

False Killer Whale

Take Reduction Team Meeting #3

June 14-18, 2010 - Oahu, Hawaii

Reducing the severity of
injuries to hooked or entangled
false killer whales



Presented by

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Serious Injury Determination Takes = Mortalities and Serious Injuries

Serious Injury = "Any injury that will likely result in mortality" (NMFS, 50 CFR 229.2)

- April 1997: Serious Injury Workshop (*Angliss and DeMaster 1998, NOAA Tech Memo NMFS-OPR-13*)
- September 2007: Serious Injury Technical Workshop (*Andersen et al. 2008, NOAA Tech Memo NMFS-OPR-39*)

Differentiating Serious and Non-Serious Injury of Marine Mammals:

Report of the Serious Injury Technical Workshop
10-13 September 2007, Seattle, Washington

Workshop Steering Committee:
Melissa S. Andersen (Chair)
Karin A. Forney
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Tom Eagle
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United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

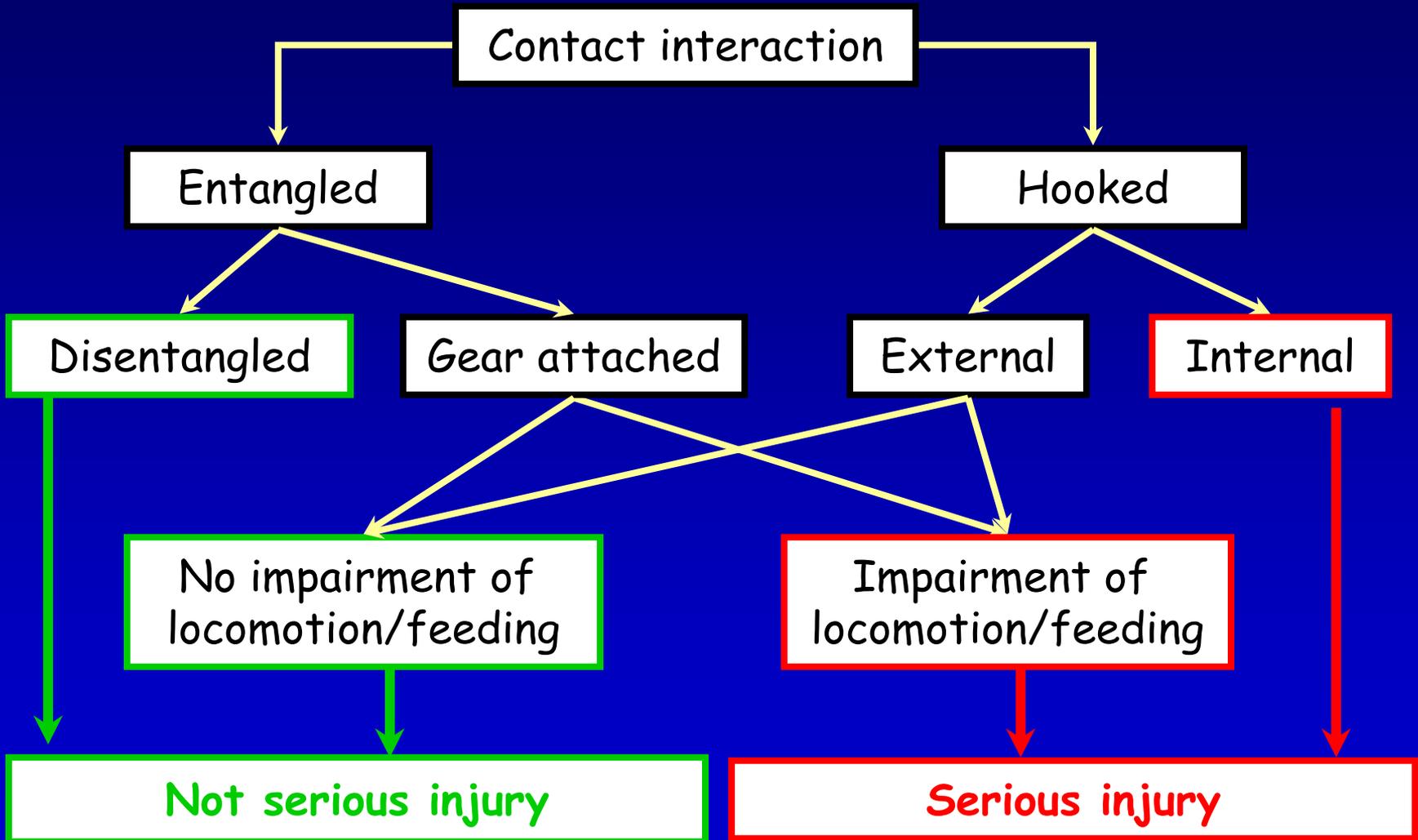
NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-OPR-39
September 2008

Serious Injury Determination Guidelines

1997 Workshop (Ancliss and DeMaster 1998)

- Marine mammal, fishery, and veterinary experts
- Serious injuries: impair feeding or locomotion
- Key recommendations relevant to longline fishery:
 - Serious:** Hooked internally (mouth, ingested)
Released with substantial gear attached
Swimming abnormally
 - Not serious:** Hooked externally (body, fluke)
Released with no or minimal gear

Serious injury determination



Updated Serious Injury Determination Guidelines

2007 Serious Injury Technical Workshop Report
(Andersen et al. 2008)

- Broadly reaffirmed previous determinations
- Clarified 'Substantial gear' = gear wrapped or with potential to wrap around appendages, beak, or head
- Should consider length of 'confinement' (capture myopathy = severe muscle tissue damage)
- Developed table with injury types to guide process

Potential methods of reducing severity

- Efficient removal of hook and all gear (e.g. hook removed / pulls out, without further injuries)

If animal is hooked in fluke/appendages, cut gear close enough to prevent wrapping of remaining line (~1-2ft, depending on animal size)

Complete disentanglement of animal that was wrapped in line, without further injuries

Trade-off between removing gear/sampling and minimizing time the animal is restrained

Serious Injury Determination - Examples

False killer whale hooked in fluke. Animal released with 20 ft of line attached.



