

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: _____

Stranding Agreement or Authority: _____

<p>LOCATION OF INITIAL OBSERVATION</p> <p>State: _____ County: _____</p> <p>City: _____</p> <p>Body of Water: _____</p> <p>Locality Details: _____</p> <p>Lat (DD): _____ N</p> <p>Long (DD): _____ W</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated</p> <p>How Determined: (check ONE)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GPS <input type="checkbox"/> Map <input type="checkbox"/> Internet/Software</p>	<p>OCURRENCE DETAILS <input type="checkbox"/> Restrand GE# _____</p> <p>Group Event: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (NMFS Use)</p> <p>If Yes, Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Cow/Calf Pair <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Stranding # Animals: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated</p> <p>Findings of Human Interaction: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Could Not Be Determined (CBD)</p> <p>If Yes, Choose one or more: <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Boat Collision <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Shot <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Fishery Interaction</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other Human Interaction: _____</p> <p>How Determined (Check one or more): <input type="checkbox"/> External Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Necropsy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>Gear Collected? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Gear Disposition: _____</p> <p>Other Findings Upon Level A: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Could Not Be Determined (CBD)</p> <p>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"/> External Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Necropsy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>
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INITIAL OBSERVATION

Date: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____

First Observed: Beach or Land Floating Swimming

CONDITION AT INITIAL OBSERVATION (Check ONE)

1. Alive 4. Advanced Decomposition

2. Fresh dead 5. Mummified/Skeletal

3. Moderate decomposition 6. Condition Unknown

LEVEL A EXAMINATION Not Able to Examine

Date: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____

CONDITION AT EXAMINATION (Check ONE)

1. Alive 4. Advanced Decomposition

2. Fresh dead 5. Mummified/Skeletal

3. Moderate decomposition 6. Unknown

INITIAL LIVE ANIMAL DISPOSITION (Check one or more)

1. Left at Site 6. Euthanized at Site

2. Immediate Release at Site 7. Transferred to Rehabilitation:

3. Relocated Date: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____

Facility: _____

4. Disentangled 8. Died during Transport

5. Died at Site 9. Euthanized during Transport

10. Other: _____

CONDITION/DETERMINATION (Check one or more)

1. Sick 7. Location Hazardous

2. Injured a. To animal

3. Out of Habitat b. To public

4. Deemed Releasable 8. Unknown/CBD

5. Abandoned/Orphaned 9. Other: _____

6. Inaccessible _____

MORPHOLOGICAL DATA

SEX (Check ONE) **AGE CLASS** (Check ONE)

1. Male 1. Adult 4. Pup/Calf

2. Female 2. Subadult 5. Unknown

3. Unknown 3. Yearling

Whole Carcass Partial Carcass

Straight length: _____ cm in actual estimated

Weight: _____ kg lb actual estimated

PHOTOS/VIDEOS TAKEN: YES NO

Photo/Video Disposition: _____

TAG DATA Tags Were:

Present at Time of Stranding (Pre-existing): YES NO

Applied during Stranding Response: YES NO

ID#	Color	Type	Placement* (Circle ONE)	Applied	Present
_____			D DF L LF LR RF RR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____			D DF L LF LR RF RR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____			D DF L LF LR RF RR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* D= Dorsal; DF= Dorsal Fin; L= Lateral Body
LF= Left Front; LR= Left Rear; RF= Right Front; RR= Right Rear

CARCASS STATUS (Check one or more)

1. Left at Site 4. Towed: Lat _____ Long _____ 7. Landfill

2. Buried 5. Sunk: Lat _____ Long _____ 8. Unknown

3. Rendered 6. Frozen for Later Examination 9. Other: _____

SPECIMEN DISPOSITION (Check one or more)

1. Scientific collection 2. Educational collection

3. Other: _____

Comments: _____

NECROPSIED NO YES Limited Complete

Carcass Fresh Carcass Frozen/Thawed

NECROPSIED BY: _____

Date: Year: _____ Month: _____ Day: _____

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS FOR LEVEL A VERSION 2007

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Field #: Assign each stranding event a unique identifier. Format is open to each agency's requirements; however, please remain consistent within your agency.

NMFS Regional #: Leave this blank. NMFS will assign a regional number consistent with the National Marine Mammal Stranding Database.

