

**PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF NEW SERIOUS INJURY TEST - 11/14/03:** Six SRG members provided their best assessments regarding whether the following entanglements and/or injuries should be considered seriously injured, and therefore likely to die, based on the description provided. This table summarizes the responses. I allowed 4 responses: yes, maybe (or “?”), no, and not enough information. If a response resembled “probably”, “yes, not enough information to be certain”, “yes, as long as it can be confirmed with person X”, these responses were logged as “Yes”. Not all respondents used all 4 responses, but 5 out of 6 felt that EITHER “maybe” or “not enough information” was an acceptable response; thus, it might be best to equate “maybe” and “not enough information” since it seemed that different individuals used these terms in the same context.

Year	Area	Condition	Description	Yes	No	Maybe	Not enough information	SAR
1996	“Hawaiian waters”	Released alive	Disentangled from non-fishing gear	1	3	1	1	No
1996	Oahu, HI	Injured; status unknown	Ship strike	3	-	2	1	Yes
1996	Oahu, HI	Injured; status unknown	Partial disentanglement from Hawaiian crab fishery gear; some gear around pectoral fin and mouth still attached	4	1	1	-	Yes
8/2/96	Sand Point, AK	Entangled; status unknown	Released from fishing gear, but appeared injured; thought to have died Gear consistent with salmon set net fishing (before net is set); see detailed for further details on release and condition of whale.	5	1	-	-	Yes
8/17/96	Juneau	Injured	Eggers reported to Heard that he witnessed "a humpback blow very close to [Heard's] boat on [the] port side. Immediately [the boat] went airborne (the entire boat was out of the water with a foot or better of air)." Heard reported that the collision occurred in his 26' I/O fiberglass vessel at 23 mph while traveling between Amalga Harbor and PR area. A "sudden and violent impact occurred"; neither the person at the helm nor a another party who'd been looking directly ahead of the boat saw anything before the impact. There was no damage to the hull, engine or outdrive although superficial damage is noted.	4	2	-	-	
9/2/96	Sitka	Entangled	Sitka Sentinel article reports extensive salmon gillnet entanglement (scars criss-crossing back noted) with partial release (40 ft. of net left trailing from area behind dorsal fin to tail). Believed to be resighted the next day, temporarily stranded on a shoal, then seen later with injuries [witnesses, article assumed these caused by net vs. shoal]. Article available.	5	1	-	-	
9/24/96	Chatham Strait	Entangled	Sharpe via Jorgensen reported most gear cut away and remaining line should not hinder whale. Video made. Unless video depicts, gear type and WOW details not available.	-	5	-	1	
1996	Alitak Beach, Kodiak Island, AK	Released alive	Released from commercial purse seine net	-	6	-	-	No
1997	Island of Hawaii	Released alive	Alaska crab pot floats removed by U.S. Coast Guard	-	4	1	1	No

Year	Area	Condition	Description	Yes	No	Maybe	Not enough information	SAR
1997	Shelter Island	Alive	Collision with skiff	1	3	1	1	No
6/29/97	Bering Straits	Entangled	USCG observed netting wrapped around ~mid-section of body including flippers, orange buoy(s) trailing. Two hand drawn illustrations available, only one buoy common to both sightings.	6	-	-	-	
7/3/97	Peril Straits, AK	Injured	As reported in Sitka Sentinel: entangled in line between shrimp pot buoy and the pot, appeared the buoy was preventing animal from diving but not from swimming; buoy was being 'towed at slow pace about 100 ft behind the whale; a second line from the buoy become tangled in the outboard of the skiff attempting to disentangle the whale...the whale took off, spinning the [Boston] Whaler around and pulling it backward and down, until the stern of the boat and the motor were completely under water...the boat swamped and flipped...one person left hanging on the hull of the boat reported 'there were two tugs and the line snapped, as the whale attempted another dive'...another observer reported that '[the whale] seemed better off after that'. The buoy was retrieved. Unknown if/how much gear remained.	4	1	-	1	Yes
7/12/97	Juneau	Injured, status unknown	As reported in the Juneau Empire: 16' skiff with engine turned off was turned over by surfacing whale, destroying the engine and causing \$10,000 in loss (gear and damages).	-	5	1	-	
7/13/97	Shelter Island	Injured	Tail stock showing flesh injury from crab pot line and buoy. No further details on tangle available.	-	3	1	2	Yes
9/15/97	Admiralty Island	Alive; entangled	Free swimming animal reported to be entangled in line and a 2ft. buoy. No further details on tangle available.	4	1	1	-	Yes
1998	Maalaea Bay, Lanai	Alive; entangled	Disentangled from gear, but some line still attached	2	3	1	-	Yes
1998	Jakolof Bay	Alive	Disentangled from personal use pot gear	-	4	1	1	No
7/18/98	Sitka, AK	Alive; entangled	Lawrie reported thick green net (fishery cbd) around head and flippers -not impeding progress (animal keeping up with others). No further details available.	4	-	2	-	Yes
7/28/98	Petersburg	Alive; entangled	Whale trailing possible king crab buoy and line, attached to tail; surfaced a under boat, shifting boat (tangle AND collision); disentangled except for a loop of line around fluke.	1	4	1	-	
7/31/98	Ketchikan, AK	Entangled	Salmon purse seiner reported 'whale tore through net, went down and was not seen again"; dead floater seen in area 8/5/98 assumed to be same whale. Floater not seen again.	3	1	-	2	Yes

