and loose lines.

Implement regular inspection programs for shoreline and seafloor using commercially certified divers. Include all reasonable on- and off-tenure gear catchment areas.



Recover any lost gear to prevent pollution and wildlife entanglements.



Dispose of all aquaculture gear responsibly. Straps and other gear can entangle marine wildlife if not disposed of properly.



Educate yourself and your staff on the requirements for protecting marine wildlife, particularly species at risk and their habitat.

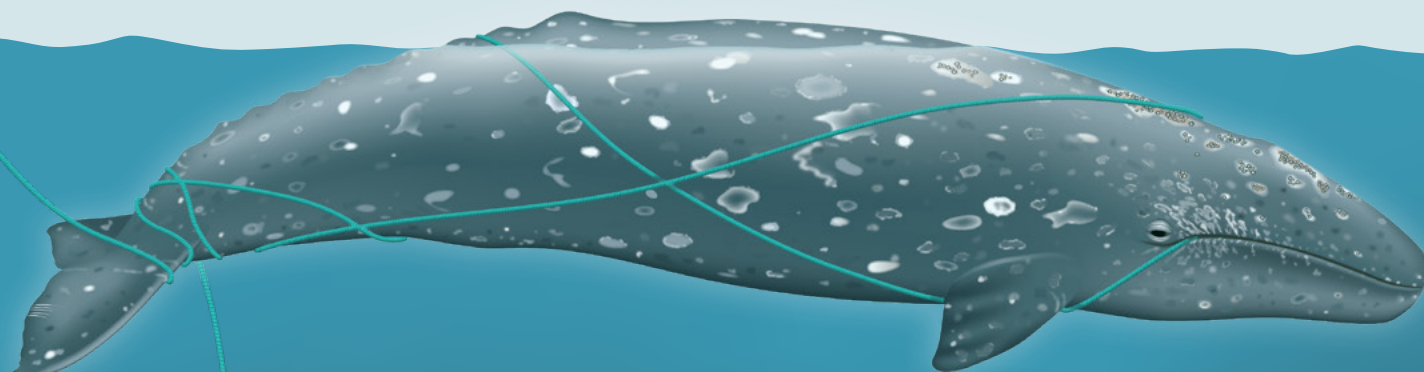


Report marine wildlife incidents to the DFO 24/7 Incident Hotline.



As of September 2020, 12 of the 26 marine species in Canadian Pacific waters listed under the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA) are considered to be Endangered or Threatened.

From marine mammals like Killer Whales to molluscs like Northern Abalone, all Endangered and Threatened species and their habitats are afforded legal protection in Canada to prevent their further decline. It is against the law to kill, harm, harass, capture, or take an individual of a species listed as Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened under SARA, or to destroy any part of its identified critical habitat.



Please contact the DFO Shellfish Aquaculture Program (shellfish.aquaculture@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) for more info.

DFO is responsible for assisting marine mammals and sea turtles in distress. If your vessel strikes a whale, or if you observe an entangled, injured, stranded, or dead marine mammal or sea turtle, please contact the DFO 24/7 Incident Hotline at 1-800-465-4336 or on VHF Channel 16.



Reporting of collisions or accidental contact between vessels, fishing, or aquaculture gear and marine mammals is mandatory under Canada's *Marine Mammal Regulations*.

TO REPORT WHALE OR TURTLE SIGHTINGS, CONTACT THE BC CETACEAN SIGHTINGS NETWORK

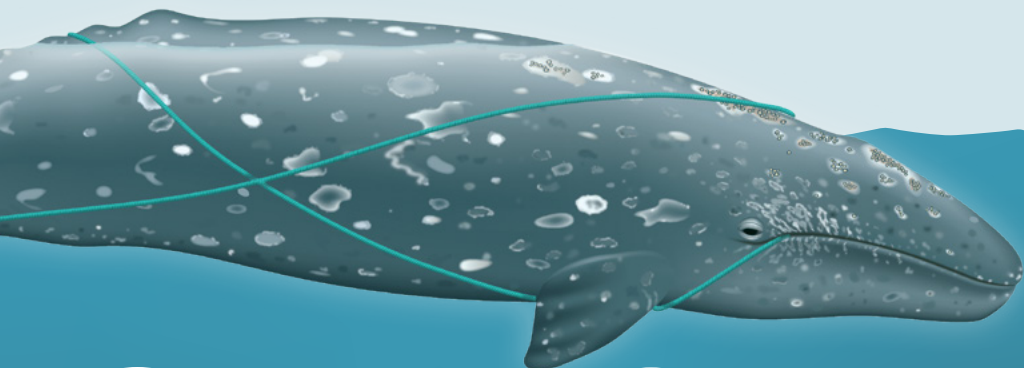
TOLL FREE 1-866-I SAW ONE (472-9663)

EMAIL sightings@ocean.org • **APP** WhaleReport • **WEB** wildwhales.org

Keep this flier in an accessible location for your reference to immediately report incidents that you observed or were involved in and/or whale, sea turtle, or shark sightings.

Report shark sightings to 1-877-50-SHARK (1-877-507-4275)

REPORT ENTANGLED, INJURED, OR DEAD MARINE WILDLIFE



Report sighting of entangled, injured, or dead marine mammal, sea turtle, or shark immediately.



Take photos and videos of the entangled gear and the animal.



Do not attempt to disentangle the animal yourself, unless authorized to do so by DFO.



Stay with the animal, if safe to do so, at the appropriate distance.¹

¹ 100 m distance from most whales, dolphins, and porpoises; 200 m if they are in resting position or with a calf. Killer Whales in BC require more distance (200-400 m); distances may vary by area or time of year.

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