

CaseNum	Species Code	Whale ID	Location	State/Prov	Event Date	Event Type	Nature of the entanglement	My Roles During Response	Event Description (Team Actions and Outcome)	Web Page / Links	Video	Authorizing Agency	Date of First Report
WR-2012-18	Mn	Hiatus	Cape Cod	MA	7/5/2012	Successful Disentanglement	ANCHORED whale was anchored in a surface system with line running through the mouth and approximately four complete wraps of the body*	* grapple / establish control line. * cutting body wraps with a fixed knife on a 30 foot pole	The team deployed an inflatable to better access the flukes at depth. A grapple was used to establish a workline to the rope just forward of the flukes on the right flank. The team made a series of cuts along the left side of the whale using a thirty-foot pole, starting forward and moving aftward. The weight of the gear below the whale then pulled the remaining wrap from the peduncle and the whale released the line of the highliner from its mouth (the highliner and about 80 feet of line were recovered). Once free of gear the whale took a minute or two before it swam off rapidly and was lost.	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw/879512.htm		NOAA	7/5/2012
WR-2012-19	Mn	Serengeti	off Chatham	MA	7/6/2012	Successful Disentanglement	ANCHORED the surface system ran through the whales' mouth over the head and down along the left side of the body - one end going to the ground tackle the other end to the highliner.	* grapple / establish control line. * operate inflatable on approach to whale * assist with assessment / collect underwater video footage * position vessel with	The whale was anchored with two buoy lines tangled together aft of the flukes. Using a dive mask the team discovered the line ran through the mouth with one line running aft and the other to the seafloor. The team worked up the endline, added floats just forward of a weak link, grappled the line descending to the seafloor. Then, using a 30' pole, the team made a cut to the line just aft of the nares and all line slowly came free from the whale.	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw/879612.htm		NOAA	7/6/2012
WR-2012-20	Mn	Piano	off Chatham	MA	7/8/2012	Disentanglement Attempt	FREE SWIMMING * line runs through the mouth - exits both sides and runs to the peduncle where there are at least six wraps of the peduncle and flukes *line cuts deeply into both flukes - several loops around peduncle on flukes. * gear trailed behind whale, but was weighted and remained very deep, even as whale dove *animal was recovering from significant ship strike wounds along the left side	* attempted to establish a workline with a grapple * used a flying mooring hook to attempt to attach to loops around peduncle lying on dorsal side of flukes.	The whale was not fluking very high but at least nine wraps of the peduncle and fluke blades. Assuming that there was line leading from the mouth to the flukes at least on the left side of the whale, the team grappled over the whale from the right side of its body. The grapple found no line and lighting conditions were such that it was difficult to see into the water. It seemed most probable that there was no line from the head to the flukes and there appeared to be no more than a foot or two of line trailing from the flukes. Realizing this the team used a thirty-foot pole and a skiff-hook to attempt to attach a control line to the tangle of line on the dorsal surface of the flukes. At the second attempt the skiff-hook was deployed but came free very quickly, likely catching on one of the short bitter ends. At this point the whale became increasingly difficult to approach. The team attempted grapple throws for several more hours.	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw/870812.htm		NOAA	7/8/2012
WR-2012-20	Mn	Piano	off Chatham	MA	7/8/2012	Disentanglement Attempt	FREE SWIMMING * line runs through the mouth - exits both sides and runs to the peduncle where there are at least six wraps of the peduncle and flukes *line cuts deeply into both flukes - several loops around peduncle on flukes. * gear trailed behind whale, but was weighted and remained very deep, even as whale dove *animal was recovering from significant ship strike wounds along the left side	* attempted grapple throws from the inflatable	With aerial support the team was able to better understand the entanglement configuration - line running through the mouth to the peduncle. When the aerial team first found the whale it was active at the surface, but upon the arrival of our response vessel Ibis, the whale changed behavior - taking one or two breaths before diving. Several grapple throws were thrown directly at the target region but did not establish purchase. However, the whale became increasingly difficult to approach and the team left just before sunset.	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw/870812.htm		NOAA	7/9/2012
