



Serious Injury Determinations for Small Cetaceans off the Southeast U.S. Coast, 2011–2015

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Introduction and Methods

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to distinguish between injuries to marine mammals that are serious and not serious. During 2012 NMFS issued a policy directive and procedural directives to establish a process for distinguishing serious from non-serious injuries (NMFS 2012a, b). This document summarizes serious injury determinations for small cetaceans in southeast U.S. waters during 2011–2015.

Data from various sources were assessed to compile this report. These sources include the NOAA National Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Database, the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (fisherman self-reports), incidental take reports (unauthorized research gear takes), fishery observer records (excluding the pelagic longline fishery), and opportunistic at-sea observations by NOAA and non-NOAA researchers, marine patrol, and private citizens. All instances in the data for which a small cetacean was released alive following a human interaction, such as an entanglement in fishing gear or marine debris or a hooking, or observed alive at-sea entangled in fishing gear or debris, hooked, or boat struck, were evaluated.

Serious injury determinations were made following NMFS 2012 policy and guidelines (NMFS 2012a, b). Initially the data were evaluated by two marine mammal researchers in the Southeast Fisheries Science Center. All differences were discussed to obtain agreement. Determinations were reviewed by NMFS Determination Staff Working Group members from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS Southeast Regional Office members, and Atlantic Scientific Review Group members.

In some instances, NOAA, stranding network partners, or private citizens disentangled or de-hooked an animal post-interaction (i.e., at some time after the initial entanglement or hooking). In these instances where there was a mitigation effort, a post-mitigation serious injury determination was made in addition to the initial serious injury determination. Both the initial and post-mitigation serious injury determinations are presented in Table 1. Post-mitigation determinations do not apply to situations where commercial fishermen or fisheries researchers released animals from gear at the time of the interaction. For management purposes (i.e., classifying fisheries on the LOF and take reduction planning), the pre-mitigation determination is used. For tallying the number of serious injuries, post-mitigation determinations are used (in cases for which there was mitigation) for comparing serious injuries to PBR in the Stock Assessment Reports (SARs) and are presented in the results section. The NMFS 2012b procedural directive states: "For cases where the animal is determined to be seriously injured and NOAA and/or an authorized partner successfully disentangles or dehooks the animal and the animal is determined to have no or non-serious injuries when released, it will be recorded as a serious injury when classifying fisheries on the LOF and informing management (e.g., take reduction planning), but will be recorded as a non-serious injury when compared to PBR in the SARs."

Mortality and serious injury resulting from the U.S. Atlantic pelagic longline fishery are detailed annually in a separate report (e.g., Garrison and Stokes 2012) and are not included in this document.

Type of fishery is given if information was available to attribute observed or collected gear to a specific fishery or type of gear. In some cases, gear was collected from stranded animals and sent to the NMFS Pascagoula Gear Repository. If gear experts could identify gear to a specific fishery, or identify gear as recreational versus commercial, the specific information is

given in Table 1. If gear could not be identified as belonging to a specific fishery, a general category, such as trap/pot gear, may be listed. Information on the fishery is given in as much detail as was known at the time of report preparation. As gear continues to be analyzed by the Pascagoula Gear Repository, information on fishery/gear is subject to change in future SARs.

Results

One hundred forty-one small cetacean events from southeast U.S. waters during 2011–2015 for which a determination was made of serious versus non-serious injury are included in Table 1. All events involved bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) with the exception of one, which involved a short-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*). The Western North Atlantic short-finned pilot whale was considered seriously injured. In total, 49 bottlenose dolphins were considered seriously injured; 53 bottlenose dolphins were considered not seriously injured; and for 38 bottlenose dolphin cases, it could not be determined if the injury was serious or not.

