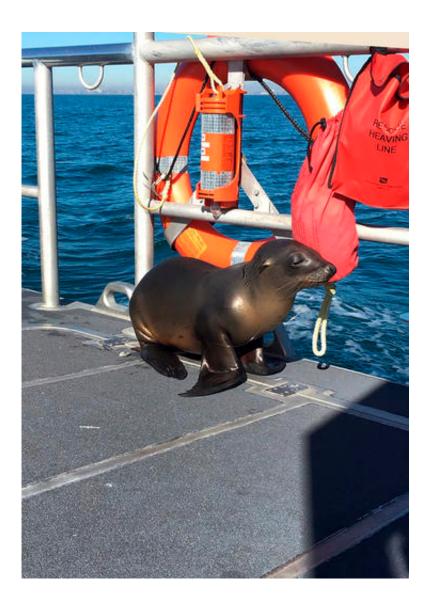


Cutest captain: Sea lion caught in fishing gear hops on boat

January 16 2017



In this Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 photo released by the U.S. Coast Guard Station Los Angeles, a sea lion hitches a ride on a US Coast Guard boat crew off the coast of Newport Beach, Calif. Officials say the juvenile sea lion was so happy



to be rescued after getting hooked by fishing gear off Southern California, it happily jumped into a Coast Guard boat. The animal was handed off to a crew from the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, which brought the sea lion to its rescue facility. (U.S. Coast Guard via AP)

Officials say a juvenile sea lion was so happy to be rescued after getting hooked by fishing gear off Southern California, it jumped into a Coast Guard boat.

The Coast Guard says a Los Angeles-area crew on patrol pulled the <u>sea</u> <u>lion</u> free Saturday near Newport Harbor.

Officials say after a little persuasion, the sea lion hopped aboard the boat and posed for photos.

The animal was handed off to a crew from the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, which brought the sea lion to its rescue facility. It will be rehabilitated and released.

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