WR-2012-29	Mn	Hiatus	off Chatham	MA	8/18/2012	Successful Disentanglement	ANCHORED The whale had line running through the mouth (as many as five wraps over through the mouth and over the rostrum) and approximately four body wraps	* Operating vessel near whale for documentation and assessment. * Assist with underwater assessment and documentation * manage line * Make cuts	When the response team arrived they found a relatively small whale nearly stationary at the surface with a highliner near the head and with five wraps through the mouth and four wraps around the body, aft of the head but forward of the dorsal fin. The dorsal fin and flukes were never raised above the surface. The team grappled beneath the flukes to establish a control line and conducted further assessment, realizing there were no wraps of the flukes. Using an 18 foot pole and fixed knife the team made a series of cuts starting at the tip of the rostrum and working aftward. Two of the body wraps were very tight and pinching into the whale but the team was eventually able to work the knife under and cut these too. This left the whale free of anchor with a few lengths of line in the mouth including a length leading to the work line. The whale had a short bridle of line through the mouth leading to a large tangled mass of line just above its left eye and trailing almost to the dorsal fin. No line trailing beyond the flukes could be found and it is unknown if there is any gear at depth below the whale.	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw/861812.htm		NOAA	8/18/2012
WR-2012-32	Mn	Forceps	Stellwagen Bank	MA	8/24/2012	Disentanglement Attempt	FREE SWIMMING line through mouth with a mass of line along left side of head	* grapple throws * operate vessel approaches for broadhead cutter	The team attempted to grapple aft of the whale for any unseen trailing line and over the body to the left shoulder for the tangled mass of line. None of these attempts were successful. While the whale was at least somewhat evasive of close approaches, overall the whale just seemed to have difficulty spending much time at the surface. When it was at the surface, the strong list to port made leaning the crane difficult. After three and half hours of these The team found a humpback whale caught by the flukes. The whale was relatively close to one end of the surface system and was essentially motionless at or near the surface with its flukes into the seas and wind. Sea conditions precluded a full assessment of the entanglement but the team noted a length of the top rope, with white floats, leading to a broken, bitter end alongside of the flanks of the whale. Waiting for seas to subside the team suggested that the fisherman haul the easternmost part of the gear set to simply get it out of the way and to halt hauling if it was found the whale was still connected. The fisherman hauled a little more than half the buoy line before it became apparent that the whale was indeed still connected. The whale reacted actively and the fisherman immediately let go the set. The team had little choice but to wait for better conditions. By 13:30 winds dropped out a bit and the chop began to lessen. Still, the configuration of the entanglement and wide complicated response efforts	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw/882412.htm		NOAA	8/24/2012
WR-2012-35	Mn	Humpback NoID	Jeffreys Ledge	MA	9/16/2012	Successful Disentanglement	ANCHORED The whale had a number of wraps of the peduncle and left fluke blade. The lines included leadline, topline and buoy line (the monofilament webbing was mostly destroyed and was not posing a problem for the whale). The flukes were weighed down heavily and were 18-20feet below the surface. No other body areas were currently entangled but rope burn was noted along the length of its body.	* grapple / establish control line * collect underwater documentation * operate vessel near whale for documentation, assessment and cutting * Underwater assessment	The team attempted to grapple aft of the whale for any unseen trailing line and over the body to the left shoulder for the tangled mass of line. None of these attempts were successful. While the whale was at least somewhat evasive of close approaches, overall the whale just seemed to have difficulty spending much time at the surface. When it was at the surface, the strong list to port made leaning the crane difficult. After three and half hours of these The team found a humpback whale caught by the flukes. The whale was relatively close to one end of the surface system and was essentially motionless at or near the surface with its flukes into the seas and wind. Sea conditions precluded a full assessment of the entanglement but the team noted a length of the top rope, with white floats, leading to a broken, bitter end alongside of the flanks of the whale. Waiting for seas to subside the team suggested that the fisherman haul the easternmost part of the gear set to simply get it out of the way and to halt hauling if it was found the whale was still connected. The fisherman hauled a little more than half the buoy line before it became apparent that the whale was indeed still connected. The whale reacted actively and the fisherman immediately let go the set. The team had little choice but to wait for better conditions. By 13:30 winds dropped out a bit and the chop began to lessen. Still, the configuration of the entanglement and wide complicated response efforts	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw/891612.htm	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3q8Umk7W8	NOAA	9/16/2012

Case ID	Species	Location	Date	Status	Description	Actions	Outcomes	Agency	Date			
