



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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FOURTH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO
THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR
THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND THEIR
HABITATS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

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ABSTRACT: OVERVIEW OF THE STRANDINGS OF OCEANIA DATABASE

Hannah Hendriks, NZ Department of Conservation secondee to SPREP, Migratory Marine Species Conservation Officer

The Strandings of Oceania database is a collaborative project between SPREP, WildMe and the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium to record stranding and beachcast data for whales, dolphins and dugongs throughout the Pacific. Strandings data is useful to identify species diversity throughout the Pacific and potentially better understand threats to marine mammals.

We use a platform called Flukebook. An account is needed to view or use data within Flukebook but the data is available for download on the SPREP [Pacific Environment Portal](#). SPREP has created a downloadable and printable data form which is also on the SPREP website and data portal. You can submit data direct into Flukebook (preferably while logged in) or send a completed data form to SPREP for upload. Thorough guidance has been produced to guide people through using Flukebook. We migrated all records that were stored in the previous aPOD database, there is currently 76 records in the database, from 1991-2021.

Most of the records so far are from New Caledonia, but there are also some from Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Vanuatu. The most frequently stranded species are the dugong, sperm whale, short-finned pilot whale, and Cuvier's beaked whale. We would like to fill the gaps in the dataset so it is representative across the whole Pacific island region.

Send your data to myself (hannahh.ext@sprep.org) or Karen Baird (karenb@sprep.org). For more info, see the SPREP website: <https://www.sprep.org/joe/strandings-of-oceania-database>.