

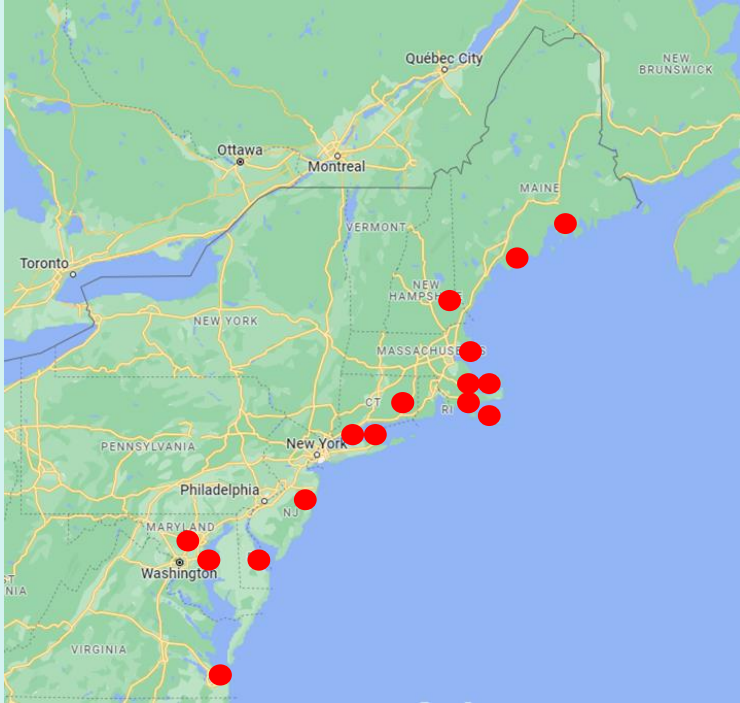


NOAA
FISHERIES

Regional efforts to use stranding network data for conservation of marine mammals

Ainsley Smith
Regional Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator
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GAR Marine Mammal Stranding Network



College of the Atlantic

Marine Mammals of Maine

Seacoast Science Center

Whale and Dolphin Conservation

International Fund for Animal Welfare

National Marine Life Center

Marine Mammal Alliance Nantucket

**Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead
Aquinnah**

Mystic Aquarium

Atlantic Marine Conservation Society

New York Marine Rescue Center

Marine Mammal Stranding Center

MERR Institute

National Aquarium

**Maryland Department of Natural
Resources**

Virginia Aquarium

Data collection

Google sheet

2018 24-Hour Reporting							
File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help Last edit was:							
M188							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	FIELD NUMBER	DATE	SPECIES	CODE	SEX	LENGTH	TO
113	MME-18-1011Pv	10/25/2018	Pv	3	Male	102	Ogunquit
114	MME-18-1012Pp	10/29/2018	Pp	3	cbd	113	Kennebunt
115	MME-18-1013Pv	10/29/2018	Pv	3	unk	unk	York
116	MME-18-1014Pv	10/29/2018	Pv	3	cbd	107	York
117	MME-18-1015Pv	10/29/2018	Pv	4	cbd	97	Kennebunt
118	MME-18-1016Pv	10/30/2018	Pv	3	Female	97	Kennebunt
119	MME-18-1017Pv	10/31/2018	Pv	2	Male	147	Phippsburg
120	MME-18-1018Pv	11/2/2018	Pv	1	Female	97	Kennebunt
121	MME-18-1019Pv	11/8/2018	Pv	4	cbd	96.5	York
122	MME-18-101Pv	6/24/2018	Pv	3	Male	cbd	Kittery
123	MME-18-1020Pv	11/11/2018	Pv	3	unk	unk	Wells
124	MME-18-1021Pv	11/11/2018	Pv	1	unk	unk	Phippsburg
125	MME-18-1022Up	11/12/2018	Up	4	cbd	101	Kennebunt
126	MME-18-1023Pv	11/12/2018	Pv	5	unk	unk	Ogunquit
127	MME-18-1024Pv	11/13/2018	Pv	4	unk	unk	York

MMHSRP Database

MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING REPORT - LEVEL A DATA

FIELD # _____ NMFS REGIONAL # _____ NATIONAL DATABASE# _____
(NMFS USE) (NMFS USE)

COMMON NAME: _____ GENUS: _____ SPECIES: _____
 EXAMINER Name: _____ Affiliation: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 Standing Agreement or Authority: _____