Year	Area	Condition	Description	Yes	No	Maybe	Not enough information	SAR
8/11/98	Juneau, AK	Injured	Whale surfaced under and between hulls of forward idle-ing whale-watch catamaran; reported to be "glancing blow"; whale seen to blow and fluke with no apparent injury nor were injured whales sighted in area.	-	6	-	-	No
8/22/98	Juneau, AK	Entangled, alive	No further information available. Report not confirmed.	1	2	1	2	
8/23/98	Wrangell, AK	Entangled, alive	Crab buoy/line. Fadely reported via Nelson "buoy line wrapped on facial barnacles, trailing line, buoy was at dorsal fin area; whale could not submerge; buoy and line easily removed with boat hook."	1	5	-	-	No
9/17/98	Homer, AK	Alive; entangled	USCG Reported via Matkin: Subsistence/personal tanner crab pot line and buoy wrapped 3-4 times around the tail stock, over the fluke and probably also around one foreflipper, the pot end of the line was draped over the fluke and the whale seemed semi-immobilized; float retrieved; several inch deep scars apparent.	5	-	1	-	No
9/24/98	Juneau, AK	Injured	ENF/CG investigated. Report via Brix of "24' whale watch boat traveling at 15-18 knts ran up on the dorsal surface of animal behind blowhole, tipped the boat; whale dove and hit the kicker(knocked loose) & port side bow(cracked hull). Other animals in the group came to injured whale, circled it & swam off together. Animals were observed for a while by other charter boats who observed no change in behavior or apparent injuries."	2	4	-	-	No
10/10/98	Sitka, AK	Entangled, alive	100# Pot, red line, buoy; Sitka news reported line gear around whale through mouth, around one flipper and tail stock (pot on tail stock line); released except for line in mouth	2	3	1	-	No
10/15/98	Ketchikan	Entangled, alive	Witness, nk via NMFS reported entanglement involved 30 fa of line, 2 buoys (possibly shrimp pot gear); freely swimming animal	4	1	1	-	
1/6/1999	Hawaii	Entanglement	Similar to tangles seen in Sitka 1998 and June 1999 (no match possible, per Straley). Photos show line just behind blowhole, snug once (unless this is actual a white scar) and then crossing over whale a bit further down but before dorsal fin, then connecting to a single float (cylindrical, orange and white (foam?)) lying on water behind whale around about 3/4 of body length.	4	-	2	-	Yes

