

What to do if you Find a Marine Mammal in Maine

Fact Sheet



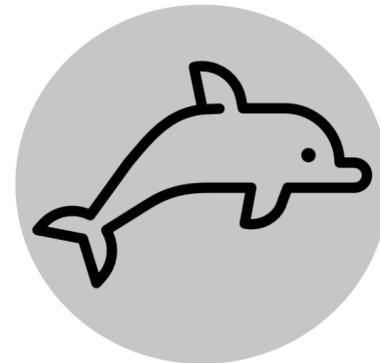
Marine mammals in Maine include seals, whales, dolphins, and porpoises.



Seals



Whales



Dolphins

I found a stranded marine mammal. What should I do?



- Call the Maine Marine Animal Reporting Hotline immediately at 1-800-532-9551.
- Do not approach the animal. Stay 100 yards (300 feet) away. Help keep other people and pets away.

Can I touch, feed, or move a marine mammal that I find?



- No, **it is illegal** to touch, feed, or move a marine mammal that you find. This includes live and dead animals.
 - The Marine Mammal Protection Act, enacted October 21, 1972, prohibits feeding, attempting to feed, and harassing marine mammals in the wild.
 - Read the Marine Mammal Protection Act: www.fws.gov/international/laws-treaties-agreements/us-conservation-laws/marine-mammal-protection-act.html.
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What are the risks of handling these animals?



- Diseases can spread between stranded animals, pets, and humans.
- Stranded animals can become aggressive and bite or injure humans and pets.
- Feeding an animal can jeopardize its health and can cause them to become conditioned to receive food from humans.
- Getting too close to a stranded animal can cause the animal stress.
- Disturbing mother/pup pairs can lead to abandonment and death of the pup.

Who can I call about other questions I have?



Health of the Animal

Call Marine Mammals of Maine at 207-833-3312 or the College of the Atlantic at 207-288-5644.



Human Health

Call Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) at 1-800-821-5821.



Pet Exposure

Call the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (Maine DACF) at 207-287-3200.



Animal Disposal

Call the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP) at 207-592-0455.

For more information, visit:



- www.mmome.org (Marine Mammals of Maine)
- www.maine.gov/dep/waste/residuals/documents/marine-animal-disposal-guidance.pdf (Maine DEP - Marine Mammal Disposal Guidance)
- www.maine.gov/idepi (Maine CDC - Disease Surveillance Epidemiology Program)
- www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_health/index.shtml (Maine DACF - Animal Health page)
- www.coa.edu/allied-whale/marine-mammal-strandings/ (College of the Atlantic - Marine Mammal Strandings page)
- www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/frequent-questions-feeding-or-harassing-marine-mammals-wild (NOAA Fisheries Frequently Asked Questions - Feeding or Harassing Marine Mammals in the Wild)