

CIMS Teams chat

12-14 July 2021

[12/07 2:02 pm] [REDACTED]

Kia ora - apologies for lateness, needed to leave another meeting to get to this one

[12/07 2:14 pm] [REDACTED]

Is this one weaned?

[12/07 2:15 pm] [REDACTED]

No [REDACTED], it's too young to be weaned already

[12/07 2:15 pm] [REDACTED]

Need to understand pros and cons of all options. Also who's in charge here.

[12/07 2:18 pm] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] may be able to help with this, but it would be good to have veterinary support to make an informed decision around welfare, i.e. blood chemistry markers that indicate it's doing poorly, etc.

(1 liked)

[12/07 2:21 pm] [REDACTED]

I think what [REDACTED] said, having someone in the Kapiti office would make sense

[12/07 2:23 pm] [REDACTED]

Just note that the media phone line is not operational. best contact is via media inbox media@doc.govt.nz

[12/07 2:27 pm] [REDACTED]

Has anyone started pre-emptive conversations with iwi regarding the possibility of necropsy if it comes to that?

[12/07 2:30 pm] [REDACTED]

Sorry dropped out at the worst time ever... I have good contacts with the Welly Zoo vet team if you need me to reach out to them?

[12/07 2:31 pm] [REDACTED]

Might just need you to put [REDACTED] in touch with them, [REDACTED]. I think that's where the question arose.

[12/07 2:31 pm] [REDACTED]

Yep no worries!

[12/07 2:32 pm] [REDACTED]

I'm on leave Thurs-Friday as well...

[12/07 2:32 pm] [REDACTED]

Who's in charge of this calf?

[12/07 2:33 pm] [REDACTED]

if it's whale rescue - do we need them in the CIMS structure?

[12/07 2:33 pm] [REDACTED]

DOC should be decision maker

[12/07 2:33 pm] [REDACTED]

but whale-rescue are with the animal

[12/07 2:34 pm] [REDACTED]

I agree DOC should be - but who's making all the decisions right now?

[12/07 2:35 pm] [REDACTED]

Don't know

[12/07 2:51 pm] [REDACTED]

Would be good to have a sitrep. Also a plan for updating media

[12/07 2:59 pm] Ian Angus

Tauranga was DOC lead , in consultation Iwi and Whale Rescue

[12/07 3:00 pm] [REDACTED]

The estimate I received for the Tauranga incident was that a 1-year-old calf was estimated to be able to survive 19-23 days without food. It will presumably be less for this calf, which is younger.

[12/07 3:04 pm] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - I need to check in with you on something else when we're done with this hui.

(1 liked)

[12/07 3:05 pm] [REDACTED]

That's gonna get really cold real quick

[12/07 3:06 pm] [REDACTED]

Just on the phone to Wellington Zoo vet

[12/07 3:10 pm] [REDACTED]

It would be good if [REDACTED] could have some support on the ground.

[12/07 3:10 pm] [REDACTED]

Just noting that Porirua forecast is for 3 degrees overnight. Showers/light rain tomorrow.

(1 liked)

[12/07 3:14 pm] [REDACTED]

Security would need some messaging to rely on maybe?

(1 liked)

[12/07 3:15 pm] [REDACTED]

Who is authorising comms? I see Ian has been the spokesperson to far.

[12/07 3:16 pm] [REDACTED]

*so far, not to far

[12/07 3:16 pm] Ian Angus

Incident controller Jeff. So [REDACTED]. We just work on messages and present to [REDACTED] to approve.

(1 liked)

[12/07 3:17 pm] [REDACTED]

School holiday activity for bored parents

[12/07 3:20 pm] [REDACTED]

Will those updates be fed through to everyone here? The rest of us may also need to see the latest.

[13/07 4:32 pm] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[13/07 4:34 pm] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[13/07 4:37 pm] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(1 liked)

[13/07 4:41 pm] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[13/07 4:42 pm] [REDACTED]

Videos in response to [REDACTED] email. Excuse the commentary. Tried to take them when there were minimal people in the water.

[13/07 4:48 pm] [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED]. We will have a look and get back with any recommendations. At first glance, it would appear that there are still more human interactions than strictly necessary. There's one video where there's nobody near it and it still seems to detect the fence and move away, which suggests the people might not be needed to keep it from doing that.

