

Draft 2004 Marine Mammal Strandings as Reported to National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region

Mary Sternfeld, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region Protected Resources, POB 21668,
Juneau, Alaska 99802
March 30, 2005

Contents

Summary

Table 1. Alaska Region Stranding Events Reported by Month

Table 2. Strandings by Species, Initial Condition

Table 3. Live Strandings to Rehabilitation

Table 4. Strandings: Human Interaction by Type

Table 5. Strandings: Human Interaction by Species, Outcome

Table 6. Strandings by Area, Species

Summary

Strandings of cetaceans and pinnipeds that occurred in Alaska waters in 2004 and were reported to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region (NMFS) are summarized here. A total of 90 events are recorded, involving 119-122 individual animals. Stranding events where the animal(s) could not be examined are included in the numbers below as long as the animal was at least identified as either cetacean or pinniped. Both confirmed and unconfirmed reports are included in this summary.

This information was compiled March 30, 2005 and is subject to change as further information on strandings is provided to NMFS. For the most current information, please contact NMFS Alaska Region at (907) 586-7235. Further stranding information and references are available at the NMFS Alaska Region webpage: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/strandings.htm>

Acknowledgements

This report would not be possible without the contributions of the people who report stranding events and the efforts of the Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

Tables

Table 1. Draft 2004 Alaska Region Stranding Events Reported By Month.

Month	Events
January	1
February	2
March	5
April	3
May	6
June	13
July	26
August	19
September	6
October	5
November	3
December	1
Total	90

Table 2. Draft 2004 Alaska Region Marine Mammal Strandings by Initial Condition, Species, Number of Animals.

Species	Initial Condition		Total
	Alive	Dead	
Baird's		1	1
Beluga	1	17	18
Bowhead	1		1
Cetacean, unknown	1	3	4
Cetacean, large, unknown	1	6-7	7-8
Cuvier's		4-5	4-5
Dall's porpoise	1	1	2
Gray	2		2
Harbor porpoise		3	3
Humpback	9-10	3	12-13
Minke	1	1	2
Orca		1	1
Sperm		1	1
Stejneger's	1	1	2
<i>Cetacean total</i>	18-19	42-44	60-63
Harbor seal	7	10	17
Phocid, nk		30	30
Ringed seal	3		3
Steller sea lion	2	7	9
<i>Pinniped total</i>	12	47	59
Total	30-31	89-91	119-122

Table 3. Draft 2004 Alaska Region Live Strandings Handled by the Alaska Sea Life Center for Rehabilitation by Species, Outcome, Number of Animals.

Species	Outcome	Animals
Harbor seal	Died	3
	Released	2
<i>Harbor Total</i>		5
Ringed seal	Died	1
	Released	2
<i>Ringed Total</i>		3
Total		8

Table 4. Draft 2004 Alaska Region Marine Mammal Strandings: Human Interaction by Occurrence, Initial Condition, Number of Animals.

Human Interaction?	Details	Species	Initial Condition		
			Alive	Dead	Total
Suspected	Entanglement	Cetacean, unknown	1		1
	Injury	Harbor seal		2	2
	Possible collision	Humpback		1	1
		<i>Suspected Total</i>	1	3	4
Yes	Collision	Humpback	1	1	2
		Entanglement	Bowhead	1	1
		Beluga	1		1
		Gray	2		2
		Humpback	7-8		7-8
		Harbor porpoise		1	1
	Fishery Interaction	Steller sea lion	1	1	2
		<i>Yes Total</i>	13-14	3	16-17
Total			14-15	6	20-21

Table 5. Draft 2004 Alaska Marine Mammal Strandings involving human interaction by species, interaction type, details (initial condition and outcome), and number of animals involved. (Pos. = possible; Unconfirmed reports are shaded)

Species	Details	Initial Condition and Outcome	Animals
Beluga whale	Entanglement	Alive, Subsistence	1
		<i>Beluga total</i>	1
Bowhead whale	Entanglement	Alive, Fate unknown	1
		<i>Bowhead total</i>	1
Cetacean, unknown	Entanglement	Alive, left at site, fate unknown	1
		<i>Cetacean, unknown total</i>	1
Gray whale	Entanglement	Alive, Subsistence Use	1
	Entanglement	Alive, Partially released	1
		<i>Gray total</i>	2
Harbor porpoise	Entanglement	Dead	1
		<i>Harbor porpoise total</i>	1
Humpback whale	Entanglement	Alive, Fate unknown	4
	Entanglement	Alive, Fate unknown	1-2
	Collision	Dead	1
	Pos. collision	Dead	1
	Entanglement	Alive, Partially disentangled	1
	Entanglement	Alive, Disentangled	1
	Collision	Alive, Fate unknown	1
		<i>Humpback total</i>	10-11
		Cetacean total	16-17
Harbor seal	Injury	Dead	2
		<i>Harbor seal total</i>	2
Steller sea lion	Fishery Interaction	Alive, Injured	1
	Fishery Interaction	Dead	1
		<i>Steller total</i>	2
		Pinniped total	4
Total			20-21

Table 6. Draft 2004 Alaska Region Marine Mammal Strandings by Area, Species, Number of Animals.

Area	Species	Initial Condition		Total
		Alive	Dead	
Arctic	Bowhead whale	1		1
	Grey whale	1		1
	Ringed Seal	1		1
	Phocid, unknown		29	29
	<i>Arctic Total</i>	3	29	32
Kodiak	Cetacean, large, unknown		4	4
	Harbor porpoise		1	1
	Cuvier's		1	1
	Steller sea lion		1	1
	<i>Kodiak Total</i>		7	7
Southcentral Alaska	Minke whale	1		1
	Beluga		15	15
	Cetacean, large, unknown		2	2
	Stejneger's	1	1	2
	Dall's porpoise	1	1	2
	Harbor porpoise		2	2
	Cuvier's		2-3	2-3
	Steller sea lion	1	2	3
	Phocid, unknown		1	1
	Harbor seal	4	3	7
	<i>Southcentral Total</i>	8	29-30	37-38
Southeast Alaska	Minke whale		1	1
	Grey whale	1		1
	Humpback	9-10	3	12-13
	Cetacean, large, unknown	2-3	1	3-4
	Cuvier's		1	1
	Steller sea lion	1	4	5
	Harbor seal	3	7	10
	<i>Southeast Total</i>	16-18	17	33-35
Western Alaska	Baird's beaked		1	1
	Beluga	1	2	3
	Orca		1	1
	Sperm whale		1	1
	Cetacean, unknown		2	2
	Ringed Seal	2		2
	<i>Western Alaska</i>	3	7	10
Total		30-32	89-90	119-122