

Cape Fur Seal Entanglement

Many Cape fur seals have the following items cutting into their necks:

Fishing line



Photo: Two Oceans Aquarium

Box bands



Photo: Two Oceans Aquarium

Rope & raffia cord



Photo: Two Oceans Aquarium

Fishing line is tied in a loop as a tuna stop.



Photo: Two Oceans Aquarium

Thick fishing line is looped around the tail of caught fish to move them off the boats. When the tail is cut, the stop is left as an intact loop.

Box bands mainly from bait boxes



Some box bands don't need to be cut to remove them from boxes.

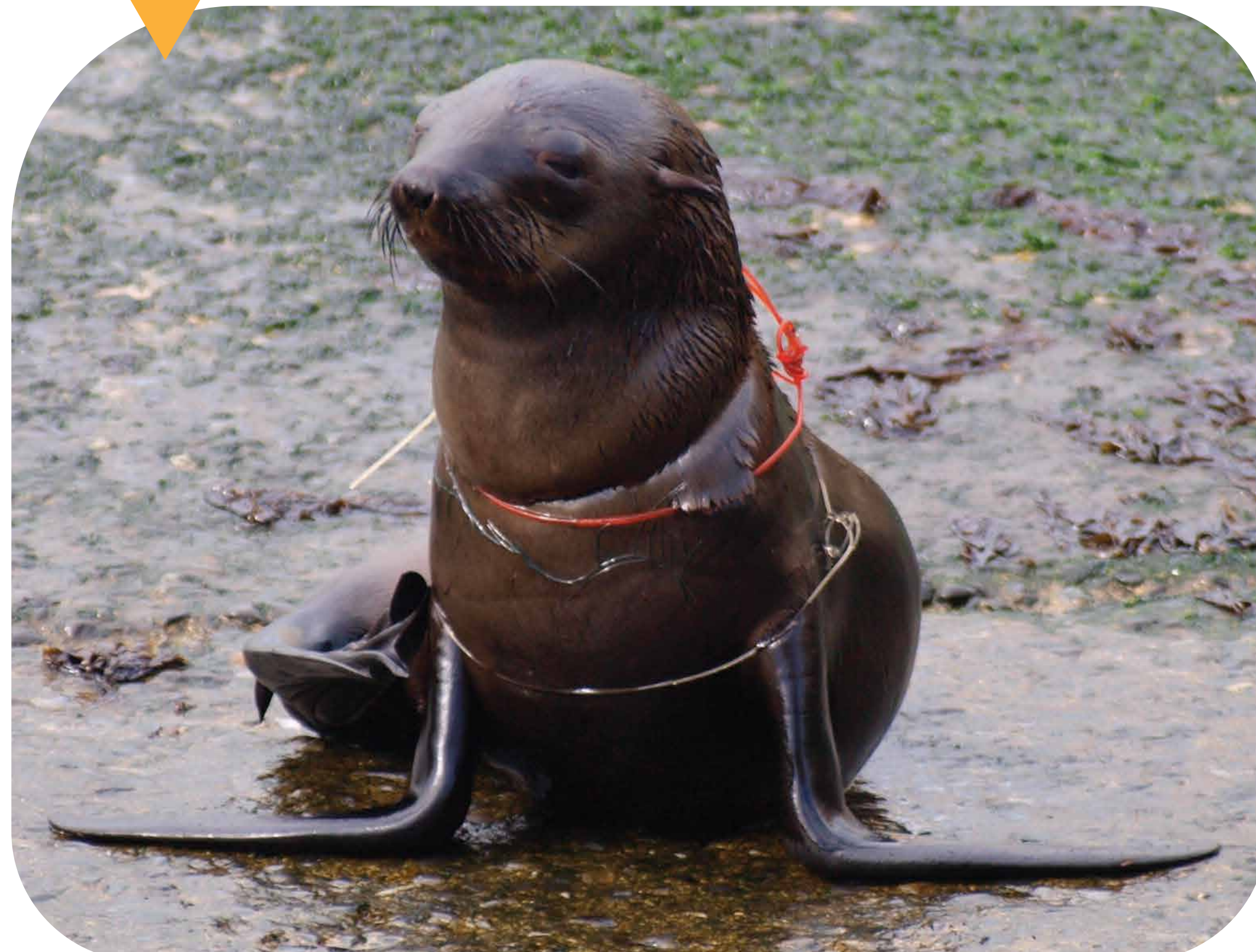
They slide off and end up in the sea where seals swim into them.

