

# Whale and Dolphin Strandings

## In Newfoundland and Labrador

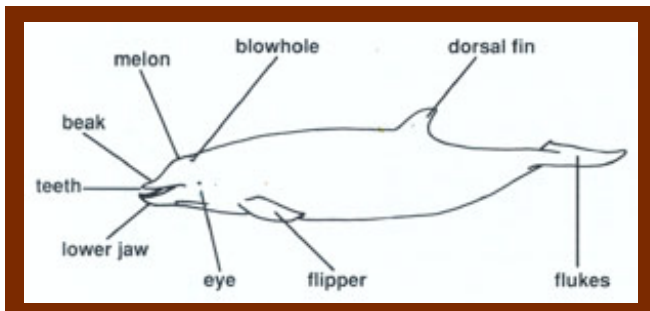
*What you can do to assist in response and rescue...*

### Most important:

- Phone Whale Release and Strandings' toll-free number: 1 (888) 895-3003
- Remember these are wild animals: use caution around them. Their powerful tail fins can inflict serious injuries.
- Take photographs and remember to put an object in for scale to help determine the size of the animal.
- Do not attempt to move large whales. This is very dangerous.

### Support on the beach:

- Check for injuries.
- Reduce stress by keeping crowds & dogs away.
- Place wet blankets and towels over animal (not over blow hole).
- Pour water over animal to maintain their body temperature (not over or near blowholes).
- Minimize handling.
- When lifting, do not use fins, flippers, tail or flukes as handles. Do not stand on flippers.
- Remove sharp objects from underneath animal.
- Move animals from heavy surf.
- Dig trenches for flipper and tail. Animal should rest upright.
- Use tarp or stretcher to move whales.



*Basic Anatomy of Toothed Whale*

### Support in the Water:

- Support by hand or stretcher.
- Small whales can be held with one hand positioned behind and under the flipper and the other behind the dorsal fin.
- Face multiple animals toward each other so they can see where the others are.
- If animal is unstable, rock it back and forth before release so it can regain its sense of balance.
- When animal begins thrashing stop rocking it.
- DO NOT submerge blowholes. This is like submerging a person's nostrils!
- DO NOT tow whale by the tail; it can break their backs.
- If there are multiple whales, release them in a horizontal line.
- Make noise on the water to drive whales offshore.



To report a beached or entangled whale, dolphin, or sea turtle call our toll-free number. We can offer advice or send a trained crew.

**1-888-895-3003**

Whale Release and Strandings Group  
newfoundlandwhales.net

