



# 2025 Cetacean Strandings Report

Global Analysis & Recognition Awards

**StrandedNoMore.org**

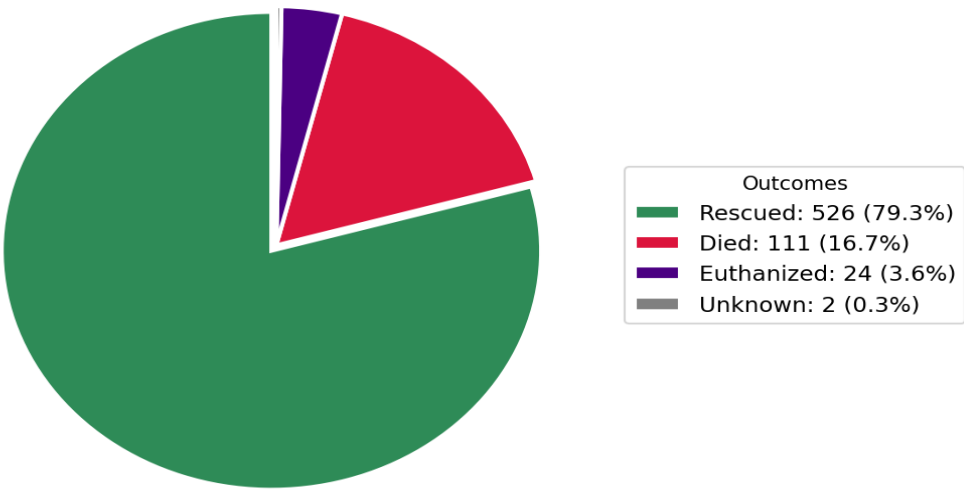


## Executive Summary

In 2025, a total of **663** cetaceans were involved in **83** stranding events across **24 countries**. Of these, **526** were rescued (79%), **111** died (17%), and **24** were euthanized (4%).

Metric	Count
Total Stranding Events	83
Total Cetaceans Stranded	663
Total Rescued	526 (79%)
Total Died	111 (17%)
Total Euthanized	24 (4%)
Countries Involved	24

