

## British Divers Marine Life Rescue



### **Marine Mammal Rescue in England, Scotland and Wales**

British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) was formed in 1988, when a few like-minded divers got together in response to the mass mortality of Harbour seals in the Wash area of East Anglia, to do what they could for the rescue effort.

Since 1988, BDMLR have been involved in the rescue of marine wildlife after every major marine disaster, including the Braer shipwreck in Shetland, the Sea Empress grounding in Milford Haven and mass strandings of cetaceans around the UK. Seal rescue has remained a major component of their work, with BDMLR medics rescuing seals in all seasons. Over the years, many hundreds of seals have been helped, BDMLR working closely with specialist rehabilitation facilities to ensure their long term care and eventual return to the wild.

Although seal rescue has remained a key component of the work of the charity, it has become progressively more involved in the response to stranded cetaceans in the UK. BDMLR were founder members of the Marine Animal Rescue Coalition (MARC), an affiliation of organisations with an active interest and involvement in the management of marine mammal strandings in the UK, with a primary focus of improving the response to live cetacean strandings.

Now, BDMLR attend over 450 incidents a year, with around 10% of those being cetacean rescues.

Every year, BDMLR trains over 400 people from all walks of life to become volunteer Marine Mammal Medics. Since 1988 they have trained over 8,500 and are the only marine animal rescue organisation that covers England, Wales and Scotland. They train the RSPCA, SSPCA, Coastguard and Police in marine mammal rescue and maintain direct links with them.

The charity has 20 whale rescue pontoons, 13 ambulance trailers, 50 rescue kits, three rescue boats and a special whale disentanglement kit, all located at strategic points throughout the UK, as well as around 2,500 current medics on their database ready to assist and rescue marine animals in distress.

BDMLR hotline: 01825 765546 (office hours) or 07787 433412 (Bank holidays, evenings and weekends) [www.bdmr.org.uk](http://www.bdmr.org.uk)

Registration Details  
England and Wales No: 2028816  
Registered No: 2028816

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Head Office: Lime House, Regency Close, Oxford, East Sussex PO20 1DS. Tel: 01825 765546 Fax: 01825 765545

British Divers Marine Life Rescue is an independent registered marine animal rescue organisation, UK based and a registered charity.

The aims of the organisation are to provide a rescue service for all marine wildlife, to provide support to all existing rescue centres and to develop new methods of treatment, transport and care.

Email: [info@bdmr.org.uk](mailto:info@bdmr.org.uk) Web: [www.bdmr.org.uk](http://www.bdmr.org.uk)