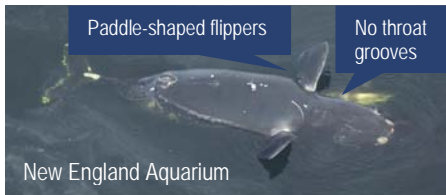




NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



Who Should You Call?

US Coast Guard Ch. 16

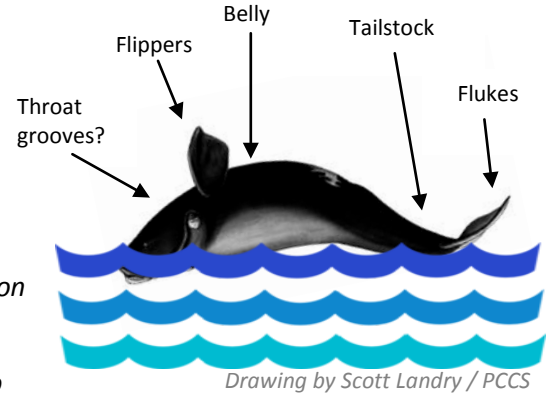
or

866-755-NOAA (VA – ME)

877-WHALE-HELP (FL – NC)

Report a Dead Whale

Please help NOAA collect vital information by documenting and reporting these critical sightings. Dead whales typically float belly up and can be very difficult to identify. Closely examine the carcass for signs of injury. Video or photos are extremely valuable, especially close-ups of tailstock, flukes, flippers, and injuries.



What Information Should You Report?

1. Your name, vessel name, and contact information
2. Date, time, and location of sighting (latitude and longitude if possible)
3. A detailed description of the whale:
 - How many feet long is the whale (use size of boat for comparison)?
 - Can you tell whether the whale has a dorsal fin or a smooth back?
 - What color is the whale? What color, shape, and length are flippers?
 - What color and shape are the tail flukes? Are the edges ragged-looking or smooth? Are there barnacles attached?
 - Does it have bumps on its head? If so, what color are they?
 - Do you see throat grooves (under the mouth extending to the belly)?
 - Are there signs of injury?
 - Are there lines or pieces of gear? If so, give specific information (buoys and line colors, buoy numbers, etc.). Do not attempt to remove gear!
 - Give specific info on key body parts (both flippers, tail, and mouth)