Report Type: Stranded Live entangled, in-water CONFIDENCE CODE (Check ONE): Unconfirmed Public Report Confirmed Public Report Confirmed by Network

<p>INITIAL OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Same Information for Level A Examination</p> <p>DATE: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____ First Observed: <input type="checkbox"/> OnBeach/Land/ice <input type="checkbox"/> Floating <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input type="checkbox"/> Anchored</p> <p>LOCATION: State: _____ County: _____ City: _____ Body of Water: _____ Locality Details: _____ Lat (DD): _____ N Long (DD): _____ W <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated</p> <p>How Determined (check ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> GPS <input type="checkbox"/> Map <input type="checkbox"/> Internet/Software <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>CONDITION AT INITIAL OBSERVATION (Check ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Alive <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Advanced Decomposition <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Fresh Dead <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Euthanized <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Relocated and Released <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Mummified/Skeletal <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Disoriented <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Transferred to Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> a. Partially Date: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> b. Completely Facility: _____</p> <p>CONDITION DETERMINATION (Check one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Sick <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Location Hazardous <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Injured <input type="checkbox"/> a. To animal <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Out of Habitat <input type="checkbox"/> b. To public <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Deemed Releasable <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Unknown/CBD <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Abandoned/Orphaned <input type="checkbox"/> 9. No Rehabilitation Options <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Inaccessible <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Other: _____</p> <p>MORPHOLOGICAL INFORMATION SEX (Check ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Female <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Adult <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Pup/Calf <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Yearling <input type="checkbox"/> Whole Animal <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Animal Straight Length: _____ cm <input type="checkbox"/> in <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated <input type="checkbox"/> Not Measured Weight: _____ kg <input type="checkbox"/> lb <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated <input type="checkbox"/> Not Weighed</p> <p>SAMPLES COLLECTED (Check one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Histology <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Other Diagnostics <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Life History <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Skeletal <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other _____</p> <p>PARTS TRACKING (Check one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Scientific Collection <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Educational Collection <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Other: _____</p>	<p>LEVEL A EXAMINATION <input type="checkbox"/> Restrained <input type="checkbox"/> Examined? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>DATE: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____ First Examined: <input type="checkbox"/> OnBeach/Land/ice <input type="checkbox"/> Floating <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input type="checkbox"/> Anchored</p> <p>LOCATION: State: _____ County: _____ City: _____ Body of Water: _____ Locality Details: _____ Lat (DD): _____ N Long (DD): _____ W <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated</p> <p>How Determined (check ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> GPS <input type="checkbox"/> Map <input type="checkbox"/> Internet/Software <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>CONDITION AT EXAMINATION (Check ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Alive <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Advanced Decomposition <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Fresh