



Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)

In 1972, Congress enacted the MMPA, establishing a national policy to help prevent the extinction or depletion of marine mammal populations from human activities.

NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are the lead federal agencies for enforcing this law to protect marine mammals. The MMPA protects all whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, porpoises, manatees, polar bears, otters, and walrus from human-induced harm. In the United States, NOAA Fisheries works with scientists, industry, and conservation groups to develop measures that help to protect marine mammals from entanglement, ship strike, and other activities that might cause these animals harm.



NOAA
FISHERIES

West Coast Region
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Southwest Fisheries Science Center

Design and illustrations: Udo Gorter (www.ubogorter.com)

Marine Mammals of the U.S. West Coast

You can help protect marine mammals!

Seeing marine wildlife in their natural environment can be a thrilling experience. In our excitement, we sometimes forget that our presence has an effect on wildlife and their habitat. Set an example for others, and help protect our spectacular marine resources.

Admire from a distance, give animals space!

- Do not approach closer than 100 yards to any whale, dolphin, or porpoise. For orcas in WA stay 200 yards away.
- Slow down and operate at a no-wake speed.
- Keep clear of the whales' path!

Share the shore with seals and sea lions!

- Give animals space and limit noise.
- Keep people and pets away. Marine mammals can carry diseases that are transmittable to pets and humans.
- Pay attention and move away at the first sign of disturbance or agitation.

Call our Hotlines

- Report a dead, injured or stranded marine mammal at: **1-866-767-6114**
- Call law enforcement if you see a harassment or a violation: **1-800-853-1964**
- For entangled marine mammals, please call **1-877-505-WHALE** or **1-877-767-9425** or hail the U.S. Coast Guard on Ch. 16
- Report derelict gear, please call **1-855-542-3935**

Learn more

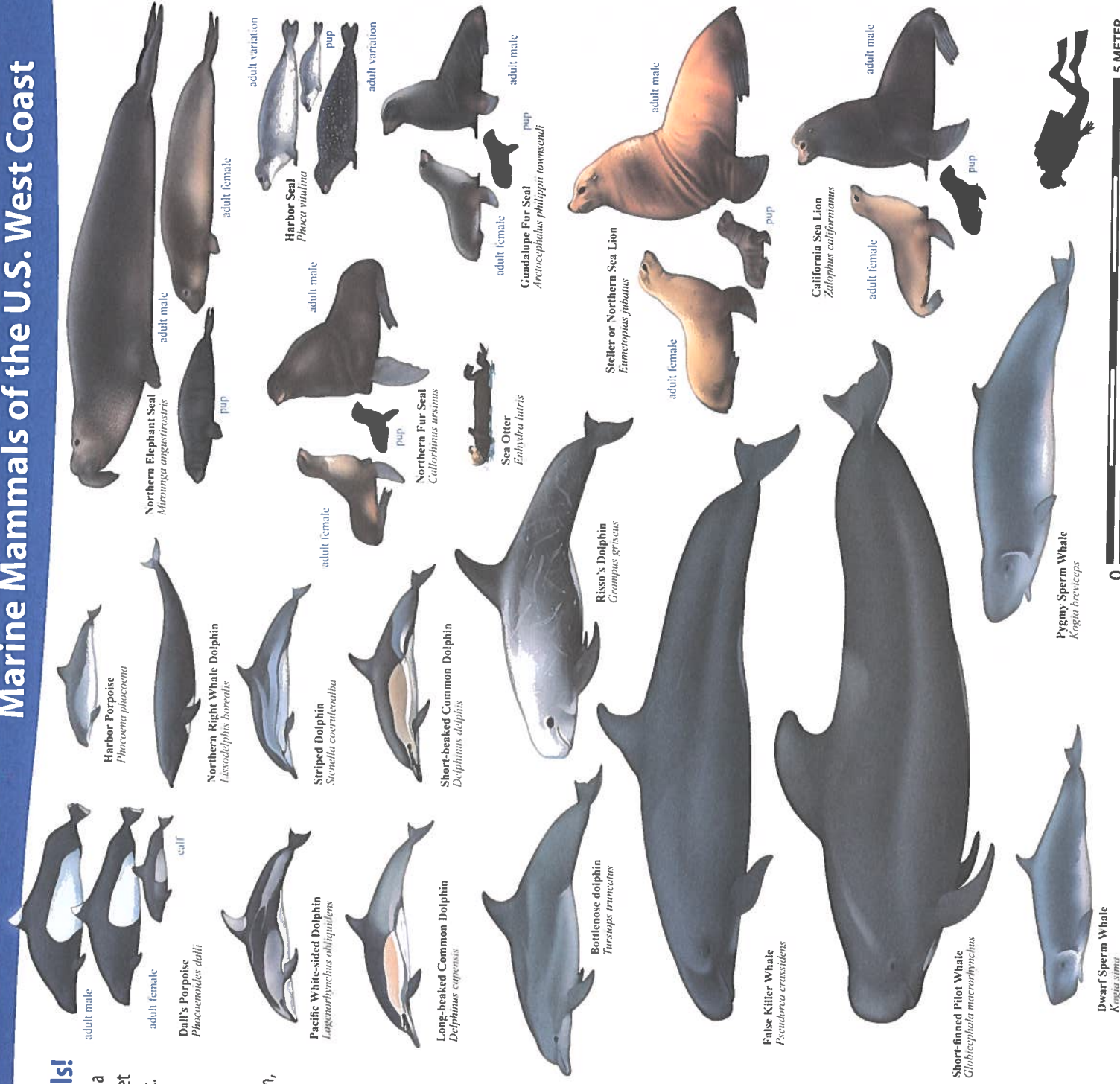
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Download: Dolphin & Whale 911 app
 (for Android and iPhone)



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TO REPORT STRANDED, INJURED, OR DEAD MARINE MAMMALS, CALL THE NOAA FISHERIES WEST COAST MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING NETWORK HOTLINE: 1-866-767-6114