



BEST PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE MARINE LIFE ENTANGLEMENTS

CDFW reminds all California fixed gear fishery participants to implement the following best practices for avoiding marine life entanglements:

- **Minimize** knots, leads and scope.
- **Reduce** slack surface line and keep vertical lines taught.
- **Avoid** setting gear in the vicinity of all whales and sea turtles.
- **Frequently check** traps and remove traps when whales are foraging in the area.
- **Communicate** locations of whale activity to other fishing vessels.
- **Promptly remove** gear not being actively fished.

Taking these proactive steps will help reduce marine life entanglement risks. **Questions? Contact** WhaleSafeFisheries@Wildlife.ca.gov

IMMEDIATELY REPORT ENTANGLEMENTS

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Response:

1-877-SOS-WHALE

or

US Coast Guard

VHF CH 16

- Notify NMFS or the US Coast Guard
- Note date, time, location; take photos
- Maintain a distance of 100 yards
- Stand by for responders and **do not attempt to disentangle!**
- Respond promptly if contacted by NMFS or CDFW about your gear

Credit: Sydney Minges