Dead <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Mummified/Skeletal <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Moderate Decomposition</p> <p>DEAD ANIMAL INFORMATION INITIAL LIVE ANIMAL DISPOSITION (Check one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Left at Site <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Died at Site <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Immediate Release at Site <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Died during Transport <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Relocated and Released <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Euthanized <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Disoriented <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Transferred to Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> a. Partially Date: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> b. Completely Facility: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Other: _____</p> <p>CARCASS STATUS (Check one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Frozen for Later Examination/Neopsy Pending <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Left at Site <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Landfill <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Towed: Lat: _____ Long: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Buried <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Incinerated <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Buried Lat: _____ Long: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Rendered <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Composted <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Unknown/Other _____</p> <p>DEAD ANIMAL EXAM <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Photos Only <input type="checkbox"/> External Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Internal Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Internal Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Carcass Fresh <input type="checkbox"/> Carcass Frozen/Thawed</p> <p>CARCASS CODE AT EXAM <input type="checkbox"/> Code 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Code 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Code 4</p> <p>EXAMINED BY: _____ Date: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____</p> <p>PHOTOS/VIDEOS TAKEN: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Photo/Video Disposition: _____</p> <p>OCCURRENCE DETAILS Was the Marine Mammal Human Interaction Report completed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Findings of Human Interaction: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Could Not Be Determined (CBD) Evidence of: <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Vessel Interaction <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> CBD <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Shot <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> CBD <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Fishery Interaction <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> CBD <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Entangled <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> CBD <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Ingestion <input type="checkbox"/> GEAR <input type="checkbox"/> DEBRIS <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> CBD <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Other Human Interaction: _____</p> <p>If YES, what was the likelihood that the human interaction contributed to the stranding event? <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain (CBD) <input type="checkbox"/> Improbable <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect <input type="checkbox"/> Probable</p> <p>Gear/Hi Items Collected? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Gear Disposition: _____ Other Findings Upon Level A: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Could Not Be Determined (CBD) If Yes, Choose one or more: <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Illness <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Pregnant <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other: _____</p> <p>How Determined (Check one or more): <input type="checkbox"/> Photos Only <input type="checkbox"/> External Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Internal Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Internal Exam (Neopsy) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>
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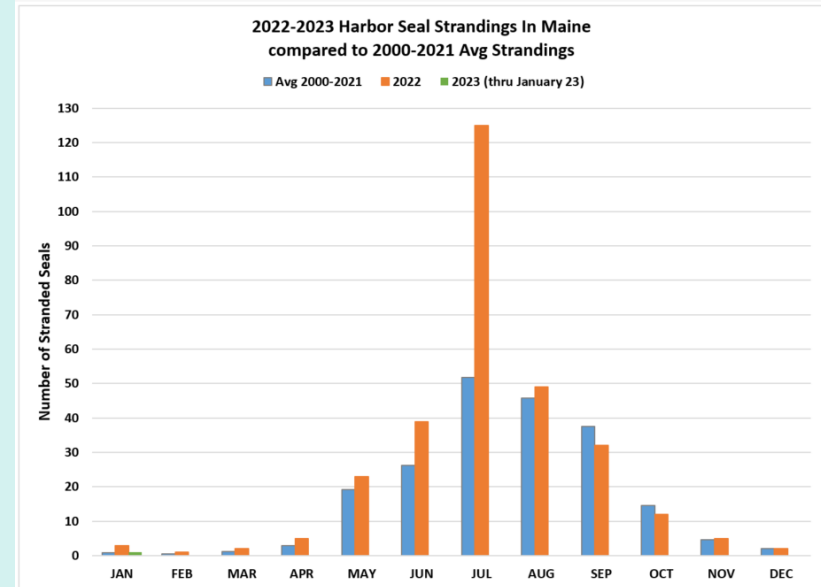
NOAA Form 89-864; OMB Control No. 0648-0178; Expiration Date: 06/30/2024

