

Florida's Wildlife Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Response – June 2012  
**Marine Mammal/Sea Turtle Reporting and Retrieval Protocols for Dedicated  
SCAT and other Shoreline Surveys**

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All dead or debilitated/distressed live marine mammals (whales, dolphins or manatees) and sea turtles on land or in the water, including either oiled or non-oiled animals, should be reported immediately to **888 404 FWCC (3922) (FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline)** so that the appropriate wildlife personnel can respond. In some cases, further instructions for sampling or retrieval may be arranged.

**FOR ALL STRANDED OR DISTRESSED MARINE MAMMALS/SEA TURTLES ENCOUNTERED (DEAD OR ALIVE ON SHORE OR DEAD OR DISTRESSED IN THE WATER):**

1. Determine location (latitude/longitude coordinates preferable with GPS as DD.DDDD).
2. Take photographs, record any noteworthy information on behavior (live animals) or unusual circumstances (live or dead animals).
3. Immediately call **888 404 (3922) FWCC (FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline)** to report the animal(s) so that the appropriate wildlife personnel can respond. Be prepared to report the above information and:
  - a. Is the animal alive?
  - b. What species is the animal? If unknown, describe the animal's size, color, and physical characteristics.
  - c. How many animals are there?
  - d. What are the current environmental conditions? (weather, sea state, tide)
  - e. How can you be contacted?

**FOR DEAD OR DISTRESSED MARINE MAMMALS/SEA TURTLES IN THE WATER:**

1. DEAD animals should be reported to: **888 404 FWCC (FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline)** so that the appropriate wildlife personnel can respond. After reporting the animal, you may be requested to anchor or tow the animal back to shore if possible, so that a full examination by the spill response veterinarian-of-record can occur. If it is not possible to anchor or tow the animal, you may be requested to collect samples from the animal and be provided with specific guidance to do so.
2. LIVE, distressed animals should be immediately reported to **888 404 FWCC (FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline)** so that the appropriate wildlife personnel can respond. Please do not attempt to capture the animal unless qualified individuals are present and you are directed to do so.

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Record the GPS location and note information on species (if known) or physical characteristics, size and the animal's condition.

**FOR DEAD OR DISTRESSED MARINE MAMMALS/SEA TURTLES FOUND ON SHORE:**

1. All DEAD animals should be reported to **888 404 FWCC (FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline)** so that the appropriate wildlife personnel can respond. In some cases, a necropsy and further processing may need to be conducted on the beach by qualified spill response wildlife personell, in particular for large animals. Contact the appropriate Marine Mammal or Sea Turtle contacts within FWC for further guidance. If the appropriate wildlife responder is unable to respond, you may be requested to collect samples from the animal and be provided with specific guidance to do so. Carcasses should be kept shaded and as cool as possible to minimize further decomposition.

LIVE animals should be immediately reported to **888 404 FWCC (3922) (FWC Wildlife Alert HotlineFWC Wildlife Alert Hotline)** so that the appropriate wildlife personnel can respond. DO NOT attempt to move or push the animal off beach and keep it shaded and wet if possible. Avoid getting water in the blowhole (dolphins, whales) or nostrils (manatees and turtles) and stay away from flukes and flippers areas. If conditions are dangerous, do not attempt to approach the animal.