

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

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From: Anstruther Lifeboat Station

Multi service operation including Anstruther Lifeboat saves stranded whale

Anstruther RNLI were paged to assist in the freeing of a twenty one foot non dependant juvenile Minke Whale off the coast of Elie on Friday evening.

Both lifeboats launched to join in the efforts with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR), local coastguard, Police Scotland and the SSPCA in a successful rescue to re-float the mammal.

After a successful first re-float of the whale, our D Class lifeboat joined the teams initially to steer the whale away from returning to the coastline but a second grounding unfortunately occurred.

The BDMLR team deployed a re-floatation pontoon which allowed the Minke whale enough water to float once again and, with gentle encouragement, the whale was freed.

RNLI crew member Kevin Calder captured the incident unfolding on his helmet camera and commented, 'we were tasked to respond by the UK Coastguard around 20:30 hours and travelled the short distance to Elie to assist. We arrived on scene and began in the initial task to deter the whale from returning to the coastline but the depth of the water meant the whale was able to swim underneath our lifeboat. We were delighted to assist in the successful second re-floating and would like to commend the efforts of the other services involved in this incident'.

A coastline search was conducted at first light in the area with no sign of the whale.

RNLI media contacts: RNLI Anstruther volunteer lifeboat press officer, Martin Macnamara, on 07969 773075, martinmacnamara@btinternet.com

Or Richard Smith, RNLI Public Relations Manager Scotland on 01738 642956, 07786 668903 or Richard_Smith2@rnli.org.uk

Or Henry Weaver, RNLI Press Officer for Scotland, 01738 642946, 07771 943026, henry_weaver@rnli.org.uk

Or contact RNLI Public Relations on 01202 336789.

RNLI online

For more information on the RNLI please visit www.rnli.org.uk. News releases and other media resources, including RSS feeds, downloadable photos and video, are available at the RNLI Press Centre www.rnli.org.uk/press

Key facts about the RNLI

The RNLI charity saves lives at sea. Its volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service around the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland coasts. The RNLI operates over 230 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland and has more than 100 lifeguard units on beaches around the UK. The RNLI is independent of Coastguard and government and depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824 its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 137,000 lives. The RNLI is a charity registered in England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland.