

## Why Do Marine Mammals Strand?

- Sick or diseased
- Entangled in fishing gear
- Habitat degradation
- Environmental change
- Ingestion of marine debris



*Fish hooks and marine debris (above) were found in the stomach of a false killer whale stranded on Hawai'i island (right). Fishery interactions are a threat but did not cause the death of this animal.*



A stranding is a dead, sick, or injured marine mammal found on beaches, floating at sea, or out of its normal habitat.

**REPORT a stranding as soon as possible. Call the Marine Animal Emergency Hotline:**

**1-888-256-9840**

For more information, email [whaledolphinstranding@gmail.com](mailto:whaledolphinstranding@gmail.com)

**All marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.**

Mahalo to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and Hawai'i Community Foundation. All images are courtesy of NOAA permit #932-1905 and Cascadia Research Collective.



**PMLF**  
Pacific Marine Life  
Foundation

**HAWAII TOURISM**  
AUTHORITY



Cascadia  
Research  
Collective  
research, records and education since 1979



**Report Strandings and  
Help Hawai'i's Marine Mammals**



False Killer Whale © Robin Baird

## Endangered False Killer Whales in Hawai'i

**Scientific Name:** *Pseudorca crassidens*



- Three populations live in Hawaiian waters: offshore pelagic, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) insular
- Listed as endangered in 2012, the MHI population is less than 200
- Common name comes from its skull being similar to a killer whale's
- Can live 60+ years and form long-term bonds with their social groups
- Females birth their first calf between the ages of 9 and 12
- Known to depredate fish from hooks

For more information, visit:  
**[falsekillerwhales.org](http://falsekillerwhales.org)**

## If You See a Stranded Whale or Dolphin:

1. Call the marine animal emergency hotline:



**1-888-256-9840**

2. Do not attempt to approach, touch, or feed the animal
3. Determine the animal's exact location to aid the first responders arriving on site
4. Take photos for use in the animal's stranding report

**It is illegal for unauthorized persons to touch, harass, or engage with a marine mammal in any way which could alter its natural behavior**

*"Mālama i ke kai, a mālama ke kai ia 'oe."  
Care for the ocean and it will care for you.*



## Reporting strandings (dead or alive) is extremely important!

Marine mammals are an indicator of ocean health. If we can determine why the animal stranded, we can better assess what needs to change to preserve our oceans.

## How You Can Help

- Report stranded animals
- Volunteer your time
- Help clean our beaches and ocean

Removing discarded fishing gear and other trash helps Hawai'i's wildlife. Leave no trace that you were there, and leave a place better than when you found it.