Year	Area	Condition	Description	Yes	No	Maybe	Not enough information	SAR
6/9/99	Sitka	Entangled, alive	S. Neimi (NMFS OLE) reported line and buoy wrapped around whale starting near the pec fins; a bright orange buoy without visible markings was closer to tail (about 3/4 distance from front of animal); little or nothing dragging. Large whale was having no problems diving, breathing, or swimming. NMFS had difficulty keeping up while Spirit of Endeavor reported whale to be traveling at 2 knots (Endeavor also reported seeing 3 buoys). An attempt to relocate whale on the 11th for disentanglement was not successful.	2	3	1	-	Yes
6/26/99	Resurrection Bay	Alive, status unknown	ADN article reported that couple hooked a humpback on halibut hook (100#); fisher cut line.	-	6	-	-	
7/7/99	Sitka	Alive	73' wooden sailboat at anchor stuck by whale causing 5' hole in hull. No witness, baleen left at site	1	3	2	-	Yes
9/6/99	Sisters Island	Alive, status unknown	Lobed reported via Brix that "whale surfaced underneath sailboat and brought tail down on the forward deck & damaged hardware topside & put some spider cracks in fiberglass. Boat started to take on water~ 1"(?)/min. Vessel underway (power) when incident occurred. Boat taken to Hoonah where leakage stopped. No apparent injuries to whale."	-	6	-	-	No
10/1999	Prince of Wales Island	Entangled	Pot gear, fishery cbd; Brix reported (via Freitag, via fisher) "Fisher on site when MN got caught on line of his pot gear. Freitag relayed via USCG for fisher to apply pressure/ drag [?] gear to tire whale...fisher cut buoy free from whale's mouth. Whale swam off apparently ok."	1	4	-	1	No
1999	Homer	Entangled	Personal use crab pot gear; USCG news reported a "crab pot buoy close to the tail with a line trailing down in the water...the crew cut the line leading to the submerged crab pot releasing tension on the line around the fluke of the whale...the rest of the buoy and line on the whale came free after we cut the trap line."	-	5	1	-	No
7/8/00	Lynn Canal	Entangled, released alive, status unknown	Seine gear completely entangling whale reported via Enfs, no further information available.	4	1	-	1	Yes
10/16/00	Uyak Bay	Entangled, released alive	Some line removed, but gear remained. Wynne reported that gear on with knot on underside of whale; "could not fully extend head or flukes because they were bound together."	6	-	-	-	Yes
11/2/99	Metlakatla	Injury; status unknown	Anon. via Brix reported "Pleasure craft-bayliner- struck a humpback whale while underway near Metlakatla. Skin left on bow of vessel." Skin not collected, no further details available.	2	3	1	-	Yes

Year	Area	Condition	Description	Yes	No	Maybe	Not enough information	SAR
12/4/00	Skagway	Entangled, released alive	Shrimp pot gear released except for single buoy. Straley and Gabriele report "tight wrap of line around whale's head (just above it's pectoral fin, on it's right-hand side. A second set of 4 buoys (some of which fisher added when he saw entangled whale) was trailing behind the whale on a 50 ft piece of ~1/2" leaded polypropylene line."	1	3	1	1	Yes
1/28/01	Kauai, Hawaii	Entanglement, Injured	NMFS-MN-01-02-EA; crab line and buoy removed. No details on tangle available.	2	3	1	-	Yes
5/28/01	Resurrection Bay	Entangled, released alive	Mns0101; Mixed gear described as "a single loop through mouth with several ropes connecting to 3 orange buoys, a crab pot, 2 foam floats, 30# anchor, chain, ball of fishing line" by Aderholt as quoted by Little in AND.	2	2	-	2	Yes
6/15/01	Kodiak	Entangled	Disentanglement attempted but not successful; Fishery cbd (subsistence crab or shrimp possible). Wynne reported Mother and calf towing a single small orange buoy ~35'-30' behind and between them, two lines across the calf's rostrum just forward of the blowhole; line visible across adult's back.	4	-	1	1	Yes
6/19/01	Dixon Entrance	Possibly injured	USCG reported Naushon traveling 12kts when "whale surfaced approximately 10 ft in front of cutter. Cutter immediately backed down and then came to all stop as the whale dived under the cutter. After a couple of minutes the lookout sighted the whale off the starboard quarter. The whale surfaced and then dived again. Personnel in forward berthing reported hearing a thump just prior to the cutter backing down. No unusual vibrations were detected when testing propulsion nor was there any blood in the water. No indications of whale strike above the waterline were evident....There were no whale sightings in the vicinity prior to the encounter."	-	5	1	-	Yes
8/7/01	Sitka	Entangled	Green net, fishery cbd, reported to be seen on top of rostrum	3	1	1	1	
8/13/01	Hoonah Sound	Entangled, released alive	Shrimp pot gear; Brix recorded 'wounds on dorsal ridge and tail stock from line'; also that whale had been' tethered by the right side of mouth, with free end (which has been attached to buoy) exiting the left side of it's mouth with about 40 -50ft of nylon floating line; anchored to pot gear'	2	3	1	-	No
9/19/01	Lynn Canal	Entangled, release alive, status unknown	Shrimp pot gear wrapped on tail according to T- with Chilkat Crusies via Enfs	3	2	1	-	No
10/30/01	Sitka	Entangled, release alive, status unknown	Longline, no further information provided by Anon boater via FWS	1	3	1	1	