[14/07 8:47 am] [REDACTED]

Hi all - It's good to see the calf moving more freely and the use of PPE by volunteers. It appears that it's still only swimming to the left, and we will seek expert advice as to whether this is a sign of underlying health issues, noting previous advice from [REDACTED]. We remain concerned about the number of interactions with people. This seems unlikely to be necessary as in one video there was nobody present and the calf still detected the fence and turned away. Continued repetitive interactions with people increase the likelihood of bonding/habituation, which is not aligned with the goal of returning this calf to the wild. We recommend that people are entirely removed from the confinement area unless the calf needs direct support or medical procedures are being undertaken. We have received this same advice (stop all of the human interactions) repeatedly from domestic and overseas experts.

(1 liked)

Technical Advice Teams chat
13-20 July 2021

[13/07 11:34 am] ██████████

██████████ has cancelled the CIMS meeting this afternoon, so I've asked Ian to provide me/us an update after they meet with Ingrid at 3 pm. In the meantime, we can sort out what's next at our 1 pm meeting.

(1 liked)

[13/07 12:10 pm] ██████████

Ian has asked if we can think about who might be able to step in and take over as incident controller and/or operations and logistics as this incident progresses. Most of the current Kapiti staff are scheduled for leave, so he's hoping we can make suggestions to help Jack Mace get people here to help.

[13/07 12:12 pm] Dave Lundquist

My thoughts on possibilities are: ██████████, and ██████████ or someone else from Tauranga who filled these roles in 2016. Any other thoughts?

[13/07 12:16 pm] ██████████

Kris Ramm has experience in CIMS. Dave Hunt? People in Manawatu office such as ██████████

[13/07 12:17 pm] ██████████

I will continue to think. I'm on SPREP from tomorrow afternoon and we are at a really important stage with that work so I can't get out of it

[13/07 12:17 pm] ██████████

██████████ in NP too

[13/07 12:18 pm] ██████████

People from Takaka

[13/07 12:55 pm] ██████████

Good ideas, thanks.

[13/07 1:45 pm] ██████████

I chatted to ██████████ about this and he suggested just emailing Ben Reddiex about the request for staff to cover CIMS roles as there are possibly several people who in theory could help.

[13/07 2:00 pm] ██████████

Good call, thanks.

[13/07 4:24 pm] ██████████

But also, what if it stays healthy for weeks if it is on medication and formula

[13/07 4:25 pm] ██████████

Yes, sorry that was indeed my follow up comment ██████████... definitely need to talk timelines and how long the recommendations are to continue searching if the health does stabilise and appear to be being maintained.

[13/07 4:26 pm] ██████████

I feel like we may end up with a medically stable calf and still no pod. Might be worth finding out from the Sea World team how long a female continues to lactate if she has lost the calf - might give us a good cut off point.

(2 liked)

[13/07 4:34 pm] [REDACTED]

You guys see the video that [REDACTED] provided in the CIMS chat? There are clearly still plenty of people in the water with it. [REDACTED]

[13/07 4:35 pm] [REDACTED]

Why are they constantly pushing it away from any boundary?

[13/07 4:37 pm] [REDACTED]

I assuming not wanting it to injure itself on the boundary? I saw the first photo - going to look at the rest now as well as the folder you have collated [REDACTED]

[13/07 4:38 pm] [REDACTED]

I think it would be ok bumping into a fence.

[13/07 4:43 pm] [REDACTED]

Hmm interesting... less hands on than yesterday at least and great seeing people with masks on. I would be interested in if it has had an opportunity to sleep at all. It is also currently only swimming to the left. [REDACTED] had talked about trying to get it to turn to the right as well which will definitely be important at some stage.

[13/07 4:43 pm] [REDACTED]

There was one video where nobody was keeping it away from the fence, and it clearly turned away and avoided it. I suspect there's some 'just wanting to help' going on, which isn't strictly necessary.

[13/07 4:44 pm] [REDACTED]

I still don't see why anyone needs to be in the water at all except during rehydration times.

[13/07 4:44 pm] [REDACTED]

I would be really interested in what happened if people were out of the water entirely. I note [REDACTED] said he took the videos when there were minimal people in the water which concerns me that this is not the norm.

