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**MEDIA ADVISORY  
FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

December 31, 2004

**NOAA Team Returns After Successful Whale Disentanglement Attempt**  
*Rare Endangered Right Whale Freed from Ropes and Buoys*  
*Team Calls the Whale, "Yellowfin"*

Charleston, S.C. - NOAA and its rescue team partners spent last night off the South Carolina coast working to free a young endangered right whale entangled in ropes and buoys. The team successfully removed all of the ropes and gear from the whale's body. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

At this point, the team is packing up their gear and heading back to port on the Coast Guard Cutter "Yellowfin." The team used specially constructed tools to remove the lines and other gear. They did not expect to be able to completely disentangle the whale, since this was one of the most severe entanglements they had every seen. If they had not removed most or all of the rope and gear, they predicted that this endangered whale would have died.

**What:** Media Availability (*Meet some of the disentanglement team members*)

**Who:** NOAA Scientist, Barb Zoodsma  
Center for Coastal Studies Senior Scientist, Dr. Charles Mayo

**When:** December 31, 2004  
4:15 p.m.

**Where:** Coast Guard Station, 196 Tradd Street, Charleston, S.C.

**Media Note:** B-roll will be provided (digital 8 and mini dv format). Photos can be downloaded from: <http://coastalstudies.org/>  
<http://www.coastalstudies.org/what-we-do/whale-rescue/latest-disentanglement>  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/>  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/>