National Database #: Leave this blank. NMFS will assign a national database number consistent with the National Marine Mammal Stranding Database.

Common Name: The common name of the stranded animal. If identity is not determined to species, describe the level to which the remains can be identified. (Example: unknown, pinniped/cetacean, otariid/phocid, or odontocete/mysticete, delphinid/phocoenid, etc.)

Genus/Species: This is the Latin name for the animal in standard binomial nomenclature. If either genus or species is not identifiable, fill in the appropriate blank with "UNKNOWN."

Examiner: Name of the examiner who is submitting the report. This should be the individual who is responsible for preparing the entire level A stranding report, not necessarily the note taker or a public citizen who first reported the animal

Affiliation: Affiliation of the examiner who is submitting the report. This could be the same organization as listed below under "Stranding Agreement or Authority", a Designee organization (designee of an Stranding Agreement holder), the agency of a federal, state, or local government official authorized under MMPA Section 109(h), public, citizen or none.

Address: Mailing address of the examiners Stranding Agreement organization or government agency office.

Phone: Daytime (Work) phone number where the examiner may be reached for further comment. NOTE: Please include only business addresses and phone numbers, to prevent the release of personal information to the public.

Stranding Agreement or Authority: Stranding Agreement holder or agency through which the examiner has been authorized to take marine mammals or marine mammal parts. If the examiner is the member of a "Designee Organization" record the name of the Stranding Agreement holder under whom the examiners organization is designated. If the examiner is operating under 109(h) authority, include the name of the government organization.

LOCATION OF INITIAL OBSERVATION

State, County, and City: The standard state, county, and city names for the stranding location. For floating carcasses (U.S. waters between 3 and 200 miles offshore), fill State with “EEZ” and closest state. This should include boroughs, parishes, provinces, islands, commonwealths, and territories.

Body of Water: The major ocean basin closest to the site where the animal was observed stranded (e.g., Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Alaska) and describe the specific location in “Locality Details”.

Locality Details: Using known landmarks (access point, mile markers, street addresses etc), describe the precise locality where the animal was found. Compass bearings and relative distances are useful but GPS coordinates are preferred. For animals swimming or floating, this should include the referencing the associated ocean, sea, gulf, bay, inlet, estuary, or river.

GPS Coordinates: Documentation in decimal degrees is **required**. NOTE: Negative longitude represents the Western Hemisphere, positive longitude represents the Eastern Hemisphere, negative latitude represents the Southern Hemisphere, and positive latitude represents the Northern Hemisphere. Note that most GPS units can be set to display latitude and longitude in the decimal degree format and there are many lat/long conversion websites on the internet.

Actual or Estimated: Indicate if the latitude/longitude coordinates are exact (from a GPS unit) or an estimate (based on a map, website, previous strandings, known lat/longs for landmarks, etc.).

How Determined: Indicate how the latitude/longitude coordinates were obtained. Check the box that represents method of data collection:

- **Global Positioning System (GPS)**
- **Map**
- **Software program/Internet website**

OCCURRENCE DETAILS - The occurrence details help define the reason for the response and details associated with the stranding event.

Restrand - Check this box if the animal has previously stranded, either responded to by your organization or another. The animal may have tags from a rehabilitation facility, or may have recognizable and distinctive features. If this box is checked, you should indicate the previous field numbers assigned to this animal (by your facility or others), if known, on the back of the form in the space marked “Additional Identifiers.”

GE # - Leave this blank. NMFS will assign a regional designation to represent the “Group Event Number”.

Group Event - A group event is a stranding event which involves two or more animals, either simultaneously or over a period of time.

If Yes - identify the type of group event. These designations are not exclusive, more than one option may be selected:

Cow/Calf Pair – this would be two animals stranding where one is the mother and the other is the offspring (a mom/pup pair would also qualify).

Mass Stranding - this is 2 or more cetaceans that simultaneously strand, other than cow-calf pairs.

- **Number of Animals** - Indicate the number of cetaceans involved in the mass stranding, and whether this count is an “Actual” or “Estimate” count.

