

To: Mary Anne Smith
From: International Fund for Animal Welfare
Subject: The wrong road for the right whale

Dear Mary Anne,



A juvenile male right whale tangled in fishing gear was rescued in August off Campobello Island.

COURTESY CAMPOBELLO WHALE RESCUE / MAINE PUBLIC/FILE

His name is FDR.

This North Atlantic right whale wasn't always known as FDR. He got that name after his second rescue near the island of Campobello, where the former president had a summer home.

Like the former president, this whale has had a lot of challenges in his life. But this whale's challenges were caused by humans.

Entanglement from commercial fishing gear is still one of the biggest threats facing the North Atlantic right whale. A whale that is close to the tipping point of extinction.

Frequently they are the unintentional victims of the traps used by commercial fishermen in the areas where they feed.

FDR has been a victim of these traps twice in his short life. But solutions exist to solve the problem.

Thanks to your generous support, IFAW has been able to help fund a collaborative effort between government officials, scientists and fishermen that led to the creation of whale-friendlier fishing gear.

But more needs to be done.

Your continued support will enable us to improve and increase the use of whale-friendly fishing gear while developing additional solutions to help prevent whales like FDR from becoming entangled and suffering the cruelest of deaths.

DONATE NOW TO HELP KEEP RIGHT WHALES FREE FROM FISHING GEAR

Right whales are particularly at risk of entanglement. They swim with their mouths open in order to feed. Sometimes for hours.

And like with FDR, the rope from commercial fishing gear gets caught in their baleen, making feeding difficult.

It took rescuers five hours to cut him free.

Five hours to saw through the ropes wrapped around his head. Five hours to free his flippers and tail from the rope that dug into his skin and made it difficult for him to dive or even swim.

Death doesn't come quickly or painlessly from this entanglement, either.

Infection and exhaustion from fighting the hundreds of pounds of rope and gear that restrict their movement can take months.

Some whales even starve to death—but not quickly. Not without suffering.

One study found that the average time for death to occur among 6 whales that died from entanglement was 5.6 months. That's a long time to suffer.

I know I can count on you to help bring an end to their suffering.

Your continued support can help fund the research and development necessary to improve whale-friendly fishing gear and end the entanglement threat to the North Atlantic right whale.

DONATE NOW TO HELP END THE SUFFERING OF RIGHT WHALES FROM ROPE
ENTANGLEMENT

Until we eliminate the risk of entanglement from fishing gear, there is work to be done.

Help be a part of the solution.

Thank you,

Azzedine Downes
IFAW President

P.S. Please help continue our research and collaborative work, so we can eliminate the entanglement threat to the North Atlantic right whale, and all marine animals.

DONATE TO HELP END THE ENTANGLEMENT THREAT TO RIGHT WHALES AND ALL
MARINE ANIMALS