



## For Reducing

# Whale Entanglements

## Mitigation Measures

Rock lobster fishers are encouraged to adopt the following mitigation measures to reduce the risk of whale entanglement:

1. Avoid excessive slack in pot ropes. Ropes should be adjusted to a length appropriate to the depth and strength of tide being worked, especially inshore. Excess slack in pot ropes can be coiled and tied close to floats. Slack should be limited to enough rope to allow for recovery and to commence hauling safely.
2. Regularly check pots, as per standard fishing practice. This will increase the likelihood of discovering missing gear whilst the entangled whale is still close by giving Disentanglement Teams the greatest chance of success.
3. Where possible avoid setting pots in clusters.
4. Collect any abandoned/lost or cut pot lines, rope or fishing gear.
5. Be aware of increased whale numbers between June and November
6. Alert local fishers in the area if you observe a whale passing through fishing grounds

## Entangled Whales

1. If you observe an entangled whale report it to the Whale Hotline (**0427WHALES, 0427 942 537**) as soon as possible. If outside of mobile coverage, report entanglements to Tas Maritime Radio via VHF/HF network. Rapid reporting ensures entanglement response teams have the best possible chance of successfully disentangling whales.
2. Safety is first priority; fishers **should not** attempt to disentangle or cut free the whale unless otherwise advised.
3. Do not cut trailing lines attached to the whale as these lines could potentially provide a safe working line for the disentanglement team.
4. Fishermen should Stand-by entangled whales at a safe distance, carefully monitoring the situation, as this will assist the entanglement team to rapidly locate the entangled whale.
5. Real-time reporting of cetacean sightings contributes important information to long-term monitoring of threatened species. To help facilitate data collection, please report all sightings to the Whale Hotline.

# Whale Hotline 0427 942 537