



Media Statement

Dolphin calf disentangled in Swan River

The dolphin calf that has been swimming in the Swan Canning Riverpark with a severe fishing line entanglement around its dorsal fin has been freed, following a successful rescue operation this morning.

The three-year-old calf, Gizmo, was first reported on 27 April as entangled and dragging seaweed that was caught in the lines.

Wildlife officers have made four previous attempts to disentangle the calf but its highly protective mother, Tupac, continued to put herself between the rescue boat and the calf and take it into deep water.

Water Police sighted Gizmo near the East Fremantle Rowing Centre this morning and police divers were able to approach the dolphin and capture it.

A rescue team from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Perth Zoo, Murdoch University and WA Police, supported by the Swan River Trust, placed the dolphin in a sling in the water and removed the line from its fin. While checking Gizmo, additional line that was found embedded in its tail was removed.

DEC wildlife officer Cameron Craigie, who was part of the disentanglement team, said the rescue was carried out smoothly and quickly, with the minimum amount of stress to the calf and its mother.

“Thanks to the quick thinking of Water Police and the speedy response of the agencies involved, this dolphin is now swimming free of lines and now has the opportunity to live a long and healthy life,” he said.

“Perth Zoo veterinary staff assessed the calf after the line was removed, and while its fin is significantly damaged, there does not appear to be any infection. The calf was given antibiotics and vitamins as a precaution.

“We would like to thank the general public and numerous Swan River Trust Dolphin Watch volunteers for reporting sightings of Gizmo over the last few weeks, which has helped us mount rescue attempts and learn more about Gizmo’s health and behaviour patterns.

“DEC would also like to thank the Swan River Trust, Perth Zoo, Murdoch University and WA Police for their tireless efforts.”

Gizmo will continue to be monitored over the next few days.

Sick or injured wildlife can be reported to the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055.

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