

it is easier and safer to move it. That's when the rescuers can cut the ropes that tangle it.

Mr. Cottrell's team uses drones to help them see the whale. They want to know what it is tangled in. They also want to see how the whale is caught. Is the fishing gear around its mouth or its tail? It makes a difference.

Sharing stories

Last March, Canada's whale rescuers finally got to meet.

The town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Newfoundland is home to a whale rescue group. It's called Whale Release and Strandings. They invited other whale rescuers to a workshop. Groups came from British Columbia, Quebec, and New Brunswick.

The workshop topic? How to untangle whales.

The whale rescuers talked with each other and shared stories. They learned what works and what doesn't.

Testing tools

The workshop took place at Newfoundland's Marine Institute. The institute holds a

1.7-million-litre tank of water. At 6 metres wide, 4 metres deep, and 22.25 metres long, it's the largest "flume tank" in the world!

The whale rescuers used the flume tank to test different tools. One side of the flume tank has a large window. This lets the whale rescuers study how the tools move underwater. They can't see that when they're out on the ocean.

Some of the tools they tested were new inventions. "We will all walk away with new ideas," said Julie Huntington of Whale Release and Strandings.

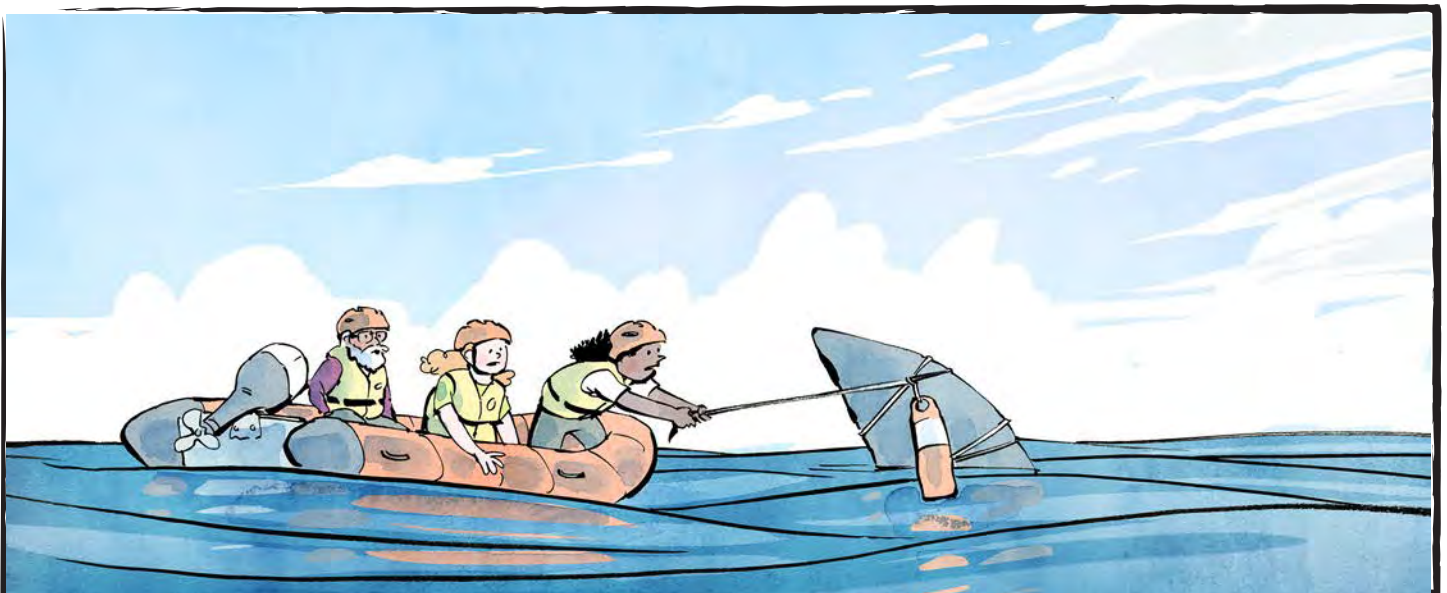
The best job in the world

Every rescue is different. Every rescue is a challenge. The rescuers try, but they can't save every whale. They give each rescue their all.

"When... you're successful, and you see those whales swim off, it's just incredible," said Mr. Cottrell. "I feel like I have the best job in the world."



What questions would you like to ask Mr. Cottrell?



Saving the Whales

Comprehension Check

Write the letter of the *best* answer in the space beside each question.

_____ 1. Where do Canada's whale rescuers work?

- a) Along Canada's coastlines.
- b) At the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- c) Only in Newfoundland.
- d) Across the Pacific Ocean.

_____ 2. Why is it sometimes difficult to find a tangled whale?

- a) They are huge.
- b) They travel great distances.
- c) They are heavy.
- d) They are upset and scared.

_____ 3. What does Mr. Cottrell's team use to help them see the whale?

- a) Cameras.
- b) Fishing gear.
- c) Internet lines.
- d) Drones.

_____ 4. What was the workshop topic?

- a) Why whales get tired.
- b) How whales get caught in fishing gear.
- c) How to untangle whales.
- d) How to use a flume tank.

_____ 5. Why did the whale rescuers use the flume tank?

- a) To test different tools.
- b) To practice cutting through ropes.
- c) To study tangled whales.
- d) To share whale rescue stories.