Rafia cord is used for packaging and tuna stops



Photo: Two Oceans Aquarium

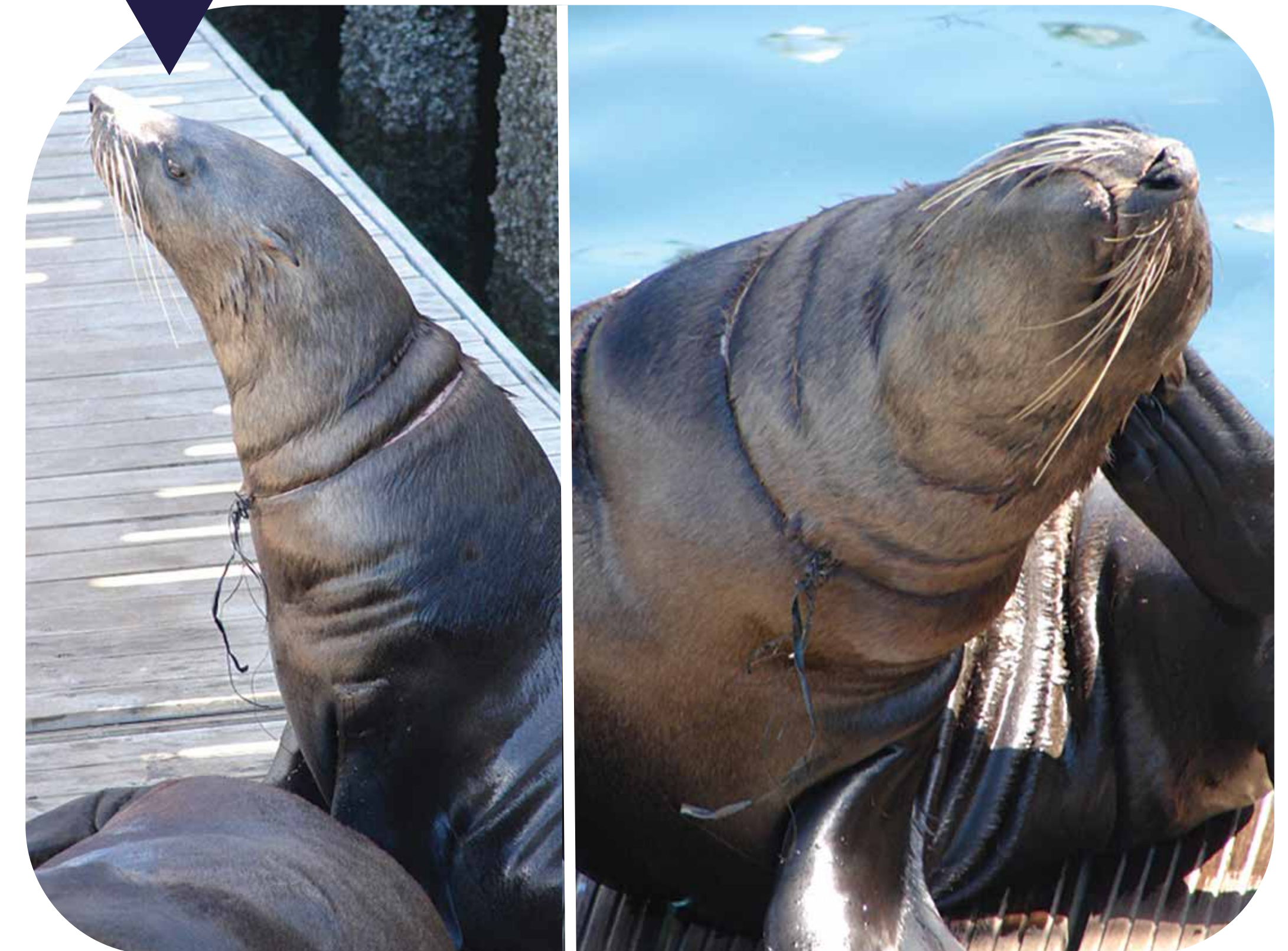
Rope or raffia cord is looped around the tail of caught fish to move them off the boats. When the tail is cut, the stop is left as an intact loop.