WR-2012-36	Mn	Goalpost Race Point - Cape Cod	MA	9/17/2012	Successful Disentanglement	FREE SWIMMING Line ran through the mouth - across the rostrum forward of the blowholes, with one bitter end extending 10' beyond the flukes and the other bitter end (with a bullet buoy) extending 40 feet beyond the flukes.	* grapple / establish control line * manage line at bow / pull-up to whale * underwater documentation * add buoys for drag * attempted cuts using 28' carbon fiber pole * operate vessel for directed approaches to make cut * make cut using knife on a 30' aluminum pole	The team, along with five disentanglement trainees from Florida responded to the entanglement with a whale watch standing by and found a whale with line on the head and towing a buoy, traveling slowly. The team established a control line onto the trailing line quickly using a grapping hook, a 60 foot tether and large buoy. During the surfacing the team noted that the grapple was set very close to a weak link at the buoy so hurried to get the inflatable in the water and secure the workline. Once in the inflatable, the team worked quickly to replace the grapple with a tether tied directly into the entangling gear. Over the course of an hour the team added more buoys and moved them closer to the flukes which slowed the whale and essentially kept it from diving. This gave the team an opportunity to better assess its entanglement. The whale had bitten down on a buoy line and the buoy line had parted at about the area of the flukes. Line exiting the left side of the mouth wrapped over the head, down under the right flipper and trailed aft of the flukes to a single bullet buoy. Line exiting the right side of the mouth trailed alongside the whale from over the head. The whale was discovered by the CCS aerial team during a directed search 2 day after the initial report. At first sighting the pair was moving slowly to the south with Tornado taking longer dives than the calf. The calf was holding its left flipper close to its body but otherwise acting normally. The suspected point of attachment was the mouth. Review of images suggested that the line exited the mouthline and formed a bridle beneath the whale.	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw091712.htm https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jg87W3m	NOAA	9/17/2012	
WR-2012-40	Mn	Tornado's 2012 Calf	Jeffreys Ledge	MA	10/25/2012	Successful Disentanglement	* grapple / establish control line * manage line at bow / pull up * collect underwater documentation	Entanglement configuration was never completely established, despite extensive documentation from the response vessel, underwater video and aerial support. Line ran forward on the body and either ran through the mouth or was somehow attached to pectoral fins and trailing to > 200 behind the whale	Once on scene the team quickly grappled on a working line to the trailing gear approximately 60feet aft of the flukes of the calf and deployed an A3 buoy. The behavior of the pair changed instantly. The pair surged forward, dove and increased speed, enough for the calf to bring the A3 and gear buoys under. The team deployed an inflatable and grabbed onto the work buoy and pulled up the engine. The team was now being towed at 7.5 knots and the bow began to ship water. Making any forward progress up the line to the whale, to be in a workline, was finally deemed unlikely after a few tries. The team then tried establishing a new workline close to the whale with an A5 buoy. When the team arrived on scene the whale was towing a white buoy, that surfaced shortly before the whale at each surfacing. Even with very cautious approaches aboard RV IBIS, the whale was initially evasive. Eventually the response team was able to approach close enough to attach a grapple just forward of the buoy. Although the whale was able to pull the Norwegian buoy on the grapple line below the surface at times, the whale was much easier to follow and the response team followed behind as the zodiac was inflated. At one surfacing the team noted a subtle disturbance behind the whale and	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw102312.htm https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jg87W3m	NOAA	10/23/2012
WR-2012-41	Mn	GOM 1271	Western Cape Cod Bay	MA	11/27/2012	Successful Disentanglement	* grapple / establish control line * collect underwater documentation * manage line at bow during disentanglement	FREE SWIMMING Line wrapped both flukes and tail stock with one bitter end terminating in a buoy just behind flukes and the other bitter end trailing 100 feet behind whale.	Once on scene PCCS found a relatively small whale logging at the surface in very calm but overcast conditions. The whale was emaciated and somewhat pale. The team used that opportunity to approach the whale closely from aboard IBIS. They found that the whale had a relatively short bundle of lines and small floats tucked between its right flank and right flipper, with frayed, bitter ends extending about two feet aft of the flukes. What was, and is unclear, is the point of attachment, presumed to be in the mouthline or perhaps the insertion of the flipper. No line was seen at the left side of the	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw112712.htm	NOAA	11/27/2012
WR-2013-13	Mn	Unknown humpback whale	off Chatham	MA	10/4/2013	Disentanglement Attempt	* grapple * collect underwater documentation * operate vessel on approach for grapping	FREE-SWIMMING A short bundle of lines and small floats tucked between its right flank and right flipper, with frayed, bitter ends extending about two feet aft of the flukes.	When the team arrived on scene we quickly established a workline with grapple to the bullet buoy towed by the whale. The workline allowed the team to do a full assessment of the entanglement. The whale was small and somewhat thin. It was swimming in large circles indicating that it was anchored firmly. The whale had bitten down on a buoy line perhaps 30feet below the buoy. The two halves of the buoy line were tightly twisted back on each other, essentially forming a bridle beneath the whale. The bridle had begun to abrade the corners of the mouth and ventral pleats. The team made its way up the work	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw100413.htm	NOAA	10/4/2013
