

MARK TRAIL



WHEN A WHALE ACCIDENTALLY BEACHES ITSELF, IT CANNOT EXPAND ITS LUNGS BECAUSE OF ITS GREAT WEIGHT AND SOON SUCCUMBS TO SUFFOCATION



WHEN A STRANDING OCCURS, THE LOCAL STRANDING NETWORK TEAM RESPONDS AND COORDINATES THE RESCUE OR INVESTIGATION WITH NOAA FISHERIES' OR THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE DEPENDING ON THE SPECIES



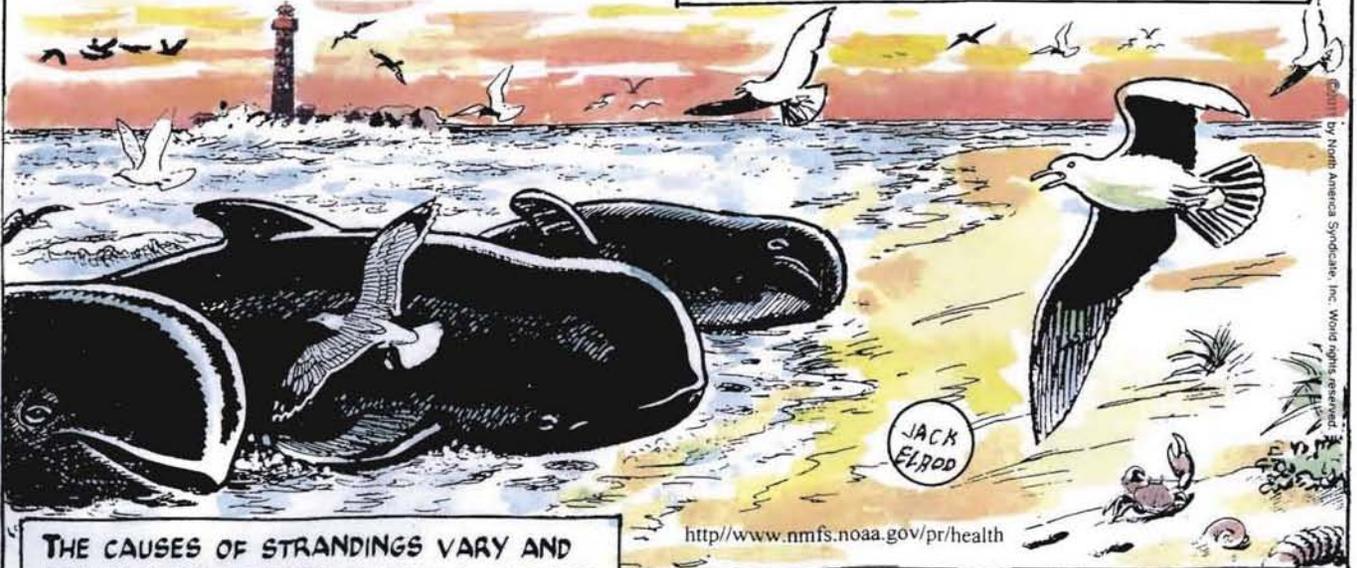
THE SEEMINGLY SUICIDAL RUNNING AGROUND OF WHALE HERDS HAS PUZZLED MANKIND FOR YEARS



IF THE ANIMAL IS FOUND DEAD, THE TEAM WILL EXAMINE THE CARCASS TO TRY AND DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF DEATH



THESE INVESTIGATIONS OFFER VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE BIOLOGY AND HEALTH OF OUR LIVING MARINE RESOURCES...



AND ALSO THE HEALTH OF OUR OCEANS AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS THAT MAY AFFECT PEOPLE WHO SHARE THE SAME WATERS AND FOOD RESOURCES

THE CAUSES OF STRANDINGS VARY AND CAN INCLUDE DISEASE, EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS, EXPOSURE TO NATURALLY OCCURRING BIOTOXINS, POLLUTION, NOISE TRAUMA OR OTHER UNKNOWN FACTORS

IF THE ANIMAL IS ALIVE, THE TEAM WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SAVE ITS LIFE AND RETURN IT TO THE WILD

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health>

8-21

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