NOTE: Animals may be involved in other types of group events that will be determined after the Level A data sheet is filled out and submitted. These animals will be assigned a “**Group Event Number (GE#)**” and the group event fields will be incorporated into a separate database in the National Database by the Regional Stranding Coordinator or by the Onsite Coordinator if the case of Unusual Mortality Event. Examples of these types of events include:

- “*hazmat or oil spill*” - any animal affected by a spill of oil or another hazardous material;
- “*pre-event investigation*” - animals sampled after a group event is suspected, but before it has been officially designated as an Unusual Mortality Event by the Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events (WGMMUME);
- “*unusual mortality event*” - any animal part of a die-off that has been officially designated as a UME by the WGMMUME; and
- “*repeat event*” - animals stranding during a die-off that has been designated as a repeat event by the WGMMUME.

If you wish, you may update your Level A datasheet for your records to reflect the Group Event number that will be listed in the National Database after the Regional Stranding Coordinator has verified the entry.

Findings of Human Interaction - This field does not represent cause of stranding or cause of death. These data should not be used out of context or without verification.

Check “Yes” if there are any signs or evidence of human interaction (HI), whether or not you believe they were the cause of death. If you check “Yes,” use the back of this form in ADDITIONAL REMARKS to further explain the nature of the injury (or evidence) and how it was assessed and determined to be human related. If possible, document injuries or marks with photographs or sketches/drawings. Describe the injury or mark, the type of fishing gear recovered the location of any wounds (gunshot, fishing gaff, knife incision, line or net entanglement, etc.). Note any external markings or color patterns and if the injury or mark could be determined as antemortem or postmortem (i.e., if animal

seen with injury when alive or by histological confirmation). Also, describe any relevant circumstances regarding the interaction (e.g., whether the interaction was witnessed). Please indicate if you used the Protocol developed by the Virginia Aquarium and Cape Cod Stranding Network entitled “2006 *Protocol for Examining Marine Mammal for Signs of Human Interaction*” and attach a copy of the completed Form to the Level A Data sheet. Also indicate if you have attended training on this protocol.

Check “No” if the animal was examined and there was no indication of human interaction. Check

“Check Could not Be Determined (CBD)” if there is insufficient evidence to indicate an interaction, the animal was not thoroughly examined, the animal was too decomposed for a thorough examination, there may have been signs of something that may have been a human interaction but you can’t tell for sure, or the observer does not feel competent to determine this type of injury (do not guess).

If you checked “Yes”, check the box that most accurately details the type of human interaction:

Boat Collision - Check if there are any signs of boat or ship collision such as propeller wounds or blunt trauma from a boat hull.

Shot - Check if there are any signs of gunshots. Add in the comments how this was determined (metal detector, bullet found, etc.)

Fishery Interaction - Check if there are any signs of fishery interaction such as wounds related to fishing gear, or fishing gear attached to the animal.

Other Human Interaction - If you checked “Yes” and there were signs of human interactions other than those listed, please describe in this blank. This could include signs of as ingested plastic, debris entanglement, wounds from other weapons besides firearms (arrows, harpoons, etc.), non-boat vessel related injuries (car or train collision, etc.), mutilation, etc. Use the back of this form under “ADDITIONAL REMARKS” to continue your description, if necessary.

How Determined - If you checked “Yes” or “No”, describe how the signs of human interaction were determined:

- **External Exam** – The entire external surface of animal is visually assessed for signs of HI. If the entire surface could not be examined, please state why and which parts were looked at (e.g., large whale could not be turned over, only dorsal surface examined)
- **Internal Exam** - The response included an examination of some or all of the body cavity. However, the condition of the animal or other factors precluded the collection and analysis of samples from internal organs. Please indicate in the

ADDITIONAL REMARKS section the systems examined and not examination as well as examination findings.

- **Necropsy** – a necropsy was done, detailed information was documented, and internal tissues were collected for analysis. Please refer to the definitions and check whether the necropsy was limited or complete in the section below entitled “SPECIEMEN DISPOSITION.”
- **Other** – other obvious signs of HI including presence of gear, and eye witness account of a human interaction.

Gear Collected - Check “Yes” if you collected fishery gear from the animal (hook, line, net, etc.). Check “No” if you did not collect any gear, or if there was no gear to collect.

