

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

SWMS / Assessment no.: INT12/32149



Department of
Primary Industries

Biosecurity Operations Branch

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|---|--|
| Job Task: Marine Mammal Euthanasia & Necropsy (eg Seals, Whales) | Branch - Biosecurity Operations, Biosecurity NSW |
| | Unit - Emergency Management Unit |
| | Location – Temporary (field) work sites |

RISK IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROLS

Please include all discrete steps involved in the performance of the task

NOTE: The PPE required must be listed and the minimum PPE for each chemical must be listed as per the relevant MSDS.

| Procedural step(s) | Possible hazard(s) | R1 Risk without controls | | R2 Risk with controls | |
|---|---|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| | | R1 | Safety control(s) | R2 | |
| Assess area for safe access (Vehicle or pedestrian) | Water levels Tides- height Weather conditions Slips/trips/ falls Rock platforms | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review weather conditions – BOM reports PPE required - protective non-slip footwear, disposable coveralls. Daytime work- hat, sunscreen, long sleeve shirt, sun glasses. Lifejackets where appropriate. Control for all steps – brief team on task Exit strategy discussed Identify & where possible avoid slip/trip hazards | | L |
| Assess area for safety of all personnel | Water levels Wave/tide heights Weather conditions Slips/trips/ falls Size & type mammal Physical state animal Heavy machinery | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review weather conditions –BOM reports PPE required- see above Staff positioned in safe location Identify & where possible avoid slip/trip hazards Identify and discuss hazards associated with type of mammal and its condition Appointment of site WHS observer. Site safety briefing | | L |

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| Procedural step(s) | Possible hazard(s) | R1 | Safety control(s) | R2 |
|--|---|----|---|----|
| Veterinarian/marine mammal specialists to undertake assessment of injured mammal/s | Bites Abrasions, scratches, cuts Tail/pectoral fin strike Rollover by animal Slips/trips & falls Knocked over by waves Manual handling | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only veterinary marine mammal expert or marine fauna specialists to undertake assessment PPE required for all steps: see above Work at controlled pace – brief team on task Support staff/onlookers positioned in safe location Ensure staff advised safe distance to avoid contact from tail/fin strike; rolled on by animal or bitten Use correct manual handling techniques Awareness tides/waves and surroundings- stay alert Awareness possible startled reaction from mammal/s | L |
| Veterinarian/marine mammal specialists to euthanase mammal using approved method where appropriate | Bites Abrasions, scratches, cuts Tail/pectoral fin strike Rollover by animal Slips/trips & falls Knocked over by waves Gunshot wound Needle stick - lethal injection Manual handling | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only veterinary marine mammal expert or marine fauna specialists to undertake euthanasia Only licensed shooter to be engaged – where required PPE required for all steps: see above Work at controlled pace – brief team on task. Support staff positioned in safe location Ensure staff advised safe distance to avoid contact from tail/fin strike; rolled on by animal or bitten Awareness tides/waves and surroundings- stay alert Awareness possible startled reaction from mammal/s Refer to relevant euthanasia procedures and safety requirements Trained in correct manual handling techniques Approved shoot plan in place – where required | L |
| Veterinarian/marine mammal specialists to undertake necropsy of identified key animals | Slips/trips & falls Knocked over by waves Abrasions, scratches, cuts Bruising Zoonotic infections Eye damage- splashes water or body fluids/sand Manual handling Heavy machinery Dehydration Fatigue | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE required for all steps: see above Work at controlled pace. Support staff positioned in safe location Awareness tides/waves and surroundings- stay alert Trained in correct manual handling techniques Appropriate biosecurity containment (eg foot baths) Appointment of site WHS observer. Site safety briefing Adequate water intake Appropriate shift times/rest periods | L |

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| Procedural step(s) | Possible hazard(s) | R1 | Safety control(s) | R2 |
|--|--|----------|---|----------|
| Veterinarians or trained personnel/specialists to collect relevant samples and records for determining cause of stranding or death & to meet reporting requirements. | Slips/trips & falls Knocked over by waves Abrasions, scratches, cuts Bruising Zoonotic infections Eye damage- splashes water or body fluids/sand Chemical exposure | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only qualified veterinary expert or trained marine mammal personnel to be engaged PPE required for all steps: see above Work at controlled pace – brief team on task. Support staff positioned in safe location Awareness tides/waves and surroundings- stay alert Qualified Assistant to work with vet and to label sample containers and record required details for report. MSDS for suspect chemical with appropriate PPE | L |
| | Overall risk rating | H | Overall risk rating | L |

RISK RATING GUIDE

| | | Consequence | | | |
|------------|---|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| | | Death Catastrophic Illness/Injury | Major Extensive Injuries | Moderate Medical treatment required | Minor No injuries |
| Likelihood | Almost certain Occurred before/expected | H | H | S | S |
| | Likely Probably will occur | H | S | S | S |
| | Moderate May occur at some time | H | S | L | L |
| | Unlikely Unusual or rare situation | S | L | L | L |
| | | High (H) – cease exposure immediately until protection, approved at senior management level, implemented. | | | |
| | | Significant (S) – procedures alone may not be enough, senior management attention required. | | | |
| | | Low (L) – may be managed by routine procedures, some risks in this category may be acceptable. | | | |

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SPECIFIC TASK REQUIREMENTS

Qualifications or experience

- Veterinarian must have current registration with Australian Veterinary Association
- Current firearms licence

Training

- Veterinarians or specialists trained in marine fauna response; marine mammal biology, behaviour and veterinary care
- Manual Handling techniques
- Safe use of firearms
- Necropsy and sample collection techniques
- Knife sharpening

Engineering details, certificates, WorkCover approvals

- Firearms certificate
- Veterinarian registered with Australian Veterinary Association

Relevant codes of practice, legislation or standards

- Australian Veterinary Association Marine Mammal Euthanasia Policy
- Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999
- NPWS Firearms Management Manual
- NPWS Marine Fauna Management Manual
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife (Fauna Protection) Regulation 1994
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979
- The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1986
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Plant/equipment

- Firearms
- First Aid kit
- Communications equipment
- Relevant euthanasia equipment
- Necropsy kit
- PPE

Maintenance checks, site/workplace inspections

- Annual firearms site inspection
- Annual firearms inspection and certification (NPWS)
- Annual marine fauna response kit maintenance inspection

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Suggested improvements (in order or priority)

Additional comments

Assessment dates

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Initial assessment date 30 March 2012 | Current assessment date | Reassessment due date |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|

Assessors

| Name | Signature | Date |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| ▪ Kerrie O'Grady – NSW DPI | ▪ <i>KO'Grady</i> | 30 March 2012 |
| ▪ Geoff Ross - NPWS | ▪ <i>GRoss</i> | 30 March 2012 |
| ▪ | ▪ | |

Recommendation (Project Officer, Agricultural Protection Officer, Team Leader, OIC, Coordinator)

Follow up required

| Name | Signature | Date |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| ▪ Joanne Loughlin – Emergency Management Officer | ▪ <i>JLoughlin</i> | 1 May 2012 |

Approval (Manager GEPR, Leader APFHEPR, Section Manager, Controller)

| Name | Signature | Date |
|---|------------------|------------|
| ▪ Simon Oliver – NSW DPI, Deputy AASFAC | ▪ <i>SOliver</i> | 2 May 2012 |

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I have read and understand this Safe Work Method Statement

| Name / Role | Signature | Date |
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