

Information to record/report

- Date, time, location: OS map grid reference or lat./long.
- Dead/Alive and body condition including any obvious injuries.
- Species (if known): and a description of body shape/size and appendages (limbs, fins etc.
- Photographs: it is useful where possible to include some sort of scale (e.g. a measuring tape, glove, mobile phone etc.)

If you find a stranded marine animal, please call:

Dr Lara Howe, Manx Wildlife Trust
(Marine officer) 01624 844432

Dr Peter Duncan, DEFA Fisheries
01624 685 884

Out of hours & emergencies:

Dr Lara Howe - 07624 568726

Dr Peter Duncan - 07624 300525

Stranded animals found alive should be reported to **ManxSPCA:**
851672 (office hours)

Details & photographs can be sent or emailed to:

lara@manxwt.org.uk or

Department of Environment Food and Agriculture

Thie Slieau Whallian,
Foxdale Road,
St. Johns,
Isle of Man,
IM4 3AS
Email: fisheries@gov.im

Marine Animal Strandings on Manx Beaches: What to do



Department of Environment Food and Agriculture and
Manx Wildlife Trust

Stranded Marine Animals

Occasionally, marine animals become stranded on our shores. Typically they are already dead, but are occasionally washed up alive. It is DEFA Fisheries responsibility to investigate, record and report dead strandings of protected species, and the Manx Wildlife Trust has been contracted to undertake the strandings programme. This work may also involve collaboration with the ManxSPCA (in case of live strandings) and a local vet (in case of autopsy requirement).

Seals

It is not unusual for a seal pup to be left by itself and unless obviously injured it should be left alone. Under no circumstances should you approach or attempt to handle the animal yourself.

Most common stranded species

The most common species found stranded are:

- Grey seal
- Harbour porpoise

Other species that may be found include:

- Risso's dolphin
- Common dolphin
- Bottlenose dolphin
- Minke whale
- Basking shark
- Common seal
- Marine turtles

However, this list is not exhaustive as other species are found or could stray into Manx waters.

We rely on public reporting, and often multiple reports are made: where a stranding has already been attended a visible paint mark, e.g. white cross (see image), should be apparent, you don't need to re-report such strandings.



Example of a stranding marked with a white cross.

Information to record

Stranded animals may be in various states of decomposition and may look different from when alive.

These images show examples of Manx strandings.



Grey seal: fresh, little scavenger damage.



Harbour porpoise: very fresh, some scavenger damage to eye region.



Harbour porpoise: lot of decomposition and loss of skin. Still recognizable from size and horizontal tail fluke.