



**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**  
**INITIAL RESPONSE FORM – Distressed marine mammals/animals**

**OBSERVER DETAILS**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Observer's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Is observer prepared to stay with animal until DOC staff arrive and/or direct DOC staff to it? \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION**

Description of animal location (include directions to the site, roads, points of reference, etc): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Conditions at the site (state of the tide, sea and weather conditions, access problems, etc): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**ANIMAL DESCRIPTION**

Type of animal:  Whale or dolphin  Seal  Turtle  Sea snake  Bird  
 Get photos/videos of the animal

Type of incident:  Sighting  Live stranding  Sick/injured animal  
 Entangled animal  Dead animal  Catch incidental to fishing

Species (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ Number of animals: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Colour pattern: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Presence/shape of dorsal fin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shape of tail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Body condition: \_\_\_\_\_

Time animal was first seen: \_\_\_\_\_ Last seen: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Behaviour of the animal: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Direction animal is/was moving: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS** Enquire as appropriate

**SICK/INJURED ANIMAL**

Description of visible injures/sickness: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Is there fresh blood, where? \_\_\_\_\_

**STRANDED ANIMAL**

Number of animals that have stranded: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of animals that are still alive: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of animals that are still offshore: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTANGLED ANIMAL**

Description of material animal in entangled in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

How is it entangled? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS TO GIVE OBSERVER**

**HAZARDS**

- Caution the observer that they must be aware of the hazards of dealing with a large whale or a carcass
- Hazards may come from the animal thrashing, or the carcass rolling over in the surf. Do not handle a dead animal. Human safety is the highest priority

**STRANDED ANIMAL**

- Get buckets, old sheets/towels, shovels, etc
- Right the animal if possible. This should be done by digging a shallow pool along the underside of the whale and tipping it into this. Point head out to sea if animal is in the surf
- Avoid touching the eyes and blowhole, do not pull on the flippers and tail, or bend the spine
- Once the animal is upright, cover with the sheets/towels and keep these wet. **DO NOT COVER THE BLOW HOLE**
- Refloating the animal should not be attempted until DOC staff arrive

**RESPONSE DETAILS**

Action taken (instructions given, who is responding, etc): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person receiving the call: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

File as appropriate, in incident files, once complete