WR-2014-03	Ba	Unknown Minke whale	outside Boston Harbor	MA	4/11/2014	Successful Disentanglement	* grapple / establish control line * collect underwater documentation * operate vessel near whale for documentation, assessment and retrieval	ANCHORED The whale had bitten down on a lobster buoy line ~ 30 feet below the buoy. The two halves of the buoy line were tightly twisted back on each other forming a bridle beneath the whale. The bridle had begun to abrade and cut into the corners of the mouth and ventral pleats.	On 2014/09/13 the whale was first reported entangled; Maine Marine Patrol responded and removed much of the gillnet entanglement. A CCS team flew up to Mount Desert Island early the next day and responded with a team from MMP.	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/mw040714.htm	NOAA	4/7/2014
WR-2014-16	Mn	Spinnaker	Mount Desert Rock - Maine	ME	9/15/2014	Successful Disentanglement	* grapple / establish control line * manage line at bow / pull up * collect underwater documentation	The whale had a somewhat overwhelming entanglement(s) with a large portion of a gillnet panel lodged in the mouthline and wrapping around the forward portion of the body. A long length of this panel ran down toward the sea floor where it entangled at least six pot sets. These pot lines made ~20 wraps of the flukes and peduncle. One length of line exiting the mouth and heading over the shoulder in the left flipper was clearly	At first approach the whale had its head into the wind and current, giving the team safe and easy access to the entanglement at the flukes. The team added a new control line with a grapple to the thick cord of lines beneath the flukes and returned to the support vessel to retrieve a pole and a flying knife. When they returned to the whale it had reversed direction, leaving the team few options for approaches. The team pulled up the control line toward the	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw091514.htm https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AS2e0c-4Xdc	NOAA	9/14/2014
WR-2015-02	Mn	Collared	Race Point - Cape Cod	MA	4/26/2015	Successful Disentanglement	* grapple / establish control line * manage line at bow / pull up * collect underwater documentation * place flying knife using a 30' carbon fiber pole * operating vessel near whale for documentation, assessment grapping and cutting.	FREE SWIMMING The whale had a collar of 1.5" thick line just forward of the flippers and no trailing line.	Once located, the NEFSC team helped the CCS team in approaches for grapping the collar, hoping to establish a workline. After numerous attempts the team managed to get the grapping hook into the collar and marked the workline with a small float. The team followed the whale as we set up an inflatable. The team then began the process of gradually adding more floats to the workline. The whale was moving so fast the team had to add another workline to the original workline. Despite the addition of five large floats and the drag of the inflatable the whale did not slow much and continued at 4-5 knots.	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw042615.htm https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jg87W3m	NOAA	4/26/2015
WR-2015-03	Mn	Spinnaker	Cashes Ledge	ME	5/14/2015	Successful Disentanglement	* grapple / establish control line * manage line at bow / pull up * make cuts above and under water	FREE SWIMMING The whale was essentially hogtied, from mouth to tail with a minimum of three large pots weighing the whale down. What appeared to be groundline entered and exited the left mouth and wrapped over the rostrum to the right side of the mouth. One gangoon exited the tip of the mouth leading to pot suspended beneath the head. Lines from this pot, and from the left gape of the mouth, went to incomplete wraps of the peduncle and flukes. From the flukes a bundle of lines (with	A NEFSC aerial survey found an entangled humpback whale on Cashes Ledge. The CCS response team was already on water and responded as NEFSC stood by the whale collecting invaluable documentation. When the CCS response team arrived on scene they deployed a small inflatable to further assess the whale. From the water the posture of the whale was distinctly hunched such that the dorsal fin never cleared the surface. The whale was mostly swimming in circles and using its flippers for propulsion. The flukes were generally hanging downward though it could raise them to within a few feet of the surface. Water visibility was reasonable and the team had good views of what was a very complex entanglement. The whale was essentially hogtied from mouth to tail with a minimum of three large pots weighing the whale down. What appeared to be groundline entered and exited the left	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw051415.htm	NOAA	5/14/2015
WR-2015-07	Mn	Unknown humpback whale	30 nm ESE of Chatham	MA	6/20/2015	Successful Disentanglement	* operate vessel for approaches for documentation * make cuts with 30' pole	FREE SWIMMING Whale had a wrap of the right fluke blade with unlaidd line and plastic bottle floats. Line cut deeply into the fluke blade	The response team came across the whale as it was logging at the surface with another whale. Both whales approached the response vessel and the team noticed that one of the whales was trailing a bundle of gear from the right fluke blade. The line was cutting about a foot into the leading edge of the fluke and trailed to a bundle of gear aft of the flukes, no more than six feet. No other gear was seen at other body areas but the whale had wrapping marks across its back and tailstock. The team decided that adding a control line to such thin entangling line would	http://www.alwdn.org/entanglementupdate/hw062015.htm	NOAA	6/20/2015