Photo: NOAA-PIRO Observer Program

Remaining line is sufficiently long to have potential to wrap around appendages or tail stock, causing constriction or severing of appendages.

Therefore, animal is seriously injured.

False killer whale hooked in fluke, line cut with only 1 ft of line and hook attached.

Not in head area, cannot wrap around appendages or head

Therefore, animal is not seriously injured.

Serious vs. Not Serious Injuries

False killer whale hooked in mouth

→ Mouth/head hookings with hook remaining in animal are considered serious for dolphins and small whales because this impairs feeding.

Therefore, animal is seriously injured.

False killer whale hooked in mouth, hook straightened and all line & hook recovered

→ Although animal was hooked in mouth/head, the hook and line were completely removed and no longer would impair feeding.

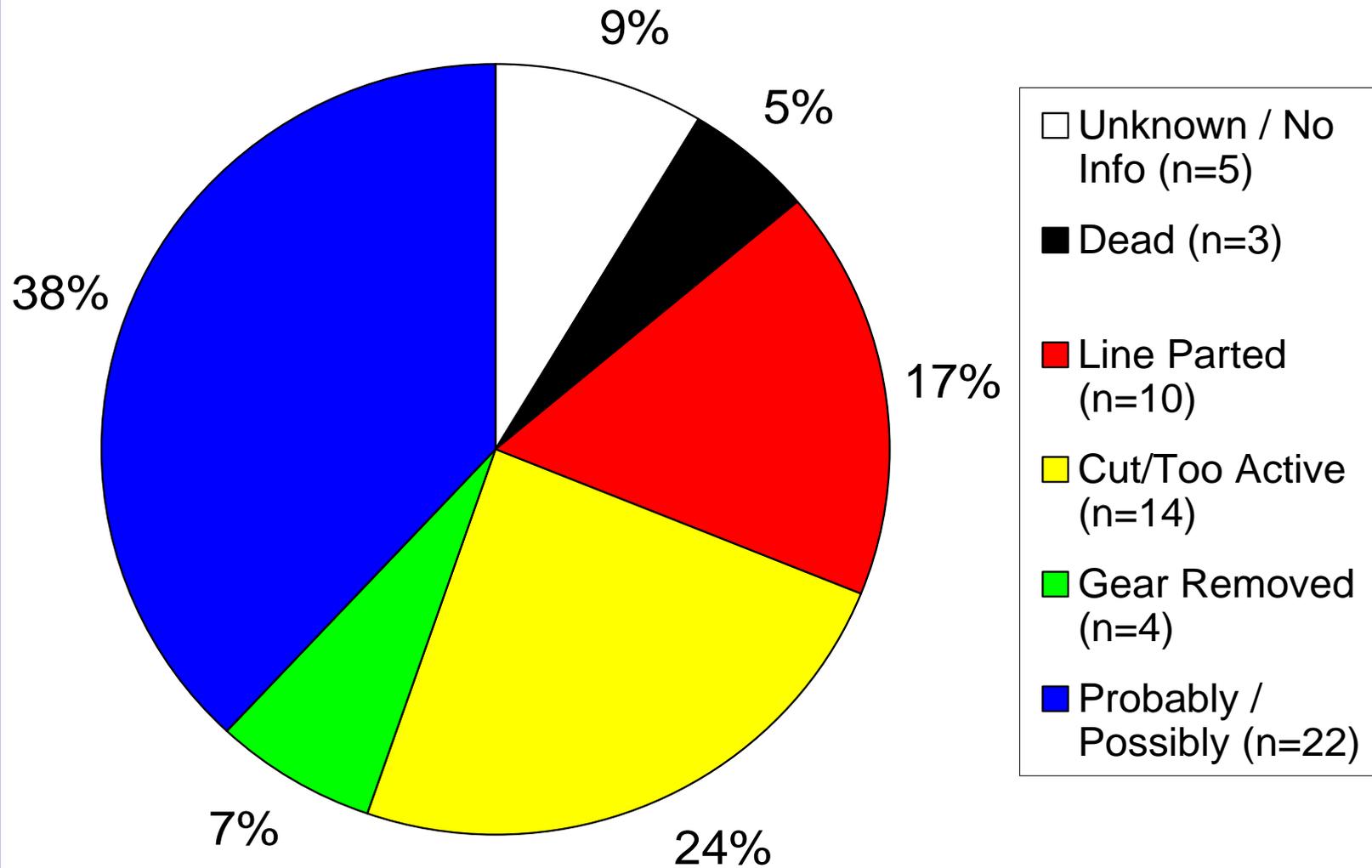
Therefore, animal is not seriously injured.



Photo: NOAA-PIRO Observer Program

Outcome of 58 interactions with false killer whales or unidentified 'blackfish'

(compiled by Michael Marsik, PIRO)



Questions?