

Help Keep Mariculture in Alaska Marine Mammal Free!

What is marine mammal entanglement?



Entanglement is when a marine mammal becomes wrapped in either marine debris or gear associated with a marine activity, such as fishing line.

This will limit an animal's movement, weigh it down, and can result in serious injury or mortality.

It is possible for a marine mammal to become entangled in mariculture gear in Alaska. While currently there are no documented reports of marine mammal interactions with mariculture farms in Alaska, mariculture gear poses an inherent entanglement risk to marine mammals.



The level of entanglement will depend on where and how much mariculture gear exists in sensitive areas, the type of gear in the water, and the dynamics and behavior of the marine mammal populations in the area.

There are a number of ways we can all keep marine mammals free from mariculture gear!

★ **Consciously and consistently maintain your aquatic farm.** Most mariculture gear needs to be under tension to maintain location and prevent snarling of equipment, which also helps prevent entanglement. Proper tension will depend on consistent maintenance and could be impacted by storms. Remember, **marine debris is one of the major causes of marine mammal entanglement!**

★ **Carefully consider site suitability for an aquatic farm.** The permitting process for a farm site requires that overlap between potential mariculture sites and marine mammal habitat is examined for impact before a lease is issued.

★ **Get familiar with the statutes, regulations, policies, and guidelines that are in place** to protect wildlife or their habitats "from being significantly impacted" by mariculture farms. (Sec. 16.40.105.)

Always report entangled, injured, or stranded marine mammals to the right source!

NOAA Fisheries
Stranding Hotline:
(877) 925-7773

Alaska SeaLife Center:
(888) 774-7325

Want to learn more? Visit us:

The Alaska Mariculture Alliance at alaskamariculture.org
See also NOAA Fisheries' recommended best management practices to minimize impacts to marine mammals and mariculture farms.

Photo Courtesy of Dmitry Kokh

Want to learn more or get involved in mariculture? Visit us:

Alaska Mariculture Alliance

alaskamariculture.org

Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation

afdf.org/projects/current-projects/alaska-mariculture-initiative/

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/aquatic/

NOAA Fisheries

fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/aquaculture/alaska-region-aquaculture

Want training on kelp or oyster farming? Or information on the application process for an aquatic farm lease?

Alaska Sea Grant

<https://alaskaseagrant.org/our-work/aquaculture/>

Alaska Aquaculture Permitting Portal

<http://akaquaculturepermitting.org/>

Alaska Mariculture Training & Research Center



amrtc.org



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