A young cape fur seal with thick fishing line around its neck.
Photo: Two Oceans Aquarium



A cape fur seal with box strapping around its neck.
Photo: Two Oceans Aquarium



A cape fur seal with raffia cord around its neck.
Photos: Colette Bodestaff, SAAMBR

If left unattended, the loops get tighter and cut deeper into the flesh, causing nasty wounds that could lead to infection and death.



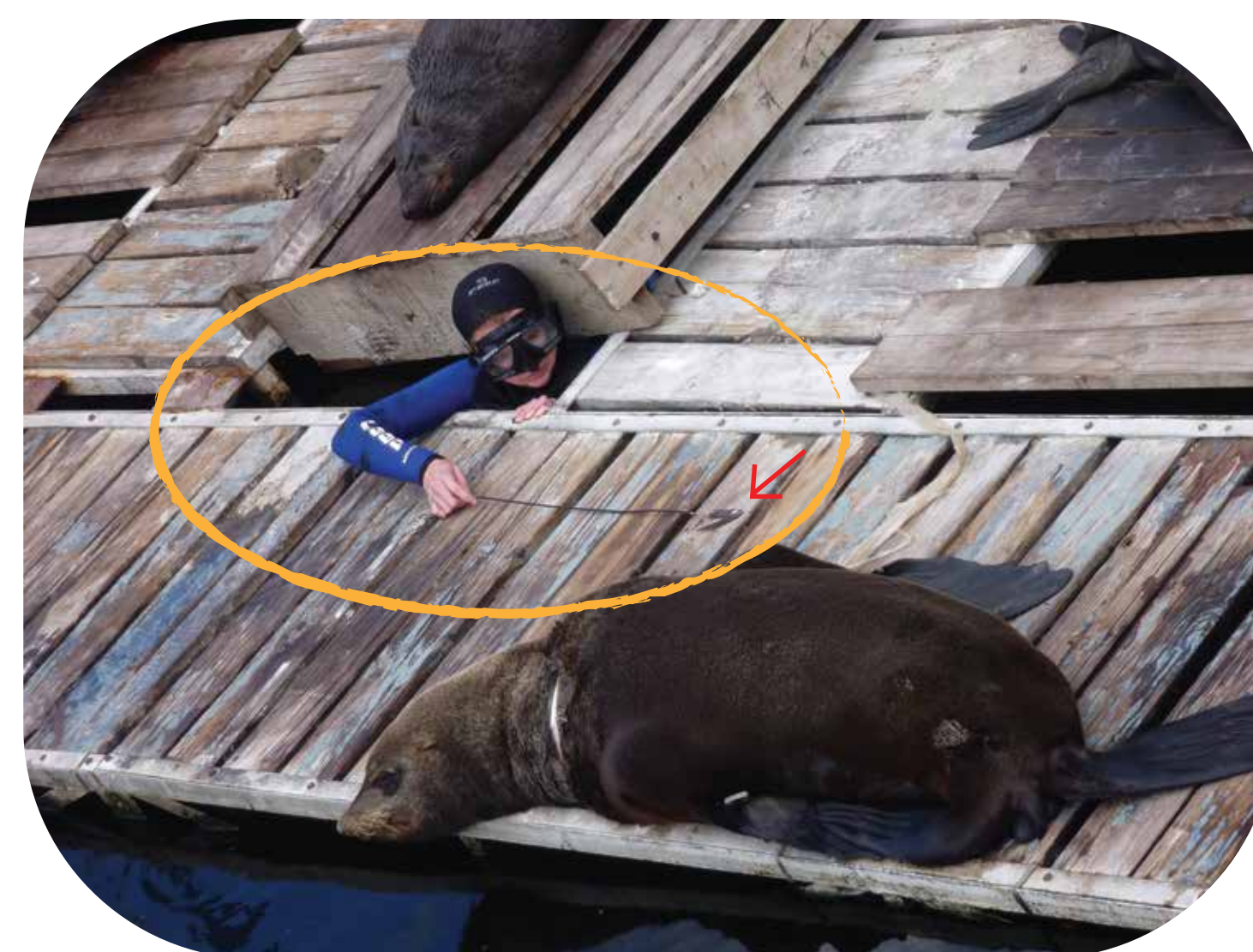
Photos: Colette Bodestaff, SAAMBR



Photos: Two Oceans Aquarium



Thankfully organisations with trained teams are able to help seals.



Scan for information on how to help stranded marine animals.

The seal team from Two Oceans Aquarium assists the government department, Oceans and Coasts, with the removal of looped debris from seals in the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town.

Photos: Two Oceans Aquarium



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