

**Entrapments in Fishing Gear and Strandings in Newfoundland
and Labrador Reported to the Entrapment Assistance Program
During 1993, and Preliminary Reports on the Impact of Acoustic
Deterrents on the Incidental Catches of Harbour
Porpoise in Fixed Fishing Gear.**

A Report to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and
the Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program

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by

Jon Lien, Dwayne Pittman, Dawn Mitchell

Whale Research Group
Ocean Sciences Centre and Department of Psychology
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5S7

Summary

Because of the closure of the fishery, and reduction of fishing effort, in many areas around Newfoundland and Labrador there were fewer entrapments of whales and sharks in inshore fishing gear compared to previous years. Only 19 humpback whales and 3 minke whales were reported entrapped in gear. There were 3 large sharks reported entrapped. A total of 13 strandings of cetaceans were reported in addition.

During 1993 a second year was completed in a census of humpback whales (YoNAH). Over 700 humpbacks were individually identified by photograph and biopsies were obtained from over 200.

Tests of investigate the use of acoustical devices to minimize the take of cetaceans in fishing gear continued in Newfoundland, Australia, the Bay of Fundy and New England. Tests completed on groundfish gillnets indicate that adding noise to nets is a promising method of reducing incidental catches.

Educational activities of the Whale Research Group included distribution of educational materials, school visits and the production of a video on the identification of whales in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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Work to be Performed

Introduction to the Entrapment Assistance Program

The Entrapment Assistance Program has operated continuously since 1979 to assist inshore fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador with whale and shark problems. Large whales and sharks collide with fishing gear and become entrapped; removing them quickly and safely is difficult for fishermen. The program is designed to assist fishermen in minimizing gear and down-time losses which occur when these large animals collide with and become entrapped by fishing gear, and to minimize unnecessary mortality to whales that become entrapped.

Results of the Entrapment Assistance Program from previous years have been summarized in annual reports to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries (Lien 1980; Lien and Aldrich 1982; Lien **et al.** 1982; 1983; 1984; Lien, Walter and Harvey-Clark 1985; Lien et al. 1986; Lien, Papineau and Dugan 1987; Lien, Ledwell and Nauen 1988; Lien, Ledwell and Huntington 1989; Lien et al. 1990; 1991; 1992).

During 1993 the Entrapment Assistance Program operated using methods similar to those of previous years (Lien 1994). The program was widely advertized by a variety of publications and advertisements, through Fisheries and Oceans field offices, by Nfld./Lab. Dept. of Fisheries field workers, mailings to fishermen and local media.

Fishermen could call a 24-hour, toll-free phone service for advice and assistance with large whale and shark problems. If

assistance was needed, a crew was dispatched to help remove the entrapped animal as quickly as possible. Calls were received which reported a variety of problems in addition to the entrapment of whales and sharks. These calls included marine mammal strandings, ice entrapments of cetaceans

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Table 1: Humpback whale entrapments in inshore fishing gear reported during 1993.

Date	Location	Gear	Dead/ Alive	Comments
22 06	Bird Cove, N. Pen. Strait	Codtrap	Dead	Sunk with gear

26	Norman's Cove	Caplin Leader	Alive	Self-release
26	Daniel's Harbour	Codtrap	Alive	Self-release
02 07	Redland Pt. Cape St. Brides	Codtrap Box & Leader	Dead	Destroyed fleet
02	Boat Harbour, Cape Norman, N. Pen.	Codtrap	Dead	Part of fluke taken
02	Redland Pt., St. Mary's Bay	Lumpnet	Dead	Released
04	N. of Bell Island	Towing Gear	Alive	F.men released some gear
08	Lord's Cove	Codtrap	Died	Died during release
09	Lord's Cove	Codtrap	Dead	Refloated by tide
10	St. Brides	Cod Gillnet	Alive	Self-release
11	Red Island, PBay	Cod Gillnet	Alive	Self-release
11	N. of Miquelon	Towing Gear	Alive	Released
12	Bread & Cheese Pt. Bay Bulls	Towing Gear	Alive	Disappeared
14	Tides Cove	Cod Gillnet	Alive	Released
16	Trinity	Towing Gear	Alive	25-39 ft. whale
17	Beverly Head, Bay of Islands	Cod Gillnet	Alive	Disappeared/ humpback?
18	Cow Head	Codtrap	Alive	Released
27	Fox Harbour, PBay	Towing Gear	Alive	Released
28	Topsail	Codtrap	Alive	Disappeared
03 08	Raleigh	Towing Gear	Alive	Could not help
08	Cape Spear-Quidi Vidi	Towing Gear?	Alive	Disappeared
15 09	Blanc Sablon	Towing Gear	Alive	

Table 2: Minke whale entrapments in inshore fishing gear reported during 1993.

Date	Location	Gear	Dead/ Alive	Comments
06 04	Long Tickle, ND Bay	Towing Gear	Alive	Couldn't help
10 06	S.E. Virgin Rocks Fermeuse	Flounder Gear	Dead	
21 07	Bay Bulls	Codtrap	Dead	Many gillnets in mouth

Table 3: Miscellaneous cetaceans reported entrapped in inshore fishing gear during 1993.

Date	Location	Species	Comments
02 07	Harbour Mille	Unknown	Dead
11	Fish Rock, Argentia	Unknown	Alive; Self- release
26	Southern Harbour, Placentia Bay	Harbour Porpoise	Dead; Codtrap

Table 4: Cetacean strandings reported during 1993.

Date	Location	Species	Comments
06 04	Frenchman's Cove, Fortune Bay	Beluga	Alive
13 05	Red Harbour, Placentia Bay	Beluga	Alive; Several
28 06	L'anse-au-Loop	Beluga	Alive
28/9	Cape Spear	Humpback	Alive; Three
28/9	Cape Spear	Right Whale	Alive; Disappeared
07 07	St. Brides	Minke	Dead; Drifting
14	Point May	Humpback	Dead; Skeleton retrieved
23	Bay Bulls	?	Dead
24	Red Bay, Labrador	Beluga or Pothead?	Dead; Disappeared
06 08	N. of Western Brook Pond, Gros Morne	Minke	Dead; Scarred
07	New Harbour	White-sided dolphin	Dead; Shark bites
09 09	Mackay Island	Dolphin Species unkn.	Dead; Beached
16	Little Burnt Bay	Narwhal?	Dead
30 11	Hampton, White Bay	Humpback	Alive

Table 5: Incidentally entrapped sharks reported during 1993.

Date	Location	Species	Gear
20 07	Point-au-Gaul, Burin Peninsula	? 20 ft.	Codtrap Leader
20	Hermitage Bay/ Harbour Breton	? 15 ft.	Two Gillnets
03 08	Hermitage Bay	? 8 ft.	Cod Gillnet
17	Hermitage Bay	Basking shark	Mackerel Net

Table 6: Miscellaneous species of marine animals reported entrapped in fishing gear during 1993.

Date	Location	Species	Comments
20 07	Jackson Arm, White Bay	Leatherback Turtle	Alive; Mackerel Net