(1 liked)

[13/07 4:44 pm] [REDACTED]

Exactly.

[13/07 4:44 pm] [REDACTED]

It seems to swim towards people when they are there.

[13/07 4:46 pm] [REDACTED]

Yep which might be good for short periods of physio (try get it turning to the right) but not needed all the time.

[13/07 4:46 pm] [REDACTED]

Also, DOC people on site should have the authority to tell people to get out of the water so we can watch it's behaviour. [REDACTED]

[13/07 4:47 pm] [REDACTED]

Also are we using Project Jonah volunteers or just members of the public? Might be nice to have PJ vollies who have been through some training and are aware of a marine mammal response team structure etc.

[13/07 4:47 pm] [REDACTED]

I dont know how to like your message [REDACTED]! but agree entirely!

[13/07 4:47 pm] [REDACTED]

I don't think any of this is DOC. [REDACTED]

[13/07 4:48 pm] [REDACTED]

Yeah I am aware... but I am sure PJ would be able to provide vollies [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[13/07 4:48 pm] [REDACTED]

I'm pretty sure PJ departed the scene yesterday

[13/07 4:49 pm] [REDACTED]

Yeah if it was DOC asking for volunteers that is what we would do, but it's not us asking.

[13/07 4:49 pm] [REDACTED]

I think that is happening regardless of what DOC says.

[13/07 4:49 pm] [REDACTED]

PJ would absolutely provide vollies if asked

[13/07 4:49 pm] [REDACTED]

I know they would, we manage our relationship with them. I don't think we should be encouraging this volunteer system

[13/07 4:50 pm] [REDACTED]

Sorry, plane boarding. Try catch you in ChCh otherwise will be 9ish from Invers.

[14/07 8:54 am] [REDACTED]

Did you see the shot of the calf upside down getting a belly and tail massage from Ingrid and [REDACTED]? While my initial reaction was poor, I'm actually wondering if this might be useful manipulation to deal with the turning in only one direction. [REDACTED], any thoughts?

[14/07 8:59 am] [REDACTED]

Last night at 3am, 5 people in the water



[14/07 10:19 am] [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED] - sorry slowest computer start up ever!

[14/07 10:20 am] [REDACTED]

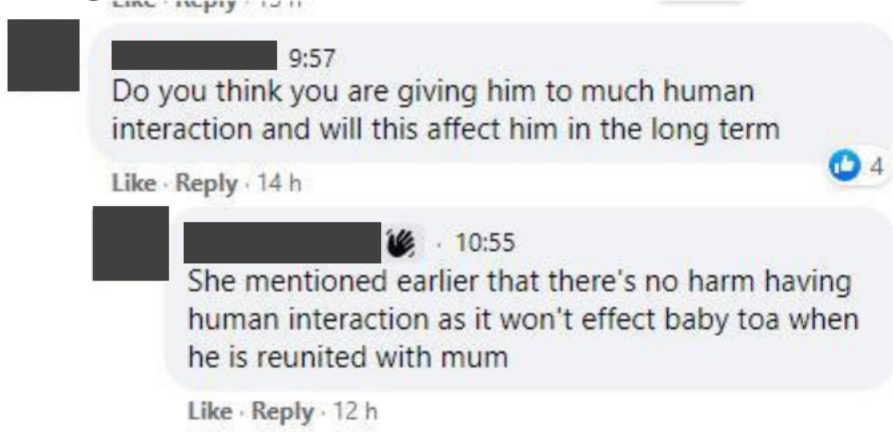
I did see the video and my reaction was the same as yours [REDACTED] but I also wondered if it was a "physiotherapy" type thing in which case I am comfortable with if jsut needs to be done with clear context applied

[14/07 10:21 am] [REDACTED]

Is there no way to get the general public away from the area and cut down the amount of content goign out on social media?

[14/07 10:22 am] [REDACTED]

According to what we've heard from Ian, and by this conversation on fb, there is zero interest in reducing human interaction



[14/07 10:23 am] [REDACTED]

128955

[14/07 10:23 am] [REDACTED]

Whoops! Sory, ignore the number. That is a shame re human interaction

[14/07 12:30 pm] [REDACTED]

Thanks for everything [REDACTED]!