The Western North Atlantic (WNA) bottlenose dolphin stocks for which serious injuries were documented include the following: Northern North Carolina Estuarine System (NNCES) Stock; Southern North Carolina Estuarine System (SNCES) Stock; Northern Migratory Coastal Stock; Southern Migratory Coastal Stock; South Carolina/Georgia Coastal Stock; Charleston Estuarine System (CES) Stock; Jacksonville Estuarine System (JES) Stock; Indian River Lagoon Estuarine System (IRLES) Stock; and Florida Bay Stock. The assignment of animals to a particular stock is impossible in some seasons and regions in coastal waters of North Carolina and Virginia and in estuarine waters near Beaufort Inlet because of stock overlap.

The Gulf of Mexico (GOM) bottlenose dolphin stocks for which serious injuries were documented include the following: Laguna Madre Stock; Copano Bay, Aransas Bay, San Antonio Bay, Redfish Bay, Espiritu Santo Bay Stock; Matagorda Bay, Tres Palacios Bay, Lavaca Bay; Calcasieu Lake Stock; Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock; Mobile Bay, Bonsecour Bay Stock; Pensacola Bay, East Bay Stock; Choctawhatchee Bay Stock; St. Andrew Bay Stock; St. Joseph Sound, Clearwater Harbor Stock; Tampa Bay Stock; Sarasota Bay, Little Sarasota Bay Stock; Pine Island Sound, Charlotte Harbor, Gasparilla Sound, Lemon Bay Stock; Caloosahatchee River Stock; Estero Bay Stock; Northern Coastal Stock; and Eastern Coastal Stock.

The largest number of records was from the NOAA National Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Database. The majority of stranding records were cases of bottlenose dolphins entangled in either trap/pot gear or hook and line fishing gear. Entanglements in unidentified fishing gear, marine debris, a haul/beach seine net, a shrimp trawl net, and research longline gear, as well as a boat collision and oil boom entrapment, comprised the remaining stranding records. At-sea observations comprised the second highest number of records, and the majority of observations consisted of animals entangled in and sometimes trailing trap/pot gear or hook and line fishing gear, but there were also at-sea records of animals entangled in unknown line, debris, packing straps or bands, and nets. The third most frequent records were of incidental takes involving research gillnet gear, research trawl gear, or research skimmer trawl gear (unauthorized research gear takes). In addition, there were observer program records from the shrimp trawl fishery, the menhaden purse seine fishery (trial observer program), and the SE Atlantic gillnet fishery. Finally, there were two records from the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (fisherman self-reports).

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Literature Cited

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Table 1. Serious injury (SI) determinations for cetaceans taken in SE U.S. waters during 2011–2015 using criteria in “Process for distinguishing serious from non-serious injury of marine mammals: Process for injury determinations” (NMFS 2012b; see Appendix I for details of injury categories and criteria). STR = stranding from NOAA National Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Database; MMAP = Marine Mammal Authorization Program; OBS = observer record; At-Sea = Opportunistic at-sea sightings; ITR = incidental take report, unauthorized research gear take; Tt = *Tursiops truncatus*; ATL = Atlantic Ocean; CAR = Caribbean Sea; GOM = Gulf of Mexico; Copano Bay, ... = Copano Bay, Aransas Bay, San Antonio Bay, Redfish Bay, Espiritu Santo Bay; IRLES = Indian River Lagoon Estuarine System; JES = Jacksonville Estuarine System; NCES = Northern North Carolina Estuarine System; NGSSCES = Northern Georgia/Southern South Carolina Estuarine System; NM Coastal = Northern Migratory Coastal; PIS = Pine Island Sound, Charlotte Harbor, Gasparilla Sound and Lemon Bay; SM Coastal = Southern Migratory Coastal; SNCES = Southern North Carolina Estuarine System.