Gear Disposition - If you checked “Yes”, use this line to indicate what was done with that gear (i.e. sent to NMFS Enforcement or Regional Stranding Coordinator), or where the gear is housed.

Other Findings Upon Level A - Check “Yes” if there are any signs or evidence of other (non-human related interaction) findings related to the stranding, whether or not you believe they were the cause of death; check “No” if there was no indication of other factors; check “CBD” if there is insufficient evidence to indicate. Non-human related injuries or disease may include signs of infectious or parasitic disease and signs of trauma from beaching, conspecific interactions/aggression, interspecific interactions, scavengers and predators, etc. See above definition of external and internal exam for more description. Also, document if the animal was pregnant and in other findings – include comments.

If Yes, choose one or more – check the box that most accurately details the other factors:

- **Illness**
- **Injury**
- **Pregnant**
- **Other** (indicate what was found)

How Determined (check one or more) – if you noted other findings than HI signs, check how this was determined (please use the back of this form in **ADDITIONAL REMARKS** section to include more detail):

- **External Exam** (see above for definition)
- **Internal Exam** (see above for definition)
- **Necropsy** (see above for definition)
- **Other** – document the process

INITIAL OBSERVATION

Date - Enter the date the stranded animal was first observed by any witness. This is the earliest known date of observation of the stranded animal.

First Observed - Check the appropriate box that indicates the how the animal was initially observed:

- **Beach or Land**
- **Floating (in the water)**
- **Swimming.**

Condition at Initial Observation - Check the appropriate box that indicates the physical state of the animal or carcass on the date of the initial observation:

- **Alive (Code 1):** Check this box if the animal was alive at the initial observation.
- **Fresh Dead (Code 2):** Check this box if the carcass was in good condition (fresh/edible). Normal appearance, usually with little scavenger damage; fresh smell; minimal drying and wrinkling of skin, eyes and mucous membranes; eyes clear; carcass not bloated, tongue and penis not protruded; blubber firm and white; muscles firm, dark red, well-defined; blood cells intact, able to settle in a sample tube; serum unhemolyzed; viscera intact and well-defined, gut contains little or no gas; brain firm with no discoloration, surface features distinct, easily removed intact.
- **Moderate Decomposition (Code 3):** Check this box if the carcass was in fair condition (decomposed, but organs basically intact). Carcass intact, bloating evident (tongue and penis protruded) and skin cracked and sloughing; possible scavenger damage; characteristic mild odor; mucous membranes dry, eyes sunken or missing; blubber blood-tinged and oily; muscles soft and poorly defined; blood hemolyzed, uniformly dark red; viscera soft, friable, mottled, but still intact; gut dilated by gas; brain soft, surface features distinct, dark reddish cast, fragile but can usually be moved intact.
- **Advanced Decomposition (Code 4):** Check this box if the carcass was in poor condition (advanced decomposition). Carcass may be intact, but collapsed; skin sloughing; epidermis of cetaceans may be entirely missing; often severe scavenger damage; strong odor; blubber soft, often with pockets of gas and pooled oil; muscles nearly liquefied and easily torn, falling easily off bones; blood thin and black; viscera often identifiable but friable, easily torn, and difficult to dissect; gut gas-filled; brain soft, dark red, containing gas pockets, pudding-like consistency.
- **Mummified/Skeletal (Code 5):** Check this box if mummified or skeletal remains. Skin may be draped over skeletal remains; any remaining tissues are desiccated.
- **Unknown:** Check this box if the stranded animal was dead at the time of initial observation but information on the condition of the carcass is unavailable.

LEVEL A EXAMINATION

Date – Enter the date of examination that the animal was responded to and examined by your organization to collect Level A data (location, condition, signs of human interaction, species, sex, age class, length, weight, and any other visual observations). Complete morphometrics and necropsy could be taken later.

Not Able to Examine - Check this box if you were unable to examine the animal. Some examples would be: the animal was inaccessible (at the bottom of a cliff, on an island, floating, etc.); the animal washed out with the tide before you responded; manpower/time constraints made a response impossible; etc.