Edited

[14/07 1:09 pm] [REDACTED]

Thanks for putting the log together, [REDACTED]. I've added a bit of text to cover on verbal advice from Monday.

[14/07 3:37 pm] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[14/07 3:46 pm] [REDACTED]

The last file is a pretty high-quality one sent through to the Marine Mammals inbox of orca which were seen in Wellington Harbour on 25th June. I'll put up a comparison of the eye patch with the current animal, but I don't think it's actually the same animal.



[14/07 3:48 pm] [REDACTED]

The back end of the eye patch on the Plimmerton calf doesn't look the same to me. It's more pointed and fades into the black, rather than other which looks rounded and more discrete. Thoughts?

[14/07 4:05 pm] [REDACTED]

Shared a file

[REDACTED]

[14/07 4:51 pm] [REDACTED]

Just to note: under the NOAA criteria this animal would be deemed "Non-releasable" due to its young age. According to their documents above, they're not fully weaned until 2-3 years and 4 m in length. Ingrid is pushing the "it could be weaned as early as 9 months", which might be possible in captivity but seems unlikely in the wild. So any plan to hold the animal until it's weaned is talking at least 6 months or more.

[14/07 4:58 pm] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], medical assessment discussion begins on page 36 of the standards for release. It looks light on specifics, so it would be appreciated if you could read this and coordinate with [REDACTED] and overseas folks to flesh out any detail required.

[14/07 5:09 pm] [REDACTED]

One last point: I'm mindful of the fact that everyone is taking Whale Rescue's word about the age estimate for this animal. In 2016 it turned out that the estimate being floated was likely significantly off, based on length of the calf (i.e. she said it was likely to be older than was plausible based on the measured size). So it would be good to get a robust length measurement and compare it to literature on length of known-age animals.

[14/07 5:11 pm] Dave Lundquist

Shared a file

[REDACTED]

[14/07 5:11 pm] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[14/07 8:52 pm] [REDACTED]

Thanks for the additional resources [REDACTED] Agreed, those two photos do not look like the same calf to me at all.

[14/07 8:54 pm] [REDACTED]

I am just about to start reading the vet email chain - will update if there are any other age estimates in there. I was intrigued to hear the Zoo team say the calf does not have an teeth - my impression from a conversation with another vet was that these come through at 3 months of age so definitely makes me think the age estimate might be off.

[14/07 10:08 pm] [REDACTED]

Dolphin Adventure Involvement in the Rescue of a Newborn Killer Whale IAAAM 2008

Dolphin Adventure Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico

Abstract

This is the first case of a stranded neonate killer whale (*Ornicus orca*) that was rescued from Matanchen beach in San Blas Nayarit, Mexico. Pascuala was a female, born approximately three days before she was rescued, weighing 165 kg and 2.38 m in length. The neonate was found with whiskers, presence of umbilical cord and absence of teeth. She had multiple severe skin lesions, unable to float by herself and continuously trembled.

Once in Dolphin Adventure facility she was isolated to a portable pen. We initially hydrated her with water followed by a milk formula suggested by SeaWorld of California. Analyses were performed, and an immunoglobulin shot was administered to the calf that was also provided by Seaworld.

One week after she was rescued, Pascuala was moved to another separated bigger pen to see if she could swim better and swim by herself. We observed positive changes in her way of swimming and her skin healed very fast. On the first week of May our water temperature started increasing dramatically because of climatological changes. She began getting some skin lesions (abscesses) and a high leukocyte count that was treated with antibiotic therapy. Over the next 3 weeks Pascuala continued with a high leukocyte count without responding to the antibiotics. Her appetite and energy level decreased.

After all the efforts to save Pascuala, the calf died 2 months after she was rescued. She died from Nocardiosis and *Pseudomonas* infection due to poor immune function.