Source of Data/Fisher Type	Animal ID	Species	Area (ATL, GOM, CAR)/ Stock Name (if known)	Date of Take or Report	Recorded Animal Condition	Initial SI Determination	NMFS 2012 SI Policy Criteria	Injury Determination Criteria/Comments	Post-Mitigation SI Determination (for cases with mitigation; N/A is noted for cases without mitigation)	NMFS 2012 SI Policy Criteria	Post-Mitigation Injury Determination Criteria/Comments
OBS; menhaden purse seine	Tt	GOM/Western Coastal Stock	1-Aug-2011	Alive, uninjured	Not Serious	S7b	animal trapped within purse seine; short duration of entrapment; swam away normally	N/A	N/A	N/A	
OBS; menhaden purse seine	Tt	GOM/Western Coastal Stock	1-Aug-2011	Alive, uninjured	Not serious	S7b	animal trapped within purse seine; short duration of entrapment; swam away normally	N/A	N/A	N/A	
OBS; menhaden purse seine	Tt	GOM/ Mississippi Sound, Lake Borgne, Bay Boudreau Stock	17-Aug-2011	Alive, uninjured	Not serious	S7b	animal trapped within purse seine; short duration of entrapment; swam away normally	N/A	N/A	N/A	
OBS; shrimp trawl fishery	Tt	GOM/Continental Shelf Stock	11-Feb-2012	Alive	CBD	N/A	animal was brought to the surface with the lazy line wrapped around its tail stock (not entangled in net); initially remained at the surface, but ~30 sec. after release it started swimming and disappeared from sight	N/A	N/A	N/A	
OBS; sink gillnet targeting Spanish mackerel	Tt	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	15-Mar-2015	Alive	Serious	S7b	animal entangled in a commercial gillnet; crew were able to lift up the net and "roll" the dolphin out, however the dolphin swam back into the net; the net was lifted again and the dolphin was rolled out a second time and it swam away underneath the net	N/A	N/A	N/A	
MMAP; SE ATL gillnet fishery (targeting Spanish	Tt	ATL/ SNCES Stock	18-Jul-2015	Alive	Serious	S7b	a small dolphin got entangled in the cork line of a gillnet and was there for approx. an hour and was weak and disoriented when released	N/A	N/A	N/A	

mackerel)											
MMPA; shrimp trawl fishery	Tt	ATL/South Carolina/Geo rgia Coastal Stock	18-Aug- 2015	Alive, uninjured	Not serious	S7b	dependent calf caught in trawl net mouth during haul back for TED inspection; law enforcement on scene freed dolphin; no visible injuries were observed; mother of calf was observed nearby	N/A	N/A	N/A	
ITR; research trawl	Tt	ATL/ South Carolina/Geo rgia Coastal Stock	11-Jul- 2012	Alive	Not serious	S7b	animal observed in trawl net during in-water sea turtle research trawl; thought to be near the wing of the trawl; gear brought in immediately and animal released; animal reported to swim away vigorously	N/A	N/A	N/A	
ITR & STR; research gillnet	SER11- 2538	Tt	GOM/Copa no Bay, ... Stock	27-Sep- 2011	Alive, uninjure d	Not serious	S7b	animal entangled in gillnet; released and swam away vigorously	N/A	N/A	N/A
ITR & STR; research gillnet	SER12- 0470	Tt	GOM/Neuce s Bay, Corpus Christi Bay Stock	19-Apr- 2012	Alive, uninjured	Not serious	S7b	dorsal fin was caught in a research gillnet; animal was easily released alive and observed swimming and breathing normally; body condition overall looked good and no scrapes or cuts were reported	N/A	N/A	N/A
ITR & STR; research gillnet	SER12- 0819	Tt	GOM/Lagun a Madre Stock	3-Oct- 2012	Alive, uninjured	Not serious	S7b	animal caught in research gillnet and released alive by enforcement; animal's flukes were caught in the float line; no visible injuries; animal swam away vigorously	N/A	N/A	N/A
ITR & STR; research gillnet	SER12- 0480	Tt	GOM/Copan o Bay, ... Stock	30-May- 2012	Alive	Serious	S7b	animal caught in research gillnet and released alive by enforcement; the animal was entangled around its head in both the float and lead lines; animal lay on the bottom in shallow water for a few minutes before it swam off strongly	N/A	N/A	N/A
ITR & STR; research gillnet	SER12- 0473	Tt	GOM/Copan o Bay, ... Stock	8-May- 2012	Alive, uninjured	Not serious	S7b	animal caught in gillnet for 2 minutes before enforcement officers could disentangle and release; reported to have a minor cut on its flukes from the monofilament line; animal swam away vigorously	N/A	N/A	N/A
ITR & STR; research gillnet	SER12- 0066	Tt	ATL/NNCE S Stock	26-Jan- 2012	Alive	CBD	N/A	animal was found alive in a research gillnet and was vigorously trying to disentangle itself; animal was disentangled and swam away rapidly	N/A	N/A	N/A
ITR & STR; shark research gillnet	SER13- 1261	Tt	GOM/PIS Stock	21-Jun- 2013	Alive, uninjured	CBD	N/A	animal entrapped in research gillnet; researchers monitoring net heard and saw a dolphin, so immediately went over (got there within a minute) to assess animal; they grabbed ahold of buoy line to hold animal up to see if/how animal was entangled; the dolphin was calm until they approached the net;	N/A	N/A	N/A