Unusual mortality events

The Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events developed a set of criteria for determining an unusual mortality event:

1. A marked increase in the magnitude or a marked change in the nature of morbidity, mortality, or strandings when compared with prior records.
2. A temporal change in morbidity, mortality, or strandings is occurring.
3. A spatial change in morbidity, mortality, or strandings is occurring.
4. The species, age, or sex composition of the affected animals is different than that of animals that are normally affected.
5. Affected animals exhibit similar or unusual pathologic findings, behavior patterns, clinical signs, or general physical condition (e.g., blubber thickness).
6. Potentially significant morbidity, mortality, or stranding is observed in species, stocks, or populations that are particularly vulnerable (e.g., listed as depleted, threatened, or endangered or declining). For example, stranding of three or four right whales may be cause for great concern whereas stranding of a similar number of fin whales may not.
7. Morbidity is observed concurrent with or as part of an unexplained continual decline of a marine mammal population, stock, or species.

Any of these criteria may indicate an unusual mortality event.



Using the 24 hour log for near real time tracking

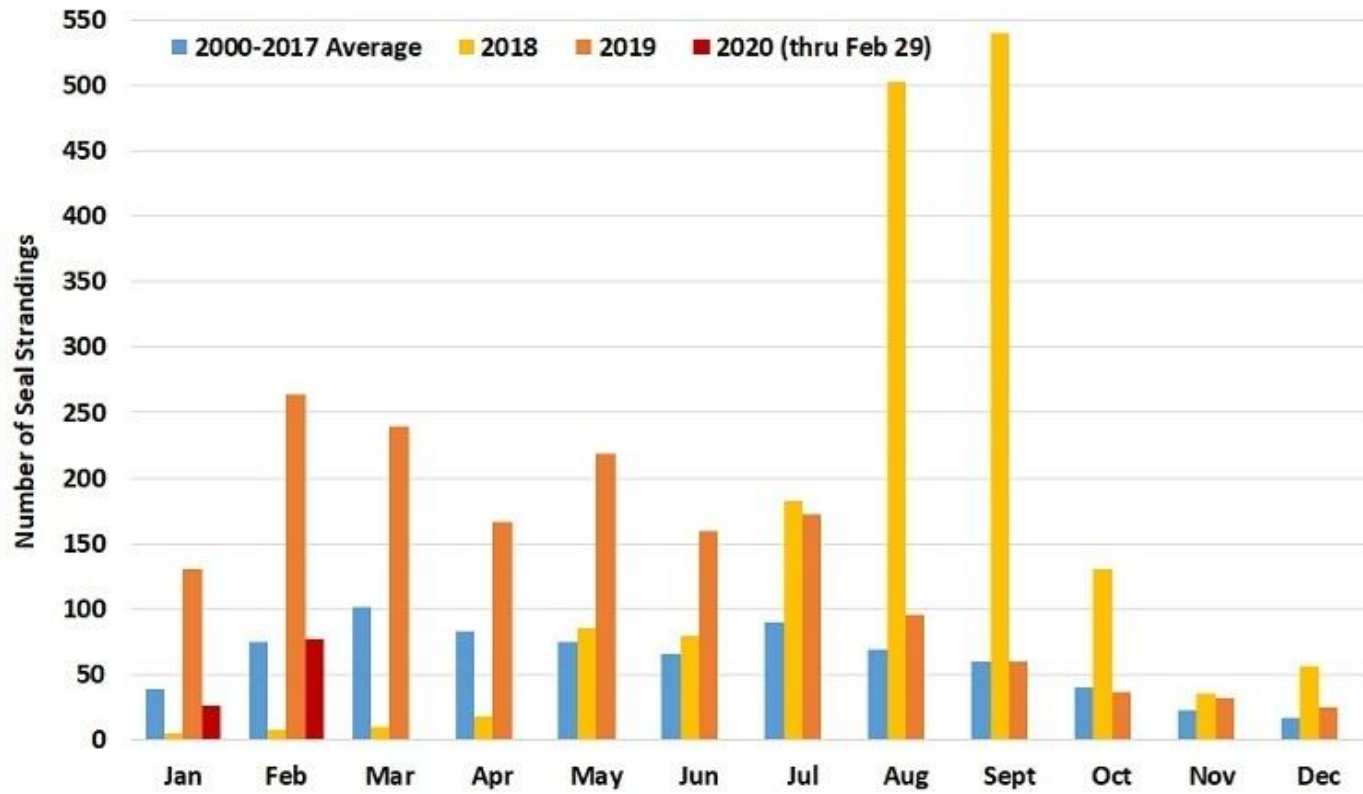
Alerted August 13, 2018 of spike in seal strandings in southern Maine