Condition at Examination - Check the appropriate box that indicates the physical state of the animal or carcass on the date of the Level A examination:

- **Alive (Code 1):** Check this box if the animal was alive at the initial observation.
- **Fresh Dead (Code 2):** Check this box if the carcass was in good condition (fresh/edible). Normal appearance, usually with little scavenger damage; fresh smell; minimal drying and wrinkling of skin, eyes and mucous membranes; eyes clear; carcass not bloated, tongue and penis not protruded; blubber firm and white; muscles firm, dark red, well-defined; blood cells intact, able to settle in a sample tube; serum unhemolyzed; viscera intact and well-defined, gut contains little or no gas; brain firm with no discoloration, surface features distinct, easily removed intact.
- **Moderate Decomposition (Code 3):** Check this box if the carcass was in fair condition (decomposed, but organs basically intact). Carcass intact, bloating evident (tongue and penis protruded) and skin cracked and sloughing; possible scavenger damage; characteristic mild odor; mucous membranes dry, eyes sunken or missing; blubber blood-tinged and oily; muscles soft and poorly defined; blood hemolyzed, uniformly dark red; viscera soft, friable, mottled, but still intact; gut dilated by gas; brain soft, surface features distinct, dark reddish cast, fragile but can usually be moved intact.
- **Advanced Decomposition (Code 4):** Check this box if the carcass was in poor condition (advanced decomposition). Carcass may be intact, but collapsed; skin sloughing; epidermis of cetaceans may be entirely missing; often severe scavenger damage; strong odor; blubber soft, often with pockets of gas and pooled oil; muscles nearly liquefied and easily torn, falling easily off bones; blood thin and black; viscera often identifiable but friable, easily torn, and difficult to dissect; gut gas-filled; brain soft, dark red, containing gas pockets, pudding-like consistency.
- **Mummified/Skeletal (Code 5):** Check this box if mummified or skeletal remains. Skin may be draped over skeletal remains; any remaining tissues are desiccated.
- **Unknown:** Check this box if the stranded animal was dead at the time of initial observation but information on the condition of the carcass is unavailable.

INITIAL LIVE ANIMAL DISPOSITION - Indicate what action(s) was/were taken to handle a live animal (NOTE: check all that apply at the time of completing the Level A examination):

- **Left at Site:** Check if the animal was reported, and was confirmed stranded by a reliable source and acknowledged by the Regional Coordinator, but no response

was made; or the animal was observed by the response team, but no other actions were taken.

- **Immediate Release at Site:** Check if the animal was reported and treated or evaluated, but was not removed from the site.
- **Relocated:** Check if the animal was evaluated or treated, was removed from the site of stranding, and was transported and released at another site without being admitted to an authorized rehabilitation facility.
- **Disentangled:** Check if the animal had entangling gear removed and was released/swam away.
- **Euthanized at Site:** Check if the animal was found alive but was euthanized by an authorized entity.
- **Died at Site:** Check if the animal was found alive and died before transport to an authorized rehabilitation facility or relocation.
- **Transferred to Rehabilitation:** Check if the animal was transported to an authorized rehabilitation facility.
 - **Date** - Fill in the date of the transfer
 - **Facility** - Fill in the name of the authorized rehabilitation facility to which the animal was transferred.
- **Died during Transport:** Check if the animal was found alive and died during transport to a care facility.
- **Euthanized during Transport:** Check if the animal was found alive and was euthanized during transport to an authorized rehabilitation facility by an authorized entity.
- **Other:** Check if the disposition of the live animal differs from the options listed above and document here.

CONDITION/DETERMINATION - Indicate the condition of the animal at the time of the response. This question should help provide your reasoning for the disposition that was selected. (NOTE: Check all that apply).

- **Sick:** Check if the animal appears sick or is behaving oddly, with no external signs of injury.
- **Injured:** Check if the animal shows evidence of physical injury.
- **Out of Habitat:** Check if the animal was found in area not typical for its species. This could include atypical location and time of year for its known life history. Generally an out of habitat case involves a free swimming animal that is reported in an area outside it's normal habitat, tends to remain there for a period of time, and may need intervention to return to it's normal habitat (e.g. a bottlenose dolphin in a freshwater river that doesn't leave on its own accord, an ice seal in Florida, or a humpback whale in an embayment). This does not include a typical live stranding of an offshore species close to the beach.
- **Deemed Releasable:** Check if the animal shows no outward signs of illness or injury.
- **Abandoned/Orphaned:** Check if the animal is a cetacean calf found stranded on

the beach without an adult female, or a pup/calf that has been monitored and determined to be abandoned. The length of time that the animal should be observed without intervention may be up to 48 hours and varies by region; check with your Regional Stranding Coordinator for your regional policy.