								when held net/animal up to boat, found it was loosely entangled around the fluke; dolphin became very agitated at that point and began thrashing a lot, so trying to get the dolphin to a point (without bringing aboard) to disentangle and release it; the dolphin ended up ripping right through the net (ripped a big hole) and swam away – whole process from start to finish took about 10 minutes; as far as researchers could tell, the dolphin swam away vigorously and appeared to be unscathed with no noticeable blood in water; duration of entanglement, animal's distress, and the force required to rip through the gillnet leave the animal's condition in question			
ITR & STR; research skimmer trawl	SER13-1264	Tt	GOM/Mississippi Sound, Lake Borgne, Bay Boudreau Stock	23-Oct-2013	Alive	CBD	N/A	dolphin was captured in the bag of a skimmer trawl during TED testing; animal was observed breathing at the surface inside the trawl upon retrieval of the tailbag; vessel redeployed the bag and slowed to allow the animal to swim out the mouth of the trawl; animal was not seen again	N/A	N/A	N/A
ITR & STR; research gillnet	SER15-00627	Tt	GOM/Matagorda Bay, Tres Palacios Bay, Lavaca Bay Stock	21-Oct-2015	Alive	Serious	S7b	a dolphin became entangled in a research gillnet at its fluke insertion; the entanglement wraps consisted of both the top and bottom lines and the entire mesh in between, and all this gear was wrapped around a couple times; it is not certain how long the animal was entangled due to the net soaking overnight unattended; it was disentangled ~7-8 minutes after researchers arrived and noticed thrashing; the animal was freed from the net and swam off vigorously with what appeared to be superficial bleeding; no attempt was made to monitor the animal following release as biologists were busy picking up their remaining gear	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 31	Tt	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	7-Mar-2011	Alive	Serious	S6	entangled in crab-pot type line, wrapped 3 times around animal with 1 foot of line trailing	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 32	Tt	ATL/Florida Bay Stock	1-Apr-2011	Alive, injured	Serious	S6, S13a	entangled in monofilament and algae cutting off nearly half of dorsal fin; gear trailing behind dorsal fin	N/A	N/A	N/A