Quickly able to view summer stranding data

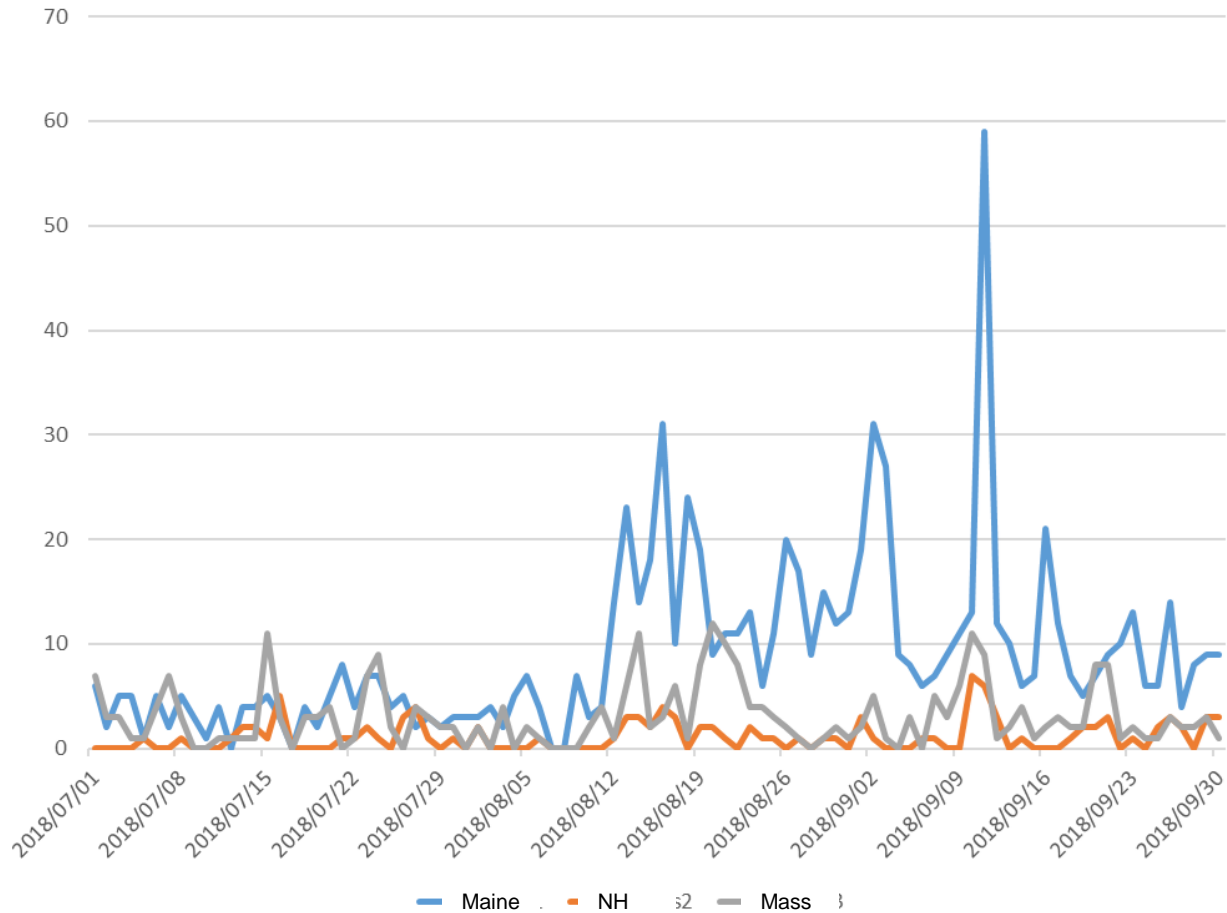
UME officially rolled out August 31



Monthly Seal Strandings in Maine through Virginia



Harbor and Gray Seal Strandings



Daily Strandings (Updated Every Monday) ☆ 📄 🌐

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A1:F1 fx *Updated 1/23/2023 to include 6/1/2022 through 1/23/2023

	A	B	C	D	E	F
14	Maine County	Gray Seal	Harbor Seal	Unknown	Total	
15	York	3	12	0	15	
16	Cumberland	1	53	7	61	
17	Sagadahoc	3	21	1	25	
18	Lincoln	1	23	3	27	
19	Knox	1	10	0	11	
20	Waldo	0	0	0	0	
21	Hancock	0	5	4	9	
22	Washington	0	1	1	2	
23	Total	9	125	16	150	
24						
25	Maine Pinniped Strandings August 2022					
26	Maine County	Gray Seal	Harbor Seal	Unknown	Total	
27	York	1	11	0	12	
28	Cumberland	2	11	4	17	
29	Sagadahoc	2	10	2	14	
30	Lincoln	1	8	0	9	
31	Knox	0	1	1	2	
32	Waldo	0	0	0	0	
33	Hancock	4	7	1	12	
34	Washington	0	1	0	1	
35	Total	10	49	8	67	
36						
37	Maine Pinniped Strandings September 2022					
38	Maine County	Gray Seal	Harbor Seal	Unknown	Total	
39	York	0	7	1	8	
40	Cumberland	1	10	2	13	
41	Sagadahoc	1	4	0	5	
42	Lincoln	0	8	0	8	
43	Knox	0	2	0	2	
44	Waldo	1	1	0	2	

+ ☰ Totals ▾ 2022 Totals ▾ MMoME Data ▾ Allied Whale I

2022 Seal UME - Avian Influenza

Rapid tracking of numbers

Developed sheet for tracking of samples collected, being processed and test results



Public communication



WAMU 88.5
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

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SCIENCE

An unusually high number of whales are washing up on U.S. beaches

February 5, 2023 · 5:03 AM ET

BILL CHAPPELL



National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

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NOAA Fisheries to discuss East Coast whale strandings

Experts from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to participate

Focus areas: Fisheries Topics: whales, media teleconference

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January 18, 2023



Thank you to our GAR network partners and NOAA staff who support this data collection and analysis!