2025 Stranding Outcomes (n=663)

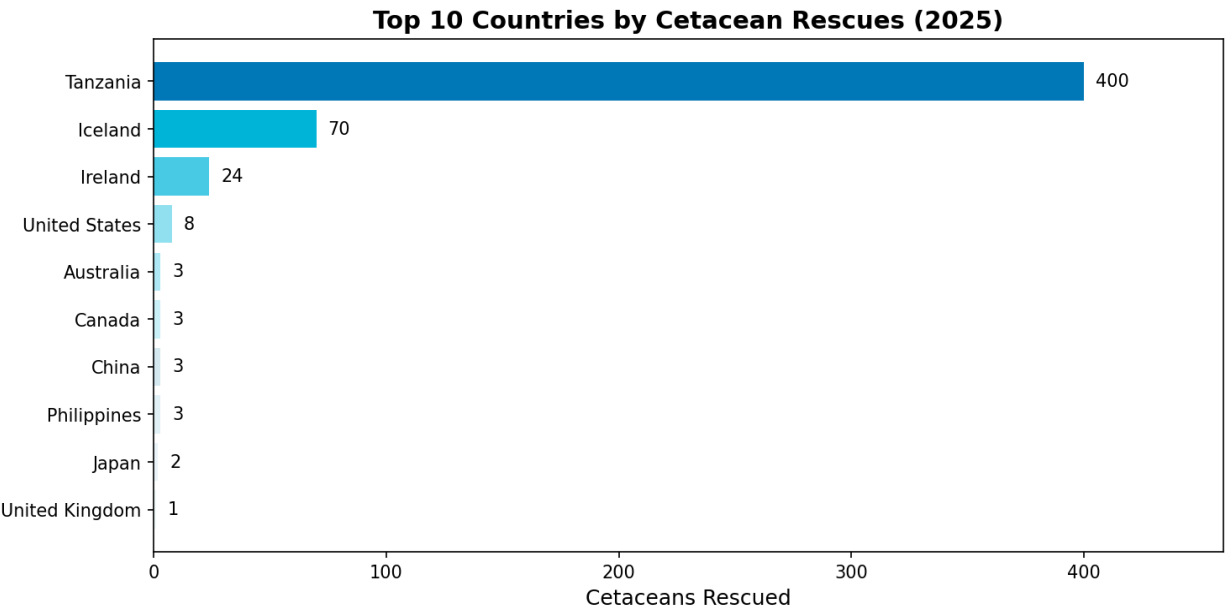




## Key Findings

### ■ Most Cetaceans Rescued: Tanzania (400)

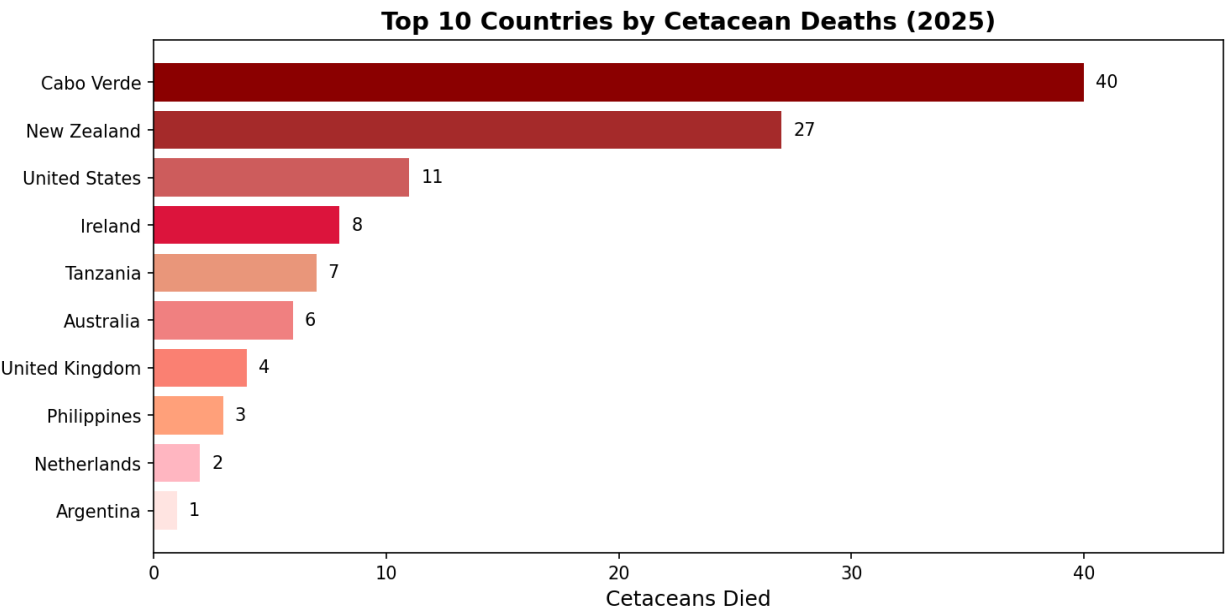
Tanzania rescued **400 cetaceans** in 2025—by far the highest of any country. This was driven by a single mass stranding event on July 5, 2025, when 407 spinner dolphins stranded. Rescuers successfully refloated 400 of them, with only 7 dying—a remarkable 98% success rate.





### ■ Most Cetacean Deaths: Cabo Verde (40)

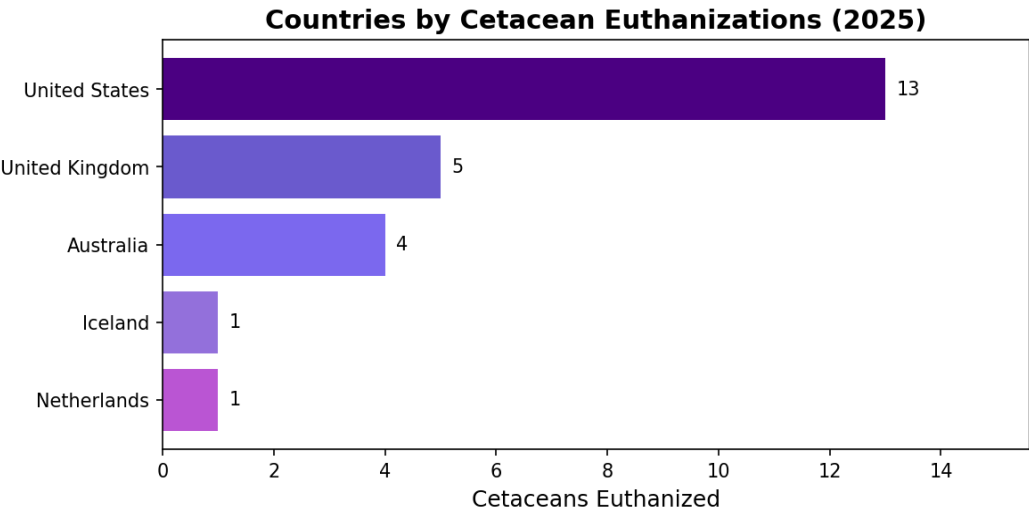
Cabo Verde experienced **40 cetacean deaths** in 2025, all from a single tragic mass stranding of short-finned pilot whales on August 17, 2025. Unfortunately, none were rescued.





