

Assessing welfare and survival in stranded cetaceans- Round one

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Assessing welfare and survival in stranded cetaceans- Round one

I would like to invite you to participate in this study. Before deciding whether to participate, please read the information sheet provided in the email fully to understand what is involved. If anything is not clear, please do not hesitate to contact the researcher (Rebecca M Boys r.boys@massey.ac.nz)

Project Description Cetacean strandings are global phenomena that have been occurring for centuries. Research suggests that these events are occurring more frequently due to climate change and anthropogenic activities. Strandings may involve one animal alone or many animals (mass stranding). Costly and logistically challenging attempts to 'rescue' live stranded cetaceans are often undertaken. Yet there is limited information regarding the success of such efforts, and the effects of stranding and human intervention on both the welfare and survival of individuals remains poorly understood. To address this knowledge gap, this research project implements the Delphi technique, which uses iterative questionnaires to build consensus from expert opinion. Therefore, there will be at least two online questionnaires to complete. This first questionnaire asks you to identify key factors that may affect the welfare and survivorship of stranded cetaceans, as well as to suggest observable/measurable indicators that might be suitable to assess welfare state and likelihood of survival at cetacean strandings. The information gathered will be used to inform the design of the second questionnaire. In this study a stranded cetacean is a wild whale, dolphin or porpoise that has "run aground" **alive**. A stranding event is considered as the time the animal first comes ashore until it either dies or is refloated. Any events (e.g. natural or human) that occur whilst the animal is ashore should be considered as part of the stranding event. *This first round contains 15 questions and should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. It must be submitted by Friday 26th February 2021.* By clicking next you are indicating that you have read the information sheet and give your consent to take part.

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Please provide your details as a participant of this study

Region of work

- ☐ Africa
 - ☐ Asia
 - ☐ Central America
 - ☐ Europe
 - ☐ North America
 - ☐ Oceania
 - ☐ South America
-

Please choose the field of **expertise** that most aligns with you:

- ☐ Cetacean expert (including cetacean conservation and biology)
 - ☐ Animal welfare expert (including animal welfare science, welfare/animal ethics)
 - ☐ Cetacean expert with knowledge and/or focus on welfare
 - ☐ Animal welfare expert with knowledge and/or focus on cetaceans
 - ☐ Veterinarian
 - ☐ Other (please specify): _____
-

What is your **current** field of **work**?

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Welfare

The questions on this page relate to the welfare of stranded cetaceans.

Stranded cetacean: Whale, dolphin or porpoise that has 'run aground' alive

Stranding event: Time from when the animal comes ashore until it dies or is refloated. The event includes both natural and human events.

While stranding events are likely to affect the welfare/well-being of stranded cetaceans, the ways in which welfare is affected remains largely unknown. To be able to assess welfare, we first need to understand what we mean by it.

In your own words, please explain what animal welfare/well-being means to you

In your opinion what are the welfare issues at a cetacean stranding?

Please list all the issues that you think of

What observable/measurable indicators do you think are most useful to assess welfare of stranded cetaceans?

These indicators can be both animal based (e.g. coat/fur condition) and non-animal based (resource/ environmental e.g. available habitat).

Where possible please be specific e.g. do not use broad terms such as "behaviour" without specifying particular behaviours that may be observed.

Please list all indicators that you think of

Thinking about all the current information available regarding cetacean strandings, please score how useful the information is for you to be able to assess the welfare of a stranded cetacean

(0= Not useful at all/ no information, 10= Very useful/ all information needed is available)

If you feel that you are not familiar enough with cetacean literature please choose "Not Applicable"

Not Applicable

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Please tell me about any discrepancies in the information currently available for assessing stranded cetacean welfare

e.g. if you feel there is useful information for assessing welfare in relation to one specific area, whilst for another there is not any information at all

In your opinion what is currently the most significant knowledge gap, which if addressed would improve the ability to assess the welfare of stranded cetaceans?

If you feel there are not any gaps in knowledge please put "N/A"

Please provide additional comments on what welfare/well-being means to you when considering stranded cetaceans.

Please provide all additional comments relating to welfare here

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Survival

The questions on this page relate to the survival of stranded cetaceans.

Stranded cetacean: Whale, dolphin or porpoise that has 'run aground' alive
Stranding event: Time from when the animal comes ashore until it dies or is refloated. The event includes both natural and human events.

Stranding events may affect the survival likelihood of a stranded cetacean, however the ways in which survival likelihood is affected will vary among strandings. To be able to assess survival likelihood, we must first understand what we mean by it.

In your own words, please explain what survival likelihood means to you

In your opinion what factors have the potential to affect survival likelihood of stranded cetaceans?

Please list all factors that you think of

What observable/measurable indicators do you suggest are most useful to assess the survival likelihood of stranded cetaceans?

These indicators can be both animal based (e.g. coat/fur condition) and non-animal based (resource/ environmental e.g. available habitat).

Where possible please be specific e.g. do not use broad terms such as "behaviour" without specifying particular behaviours that may be observed.

Please list all indicators that you think of

Thinking about all the current information available regarding cetacean strandings, please score how useful the information is for you to be able to assess survival likelihood.

(0= Not useful at all/ no information, 10= Very useful/ all information needed is available)

If you feel that you are not familiar enough with cetacean literature please choose "Not Applicable"

Not Applicable

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Please tell me about any discrepancies in the information currently available for assessing survival likelihood of stranded cetaceans

e.g. if you feel there is useful information for assessing survival likelihood in relation to one specific area, whilst for another there is not any information at all

In your opinion what is currently the most significant knowledge gap, which if addressed would improve the ability to assess survival likelihood of stranded cetaceans?

If you feel there are not any gaps in knowledge please put "N/A"

Please provide additional comments on what survival likelihood means to you when considering stranded cetaceans.

Please provide all additional comments relating to survival likelihood here

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