



Possible Threats to Cetaceans in the Dana Point Area.

Besides the generalized threats of pollution and climate change, some additional local threats include:

- Proliferation of jet ski and small boat renters and owners who are not aware of the marine mammal protection laws and will occasionally crowd an animal.
- Stranded Balloons
- Whale Entanglement (that takes place in other areas).

Action Plan:

- We hope to help educate the lessees and the public on safe behavior prior to signing rental agreements and slip agreements and launching of vessels. Providing educational “whale safe” materials with our logo and contact information and updating those annually will be part of our ongoing effort. We will also plan to provide them with tips on how to spot the behavior of an entangled cetacean and report that accordingly to the National Marine Fisheries hotline.
- Stranded balloons pick up takes place on every single trip as well educating the Dana Point and greater Orange County business community to stop the use of balloons in the City of Dana Point and greater Orange County.
- While we have not had any cetacean entanglements that have taken place in our waters, we have seen numerous entangled whales over the years. We have had a local group trained on Level Two and Level Three support as well as having invested in various disentanglement equipment to store locally that enables us to assess and participate in a NMFS effort. We plan to help strengthen our team’s response capabilities with more training as well as fund raise for additional equipment.

- Whale Entanglement frequently has been found to involve active crab trap gear. Capt. Dave Anderson has searched worldwide for an alternative method to use and has located a device in Australia called a FioBuoy that would, if used, eliminate gear entanglement. He has testified before the California State Legislature as to the problem and this solution and has accompanied the FioBuoy patent holder in successfully testing the equipment with National Marine Fishery Services. We hope to provide further support in this effort, as it unfolds which could include fundraising, testing and trials and more engagement with the crab fishery.