- **Inaccessible**: Check if the animal is in an inaccessible location and therefore was not closely examined (condition could not be determined). Examples of inaccessible locations include: at the base of a cliff, areas with dangerous surf conditions, mudflats, islands, ice, etc.
- **Location Hazardous**
 - **To Animal** - Check if the animal is in a location that is deemed hazardous to its health and welfare (i.e. up a freshwater river, pinnipeds found inland, etc.)
 - **To Public** - Check if the animal is in a location that is deemed hazardous to the public (i.e. a crowded public beach, a marina, etc.)
- **Unknown/CBD**: Check if the animal could not be examined or if the condition could not be determined.
- **Other**: Describe any other situation not addressed above.

MORPHOLOGICAL DATA

SEX (Check One): Check the box indicating the animal's sex, or check "Unknown" if unable to determine.

AGE CLASS (check One): Check the box indicating the animal's age class. If possible, use information based on reproductive organs, teeth or accepted length/age data:

- **Adult**: This age class would be used for an animal that is judged or found upon necropsy to be sexually mature.
- **Subadult**: This age class would be used for a animal that is judged to be greater than one year old, but not yet mature.
- **Yearling**: This age class would be used for an animal that is judged to be approximately one year old, using length or time of year.
- **Pup/Calf**: This age class would be used for a stranded animal that is smaller than yearling size, or in a population where it would be younger than one year old.
- **Unknown**: This age class would be used for an animal if you are unable to determine its age.

Whole Carcass: Check the box if the carcass is sufficiently intact for the Level A morphometric data (straight length, weight) to be collected.

Partial Carcass: Check the box if the carcass is **not** sufficiently intact for the Level A morphometric data (straight length, weight) to be collected. If you measure the remains of the carcass, the metric (weight or length) must be entered as "estimated". Also record what part is missing in the ADDITIONAL REMARKS section on the back of this form. If neither length nor weight is measured, enter "**zero**" in the respective blanks.

Straight Length - Record the straight length (not contoured) of the animal on the date of initial examination.

- **cm** = centimeters (preferred)
- **in** = inches
 - **actual** = Check if this was an actual measurement (physical measurement)
 - **estimated** = Check if this was an estimated measurement (visual measurement). For example, if the carcass is not intact (e.g. flukes degraded or severed, head missing, etc. and record what part is missing in the ADDITIONAL REMARKS section on the back of this form.
- **Weight** - Record the weight of the animal on the date of initial examination. Please check if this was an actual or estimated measurement.
 - **kg** = kilograms (preferred)
 - **lb** = pounds
 - **actual** = Check if this was an actual measurement (physical measurement)
 - **estimated** = Check if this was an estimated measurement (visual measurement) or if the carcass was not intact. Record what part is missing in the ADDITIONAL REMARKS section on the back of this form.

PHOTOS/VIDEO Taken - Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether visual media was taken of this stranding event.

- **Photo/Video Disposition** - If photos or video were taken of the event, use this line to indicate where these documents are housed.

TAG DATA

Present at Time of Stranding (Pre-existing) - Mark “YES” if tags or identification markings were pre-existing (present on the animal at the time of stranding).

Applied During Stranding Response - Mark “YES” if tags or identification markings were applied by the stranding response organization (i.e. prior to release at stranding or relocation site, to prevent a carcass from being double-counted, etc.).

NOTE: If no tags were present or applied, the responder should check “NO” for both boxes and skip the rest of the section.

Document details about the type, color, and placement of identification tags, brands, or markings:

ID# - Write the number(s) of the identifying tag(s), brand(s), or other applied marking(s), if applicable.

Color - Using basic color-names, indicate the identifying color of tags where applicable.

Type - List the type of tag, brand, or other applied marking. For example, radio, PIT, plastic, roto, spaghetti, satellite, freeze brand, bleach mark, paint, etc.