■ **Most Cetaceans Euthanized: United States (13)**

The **United States** euthanized **13 cetaceans** in 2025—more than double any other country. This included a sperm whale, a humpback whale, a minke whale, and various dolphins. The high number reflects both the frequency of strandings in U.S. waters and available veterinary capacity to assess and humanely end suffering when necessary.



■ **Large Baleen/Sperm Whale Rescues**

Large whale rescues are exceptionally rare. In 2025, only **three large baleen or sperm whales** were successfully rescued:

Date	Species	Country
August 31	Minke Whale	Belgium
June 14	Blue Whale	Oman
May 7	Minke Whale	Ireland



## ■ ■ United States State Statistics

Within the United States, **Florida and Massachusetts** (tied) led in cetacean rescues, while **New Jersey** had the most euthanizations.

Category	State	Count
Most Rescues	Florida & Massachusetts (tied)	2 each
Most Euthanized	New Jersey	5

## 2025 Recognition Awards

StrandedNoMore.org recognizes exceptional rescue efforts and noteworthy events from 2025:

### ■ BEST RESCUE OF THE YEAR: Tanzania

On July 5, 2025, **407 spinner dolphins** mass stranded on Tanzania's coast—one of the largest cetacean strandings ever recorded. In a remarkable coordinated effort, local responders and volunteers successfully refloated **400 dolphins**, achieving an extraordinary **98% survival rate**. Only 7 animals perished. Mass strandings of this scale typically result in catastrophic losses, making Tanzania's response truly exceptional. This rescue demonstrates what can be achieved with rapid mobilization, community involvement, and effective coordination.

### ■ BEST SMALL CETACEAN RESCUE: Philippines (November 25)

On November 25, 2025, a **Pygmy Sperm Whale (Kogia breviceps)** stranded in the Philippines and was successfully rescued and refloated. In general, Kogias are rarely rescued successfully. We salute the Philippines team for trying and succeeding in returning this animal to the sea.



## ■ BEST LARGE CETACEAN RESCUE: Oman (June 14)

On June 14, 2025, Oman successfully rescued and refloated a **Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*)**—the largest animal ever to have existed on Earth. Blue whales are classified as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List, with global populations estimated at only 10,000-25,000 individuals. In general, large whales are rarely rescued successfully. We salute the Oman team for trying and succeeding in returning this magnificent animal to the sea.

## ■ RAREST CETACEAN STRANDED: Argentina (December 16)

On December 16, 2025, a **Hector's Beaked Whale (*Mesoplodon hectori*)** stranded in Argentina. This species is one of the **rarest and least-known cetaceans on Earth**. Beaked whales spend most of their lives in deep offshore waters, diving to extreme depths to hunt squid. They are so elusive that many species are known primarily from stranded specimens. Hector's beaked whale is particularly rare—fewer than 50 specimens have ever been documented worldwide. Unfortunately, this individual restranded and died, but the stranding provides valuable scientific data about this mysterious species' presence in South Atlantic waters.

## ■ US STATE WITH MOST RESCUES: Florida & Massachusetts (tied)

Among U.S. states, **Florida and Massachusetts** led cetacean rescue efforts in 2025, each successfully rescuing 2 stranded animals and releasing them back to the ocean. These states' experienced marine mammal rescue networks continue to provide critical response capabilities along the Atlantic coast.

## ■ US STATE WITH MOST EUTHANIZATIONS: New Jersey

**New Jersey** had the highest number of cetacean euthanizations among U.S. states in 2025, with 5 animals euthanized.



## Notable Events of 2025

Date	Location	Species	Stranded	Outcome
July 5	Tanzania	Spinner Dolphins	407	400 rescued, 7 died
June 21	Iceland	Long-finned Pilot Whales	70	70 rescued
Aug 17	Cabo Verde	Short-finned Pilot Whales	40	40 died
Oct 21	New Zealand	Short-finned Pilot Whales	27	27 died
Dec 21	Ireland	Common Dolphins	28	21 rescued, 7 died
June 14	Oman	Blue Whale	1	Rescued
Nov 25	Philippines	Pygmy Sperm Whale	1	Rescued

## Country Rankings Summary

Category	Country	Count
Most Rescues	Tanzania	400
Most Deaths	Cabo Verde	40
Most Euthanized	United States	13
Large Whale Rescues	Belgium, Ireland, Oman	1 each

## U.S. State Rankings Summary

Category	State	Count
Most Rescues	Florida & Massachusetts (tied)	2 each
Most Euthanized	New Jersey	5

*\* Note: The stranding record for 2025 is incomplete as we are continuously adding more cases to our database. However, the data presented in this report still provides a useful overall picture of global cetacean stranding patterns and trends for the year.*