



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, 29th October 2008

Tangalooma's dolphin flukes a rescue

Tangalooma performed a rescue on one of its dolphins on Tuesday, 28 October 2008.

Storm, a four year old regular visitor of Tangalooma's wild dolphin provisioning program arrived for the feeding earlier this week with fishing line entangled in its tail fluke.

After noticing the discomfort of the dolphin and assessing the wound, Tangalooma's Marine Education and Conservation Centre (TMECC) team coordinated the rescue with Sea World's Research and Rescue Foundation.

Tangalooma Island Resort's Director, Trevor Hassard was disturbed to see the injured dolphin.

"Storm is usually a very active, playful dolphin and the change in his behaviour showing discomfort was clearly evident to our Dolphin Care team," Mr Hassard said.

"The fishing line had cut deeply into Storm's tail fluke.

"Without this rescue taking place, the fishing line would have eventually and painfully cut through the tail fluke resulting in infection, leaving the dolphin disabled or even causing death.

"Due to the large amount of discarded fishing line within the Moreton Bay Marine Park, this is unfortunately a reoccurring issue that we continue to come across."

Sea World's Director of Marine Sciences, Mr Trevor Long led the rescue operation at Tangalooma and believes Storm will only be left with a small scar on his tail fluke.

"This is one lucky dolphin, as he regularly partakes in Tangalooma's provisioning program and was able to receive the required assistance to free him from the discarded fishing line.

Tangalooma's dolphin flukes a rescue cont...

"This is not the first injury of this type that we have encountered amongst the small Tangalooma population of dolphins, which highlights how prominent this type of injury would be amongst the much larger Moreton Bay dolphin population.

"Moreton Bay is a precious environment and needs to be cared for, with appropriate discarding of fishing materials to avoid future entanglements.

"We have a great relationship with Tangalooma and this is one of several occasions where we have successfully rescued an injured animal and released it back into the wild."

Tangalooma's Dolphin Care team will continue to monitor Storm's recovery during the evening provisioning program.

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