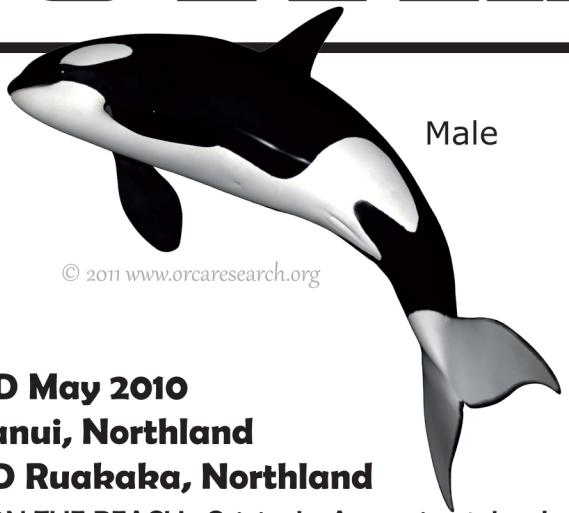


See video of Putita's rescue at our website

www.orcareds.org

PUTITA



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STRANDING DATE: (Original July 2003) AND May 2010

STRANDING LOCATION: Original = Tawharanui, Northland

AND Ruakaka, Northland

DURATION ON THE BEACH: Original = Approximately 6 hours
AND Ruakaka approximately 2 hours

RESIGHTED: Yes. More than 10 times between strandings
AND more than five times after most recent one.

MOST RECENT RESIGHTING: Tutukaka (Northland)



Left: Putita when he stranded in 2003.



Right: Putita in 2010 as Ingrid approaches him.
Note the dorsal fin of his presumed brother, Rua in the background.

OTHER COMMENTS: Putita first stranded when he was just a young animal. After his rescue he frequently moved between groups of orca – perhaps looking for his immediate family. He gets his name from this frequent interaction with other orca as at first he was thought to be a girl and he was being a 'hussy' with all the group changes (Putita is Spanish for 'hussy').

When Putita stranded the second time, at Ruakaka, Dr Visser was able to assist him back into the water shortly after she arrived. His presumed mother (Yin) and presumed older brother (Rua) were both waiting just offshore and at one stage they nearly came onto the beach and stranded as well.



Left: After his rescue, Rua, Yin & Putita (from front to back), swim past the Orca Research Centre, (green building on top of the hill).

photo © Ingrid Visser / Orca Research Trust