

BARC

Boston Animal Rescue Connect

Feature Article

Minot Beach attempts first stranded whale rescue

It was a brisk, windy morning on Minot Beach when the group of surfers were the first to arrive. While the tide was all the way out, the waves were still enormous, crashing on the rocky beach like thunder. With the summer season over, the beach was perfectly empty. At least, that was what the surfers were expecting. Instead, the beach was occupied by a pod of five humpback whales.

“At first I didn’t believe my eyes, there were just so many,” remarked Greg Anders, one of the surfers who first discovered the scene. As a result of climate change, stranding events with whales, seals, and other marine life have become a growing concern in recent years. Animals often follow ocean currents, only to find themselves trapped due to changing current patterns. In particular, whales are at risk since they cannot navigate shallow waters as well as smaller marine life. According to marine biologists, the whales at Minot Beach were traveling to better feeding grounds, when the tide receded too quickly for them to escape.

When the surfers found the whales, they immediately began seeking help. They called the local aquarium, the police, and rescue organizer group BARC. Soon, other locals arrived and helped pour water on the exhausted whales. Scituate local and frequent beach visitor Laura Wendel shared her experience, recalling, “It looked like the whole town was out there. Kids, parents, locals, tourists, everyone was working together. We figured if we could keep the whales alive until the tide came in, everything would be all right.”