

# Campobello Whale Rescue Team

For **Whale Emergencies** please call:  
Pour les **urgences** impliquant  
des **baleines**, appelez :  
**1-866-567-6277**  
or/ou VHF 16



## FISHERMEN HELPING FISHERMEN RESCUE WHALES

### Whale Rescue Goals

- Support the fishing industry and encourage stewardship of whales among fishermen and those making a living on the water.
- Increase public awareness of the efforts to reduce the adverse effects of whale entanglement.

### How?

By providing a whale disentanglement and release program in Quebec and the Maritimes.

- Encourage the fishing industry and other mariners to report whales in distress.
- Maintain a whale rescue team to provide a timely response to assess, document and, if possible, release the whale from entangling lines.



### The Issue

- Right, humpback, fin, minke and other large whales can become entangled in fishing gear and entrapped in fishing weirs in Canadian and US waters.
- Entanglements can range from minor to severe and are sometimes lethal for the whale.
- Entrapments are not usually lethal to large whales if they can be released in a timely manner.



### The Process

- **Do not try to disentangle the whale yourself. Do not cut trailing lines and buoys from the whale. The entangling gear is used by the team in the whale rescue attempt.**
- The CWRT will respond immediately; weather and time of day permitting.
- It is critical that the reporting vessel stand by the entangled whale if possible.
- Once the CWRT arrives on scene, the entanglement will be assessed and documented.
- The CWRT will attempt to disentangle the whale if it is feasible and safe.



### About the Campobello Whale Rescue Team

The Campobello Whale Rescue Team of the Canadian Whale Institute is an organization of fishermen and biologists. They have firsthand knowledge of Maritime waters as well as fishing gear and whale behaviour.



- Team members are trained in the use of specialized equipment to disentangle large whales from fishing gear and work with weir owners to release entrapped whales.
- The CWRT is licensed and permitted by DFO to disentangle whales in the Maritimes and Gulf of St. Lawrence and by the U.S. government for responses in U.S. waters.
- The CWRT provides basic training for others interested in supporting the program.



To report marine animal emergencies, please call the Marine Animal Response Society (MARS) at **1-866-567-6277** or the Canadian Coast Guard on VHF channel 16. Entanglements are relayed to the Campobello Whale Rescue Team (CWRT).

Program partners include: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and MARS. Additional photographs provided by the Center for Coastal Studies and New England Aquarium.