



NOAA FISHERIES



NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Region

In partnership with the volunteer response program

The Hawaii Marine Mammal Alliance

Marine Mammal Response Network ALERT

On Sunday, 31 July, 2016 a report of an injured seal was called into NOAA's Marine Mammal Response line from a responsible and concerned recreational diver off of Yokohama Beach, Waianae Coast of the Island of Oahu.

Report:

The sub-adult or adult endangered Hawaiian monk seal was described as roughly 300 pounds and reported to have a 1 to 2 foot "arrow" or "bolt" protruding through its hind flipper area. The account describes that the arrow entered through the top of the flipper and that the base of the bolt protruded through the flipper about 5-6 inches with the arrow having a "broken tip and an orange flight".

Current level of response:

Volunteers of The **Hawaii Marine Mammal Alliance (HMMA)** are searching all leeward coastal areas of Oahu for the seal and the C&C of Honolulu Ocean Safety Division has been notified that we are looking for an injured seal. NOAA Fisheries is on standby to intervene with the seal if necessary.

What to look for:

Most of the, roughly, 25 to 30 resident monk seals on Oahu are readily identified by markings or tags, however, this seal has not yet been individually identified. It is possible that the "arrow" has fallen out by this time leaving only signs of trauma. Therefore, we are asking the public to report any seal sighted especially if there are signs of the arrow or injuries near the flippers. Please make note of any identifiable markings, flipper tags or injuries.

**DO NOT APPROACH OR DISTURB THE SEAL TO ASCERTAIN IF IT IS INJURED.
OBSERVE FROM A DISTANCE.**

Who to call:

NOAA veterinarians, staff, and volunteers and community members are concerned about the health of this seal and ask that you be on the look-out and report:

- Any seal sightings 24/7 (unusual or normal) to the Oahu **HMMA** hotline number 808-220-7802
- Any information on who, or how, this intentional act occurred to NOAA's Office for Law Enforcement at 808-725-6133 or the State of Hawaii's DOCARE at 808-587-0077.
- Media inquiries call Jolene Lau at 808-721-4098