

STRANDING RESPONSE NETWORK

1. HOW TO REPORT, WHAT TO REPORT AND WHERE TO STORE THE STRANDING DATA

1.1 ORGANISATION

- Define relevant coordinating/leading authority (unit and contact person (Ministry/Directorate/Research Institute)) - where to call

It is a prerequisite that the leader/coordinator is a veterinarian or experienced biologist who will be able to assess the situation in order to initiate relevant action (euthanise, possible sampling, who should respond and to what)

- Identify coastal areas (management areas) and volunteer units within each area

Suggestions for volunteers: local zoological/ornithological/nature/animal welfare organisations.

Parties to define possible NGOs or interested persons to be volunteer in the network.

Sampling equipment stored in different coastal areas.

Training courses should be arranged for the network of volunteers

- Identify veterinary pathology competence in the different units close to the sampling site.

1.2 HOW TO REPORT A STRANDING ALIVE OR DEAD FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PERSON FINDING THE ANIMAL(S)

Important to remember when approaching a live stranded animal

- Approach the animal calmly and carefully. Keep away from the tail
- People, dogs and wild animals should be kept at a distance.
- Do not move the animal by pulling on its fins or tail.
- Call coordinator who will ask for further information such as:

Stranding both alive and dead

- Location and date found
- Species and sex
- Overall length
- Condition of the animal
- Your contact details should further information be needed

Based on this information the Coordinator will decide on further action.

Live strandings: information will be forwarded to relevant task force (as a rule large whales will be euthanised if possible).

Dead strandings / after euthanasia: Sampling according to protocol relevant to the size of the animal or coordinator gives instructions about sampling and further processing of the samples (pathological investigations).

Necropsy and sampling procedures should be performed according to standardized international protocols as far as possible – e.g. ASCOBANS best practice on cetacean post-mortem investigations and tissue sampling.