[14/07 10:17 pm] [REDACTED]

Also this summary of previous stranded orca - <https://orcinus-ocean.tumblr.com/rescues> Quite the hyperbole in places and quite a strong, non-scientific opinion but shows the small number of other rehab attempts of wild orca.

orcinus-ocean

orcinus-ocean

orcinus-ocean.tumblr.com

[15/07 9:28 am] [REDACTED]

Summary of advice provided by overseas experts with regards to reintroduction to the wild

- It would take approximately 30 days for the cow to completely dry up. In addition, many cetacean species (in captive environments) have spontaneously lactated if a calf was introduced. With that being said, the milk is typically, initially (and maybe always) of lower quality and the calf would need to be robust enough to withstand the transition
- In our area, the animal would be deemed non-releasable and a suitable long term home would be found. If no home can be found and the animal cannot be reintroduced then your options are quite limited. Folks do release dependent calves on their own but, again, most people think this is a bit cruel most likely. Some animals like that may become nuisance animals but I suspect this calf is too young for that. If that is the choice offered then I would at the very least try to attached a tracking tag so some kind of objective outcome can be determined to help collect evidence for future decision making.
- If a suitable long term home is not available in NZ or Australia then you and your Team will need to make a decision on how long to continue the supportive management of the calf ... I agree, that with each day the outlook for a successful reintroduction wanes and the overall welfare of the calf will weigh heavy into the decision-making ...
- This calf appears to have about zero chances of survival in the wild. Finding its pod would be an interesting experiment, but do you really want to put the animal through this experiment knowing that the pod left it once already (I don't know the circumstances behind this stranding so I am making a large assumption) and would probably not welcome the animal back into the group for the same reason it left it the first time. Experience with dependent calves would indicate that it is non-releasable. In my opinion, If you can't care for the calf long term and the government is unwilling to move it to a facility that can, you should humanly euthanize it sooner than later.

[15/07 9:29 am] [REDACTED]

(Adding the above to the "decision" log as a place to capture the advice)

[15/07 10:11 am] [REDACTED]

That is excellent advice to receive [REDACTED], has that been given to the rest of the CIMS team?

[15/07 10:39 am] [REDACTED]

Not yet unless [REDACTED] has passed it on (I have emailed him directly). Still fairly challenging getting information up the CIMS line from my impression.

[15/07 12:50 pm] [REDACTED]

Sorry to butt in [REDACTED] but I would recommend collating this kind of advice from all the experts (making sure to include what makes them experts) and provide it up the line.

[15/07 12:50 pm] [REDACTED]

You may have already been doing this (smile)

[REDACTED]

[19/07 5:53 pm] [REDACTED]

Hi team - hope today has gone well. I was wondering about a vet catch up either tomorrow after the vets have visited? Or Wednesday when they are likely to have all the blood results through...? Let me know if I can help at all!

[19/07 5:54 pm] [REDACTED]

Also I have cleared with my manager coming up to satellite tag the calf at short notice if needed... so let me know if we are likely to be headed that way and I can pack a grab bag ready to go.

[19/07 9:35 pm] [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED]. We're still awaiting the IFAW tag, plus it appears I'll have to go through a DOC animal ethics process for the tagging, so we're a ways away from that still. I'll let Ian and Kirstie know that you're standing ready.

[19/07 9:36 pm] [REDACTED]

I'm not sure when the next vet catch-up will be. I'll see if there's anything planned, or whether we should set something up.

[20/07 8:15 am] [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED] - could we push a head with the animal ethics process for tagging today and get Meg Rutledge to expedite the process? I am EXCEPTIONALLY uncomfortable with the thought of releasing this animal without a tag. I have helped with a DOC ethics approval for this type of tagging previously so I can probably get it done pretty quickly. Would have got it done last week had I known this would be required.

[20/07 8:23 am] [REDACTED]

Yes, I started on the application paperwork last night and will focus on that today. Meg has indicated she will expedite, given the situation. I'll send you what I've put together before too long, so you can add on when I am in meetings and vice versa. Make sense?

[20/07 8:23 am] [REDACTED]

Sounds like a plan laugh

[20/07 8:29 am] Lydia Uddstrom

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[20/07 8:31 am] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] isn't listed on the permit as he will be carrying out any work in a DOC capacity – if [REDACTED] was assisting as an independent individual he would have needed to be included. (AEC approval works slightly differently as I know DOC staff still need to have approval for any invasive work even though a MM permit wouldn't be required)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[20/07 8:35 am] [REDACTED]

Thanks, I was just getting ready to dig up the Massey AEC documents!

[20/07 8:36 am] [REDACTED]

Hopefully a lot can be transferred!