

# Sickly humpback whale spotted in Hawaii waters

August 27 2016

---



This image provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows a humpback whale sighted off Maui, Hawaii. Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent Malia Chow said

Friday, Aug. 26, 2016, that the animal is emaciated and covered in whale lice. At least four sharks were following the whale. She says these are all indicators of a whale in distress. (Ryan Hall/NOAA via AP)

Hawaii humpback whale experts are reporting the sighting of a sickly humpback whale off Maui.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent Malia Chow said Friday the animal is emaciated and covered in whale lice. At least four sharks were following the whale. She says these are all indicators of a whale in distress.

She says the whale isn't entangled and doesn't appear to have been struck by a vessel. She says the animal's poor condition is a mystery.

Hawaii's [humpback whales](#) normally spend their summers feeding in cold places like Alaska and return to the islands in September or October.

Chow says it's not clear whether this whale is one of the first sightings of Hawaii's upcoming whale season or if this whale stayed around from last season.



This image provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows a humpback whale sighted off Maui, Hawaii. Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent Malia Chow said Friday, Aug. 26, 2016, that the animal is emaciated and covered in whale lice. At least four sharks were following the whale. She says these are all indicators of a whale in distress. (Ryan Hall/NOAA via AP)

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Sickly humpback whale spotted in Hawaii waters (2016, August 27) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-08-sickly-humpback-whale-hawaii.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.