At-Sea	Row 34	Tt	GOM/Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock	13-Jun-2011	Alive	Serious	S8a	calf with 3-4 wraps of monofilament and a bobber around its trunk anterior to dorsal fin	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 37	Tt	GOM/Copano Bay, ... Stock	28-Apr-2011	Alive	Serious	S6	entangled in crab trap/pot gear with line and buoy trailing; line wrapped circumferentially around animal's body anterior to dorsal fin	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 39	Tt	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	11-Sep-2011	Alive	CBD	N/A	entangled in fishing line near/around dorsal fin; line and knots trailing from dorsal fin; little details available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 40	Tt	ATL/undefined northern FL estuarine stock	20-Oct-2011	Alive	Not serious	S7b	animal with crab trap/pot line around peduncle; shed gear on its own	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 41	Tt	ATL/NNCE S Stock	10-Jul-2011	Alive	Serious	S6	entangled with line and black float around peduncle	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 42	Tt	GOM/Pensacola Bay, East Bay Stock	20-Nov-2011	Alive	Serious	S6	monofilament around dorsal fin; upper half of dorsal fin is nearly severed due to the entanglement; line trailing a rat's nest of gear	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 45	Tt	ATL/NFL estuarine undefined	24-Jan-2012	Alive, injured	Not serious	S7b	older calf had thick line cutting into its dorsal fin and pulled tight posteriorly (likely anchored at the flukes/peduncle); animal shed gear on its own; calf observed with its mother behaving normally and wound appears to be healing	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 47	Tt	GOM/Caloosahatchee River Stock	30-Mar-2012	Alive	Serious	S6	animal with buoy and line wrap near the head	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 48	Tt	GOM/Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock	20-Feb-2012	Alive	Serious	S8a, S15	calf or juvenile animal with monofilament line wrapped around the head posterior to blowhole; line constricting and cutting into skin	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 49	Tt	GOM/Chokoloskee Bay, Ten Thousand Islands, Gullivan Bay Stock	23-Mar-2012	Alive	CBD	N/A	report of animal sighted with gear entanglement - white buoy with orange stripe, uncertain configuration; no further information available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 50	Tt	GOM/PIS Stock	29-Apr-2012	Alive	CBD	N/A	animal reported to have fishing line trailing from its back; little information available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 51	Tt	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	6-May-2012	Alive	CBD	N/A	report of animal sighted with gear entanglement - yellow buoy; no further information available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 53	Tt	GOM/Sarasota Bay, Little Sarasota Bay Stock	22-Jul-2012	Alive	Serious	S6	animal with crab pot buoy and line around flukes	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 55	Tt	ATL/IRLES	9-Aug-	Alive	Serious	S6	animal with black poly line around	N/A	N/A	N/A

Stock 2012											its pectoral fins, body, and fluke, dragging buoy (6" black top and blue bottom) and pot		
At-Sea	Row 58	Gm	ATL/Western North Atlantic Stock	12-Jan-2013	Alive, injured	Serious	S5a	hooked in mouth (6/0 hook) and trailing ~25ft of mono line; hooked by recreational charterboat fishermen who mistook animal for a large swordfish or tuna; attempted to land animal for over 2 hrs; when it was brought near the vessel, they realized it was a pilot whale and cut the line	N/A	N/A	N/A		
At-Sea	Row 59	Tt	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	30-Mar-2013	Alive, unknown	Serious	S6	dolphin entangled around its midsection by a rope and red buoy	N/A	N/A	N/A		
At-Sea	Row 61	Tt	ATL/South Carolina/Georgia Coastal Stock	28-May-2013	Alive, unknown	CBD	N/A	reported by fisher as "line around tail"; unable to determine nature of entanglement b/c photo did not show tail stock	N/A	N/A	N/A		
At-Sea	Row 62	Tt	GOM/Copano Bay, ... Stock	14-Jun-2013	Alive, unknown	CBD	N/A	citizen reported animal as wrapped in a crab trap; responders were unable to locate; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A		
At-Sea	Row 63	Tt	ATL/JES Stock	25-Jul-2013	Alive, disfigured	Serious	S13a, S6	line wrapped around dorsal fin, cutting into and partially severing the fin; animal resighted in June 2014 with entanglement still present and more of the dorsal fin severed; likely the entanglement will result in loss of upper 1/3 to 1/2 of dorsal fin at some point; animal is at risk of further entanglement with the current state of its mutilated dorsal fin until fin completely severs off	N/A	N/A	N/A		
At-Sea	Row 64	Tt	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	7-Aug-2013	Alive, unknown	CBD	N/A	citizen reported an animal trailing a white buoy; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A		
At-Sea	Row 65 [Lucky Charm]	Tt	GOM/Chokoloskee Bay, Ten Thousand Islands, Gulliver Bay Stock	20-Aug-2013	Alive	Not serious	S7b	constricting black strap or band around head posterior to blowhole; re-sighted a few days later gear-free; animal had only minor abrasions where strap/band had been; frequently sighted animal by local researchers and it's believed duration of entanglement was short	N/A	N/A	N/A		
At-Sea	Row 66	Tt	GOM/Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock	25-Aug-2013	Alive	Serious	S8a	animal had what was believed to be a plastic packing strap around its head; strap was constricting; observer said it appeared as though the dolphin had grown into it	N/A	N/A	N/A		
At-Sea	Row 67	Tt	GOM/PIS Stock	10-Jul-2013	Alive	Serious	S6	rope/heavy line wrapped around the dorsal fin and trailing	N/A	N/A	N/A		