Placement - Circle (ONE) the location of each applied/present marking:

D = dorsal body

DF = dorsal fin

L = lateral body

LF = left front flipper/appendage

LR = left rear flipper/appendage

RF = right front flipper/appendage

RR = right rear flipper/appendage

Applied = Check “Applied” for each of the tags, brands, or other makings that were applied after the animal stranded, as part of the stranding or rescue response. If the animal was rehabilitated and released with tags or markings, you may update this part of the Level A form after they are applied.

Present = Check “Present” for each of the tags, brands, or other markings that were already present when the animal stranded.

CARCASS/SPECIMEN DISPOSITION

CARCASS STATUS (Check all that apply) - Check the following boxes to indicate how the carcass was disposed:

- **Left at site** - Check this box if the carcass, including skeleton, was left where it was found to decompose.
- **Buried** - Check this box if most of the carcass, including skeleton, was buried.
- **Rendered** - Check this box if the carcass, including skeleton, was rendered.
- **Towed** - Check this box if the carcass, including skeleton, was towed to sea. Fill in the latitude and longitude of the position where the carcass was left.
- **Sunk** - Check this box if the carcass, including skeleton, was sunk. Fill in the latitude and longitude of the position where the carcass was sunk..
- **Frozen for later examination** - Check this box if all or most of the carcass and/or skeleton was retained and frozen for later examination.
- **Landfill** - Check this box if the carcass, including skeleton, was sent to a landfill or other waste facility.
- **Unknown** - Check this box if the fate of the carcass is unknown or if the carcass was lost.
- **Other** – Check this box if the fate of the carcass is other than what is listed above and document here.

SPECIMEN DISPOSITION (Check all that apply) – Check the following boxes to indicate if nondiagnostic specimens were collected for scientific, educational, or other purposes (i.e., skin for genetics, blubber for contaminants, bones for collection, etc.). The disposition (both transitory and final) of these specimens should be recorded on the back of the form under “ADDITIONAL REMARKS.” Please check with your NMFS regional stranding coordinator regarding marine mammal parts authorizations prior to retention and transfer.

- **Scientific collection** - check this box if specimens from the live animal or carcass, including skeletal parts, were retained for scientific research.
- **Educational collection** - check this box if specimens from the live animal or carcass, including skeletal parts, were retained for educational purposes.

- **Other** - check this box if the fate of specimens from the live animal or carcass, including skeletal parts, was other than that above and briefly indicate the disposition.
- **Comments** - List comments regarding disposition of the specimen (i.e., identifying which tissues were collected and retained, differentiating where tissues were sent, etc.).

NECROPSY - Indicate “YES” if a necropsy was completed to obtain Level-C data.

- **Limited Necropsy** - A partial necropsy includes a detailed exam of the carcass in which some of the organs or systems are examined, collected, and analyzed according to established protocols, but either the condition of the animal or other factors limits a complete necropsy. Please indicate in the **ADDITIONAL REMARKS** section the systems examined and not examination as well as examination findings.
- **Complete necropsy** - A complete necropsy consists of a detailed exam where the majority of organs are examined, collected (i.e., if feasible, this could include tissues for histopathology) and analyzed according to established protocols. This will include documenting any internal lesions, bruising, or broken/fractured bones, and examining the entire GI tract for lesions, foreign material, gear, and other natural contents (e.g. food), and the lungs/bronchi. A necropsy report is generated and disseminated to the pathologist on record.
- **Carcass Fresh** = Check if the necropsy was conducted on a fresh carcass (not frozen before examination).
- **Carcass Frozen/Thawed** = Check if the necropsy was conducted on a carcass that was frozen and thawed.

NECROSPIED BY - List the name and contact information of the primary person/facility who conducted the necropsy.

Date – List the date when the necropsy was done.

BACK OF FORM

ADDITIONAL IDENTIFIERS: Include any additional information related to the Field ID number or identification of the stranding event. Examples include: previous Field ID numbers if this animal previously stranded; ID numbers assigned by other organizations (including authorized rehabilitation facilities to which the animal is transferred), former identification numbers from scientific research projects, etc.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS: Include comments, and list other data sheets that may have been completed such as human interaction, morphometrics, necropsy, rehabilitation disposition, etc. Include further details or comments on any of the Level A data fields from the front of the sheet.