At-Sea	Row 68	Tt	GOM/Copano Bay, ...Stock	23-Aug-2013	Alive, injured	CBD	N/A	citizen reported animal had tissue hanging off of its body and some fishing gear/hooks attached; photos do not show gear, so type of hooks and placement on body are uncertain; photos showed animal's skin had been torn away or was hanging off in several locations, and there was a deep cut visible on the peduncle	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 69	Tt	GOM/Esteros Bay Stock	19-Sep-2013	Alive	Serious	S6	calf entangled in black line around its peduncle with ~5ft of trailing line	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 70	Tt	ATL/SNCES Stock	4-Oct-2013	Alive	Serious	S5a	calf entanglement involving a lure and monofilament line wrapped around rostrum and into mouth; appears to be deforming the rostrum and maxilla	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 71	Tt	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	21-Oct-2013	Alive, unknown	CBD	N/A	citizen reported animal with possibly wire or mono around pectoral fin and that animal was having trouble surfacing; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 72	Tt	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	23-Jun-2013	Alive, unknown	CBD	N/A	citizen reported animal "with something on head"; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 73	Tt	GOM/PIS Stock	28-Feb-2013	Alive, unknown	CBD	N/A	citizen reported an animal with line or netting wrapped around itself; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 77	Tt	CAR/Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Stock	2-Feb-2014	Alive	CBD	N/A	citizen reported animal as entangled in trash; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 78	Tt	GOM/Choko loskee Bay, Ten Thousand Islands, Gullivan Bay Stock	13-Apr-2014	Alive	CBD	N/A	citizen reported an animal with thick plastic netting around its mandible; no visible bleeding; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 79	Tt	GOM/St. Joseph Sound, Clearwater Harbor Stock	16-May-2014	Alive	Serious	S6	citizen reported an animal dragging a crab pot; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 81	Tt	ATL/SNCES or NNCES Stock	6-Aug-2014	Alive	CBD	N/A	researcher reported an animal with unknown line or monofilament entanglement anterior to the dorsal fin; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 83	Tt	[TOMA]	ATL/JES Stock	24-Jul-2014	Alive	CBD	researchers sighted a known animal, TOMA, with monofilament line wrapped around its dorsal fin in an area of previous dorsal fin injury (fin partially severed); unknown if any gear is trailing;	N/A	N/A	N/A

								little info available			
At-Sea	Row 85	Tt	GOM/St. Andrew Bay Stock	23-Sep-2014	Alive	CBD	N/A	dolphin and snorkel ecotour operator photo-documented an animal with a hook and lure in mouth; the lure was hooked to the upper and lower jaw limiting the animal's ability to open its mouth; operator believes the gear may have come off the animal on its own, but this was not confirmed	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 87 [cILOPP]	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	8-Oct-2014	Alive	Not serious	S7b	calf with possible mouth entanglement of unknown origin; photos from March 2015 show the animal's mouth to be free of any entanglement; animal shed any possible gear on its own	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 90 [JIBB]	Tt	ATL/JES Stock	29-Jan-2015	Alive	Serious	S6	animal observed with line wrapped around and trailing 2-3 ft behind the flukes	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 91	Tt	GOM/Easter n Coastal Stock	28-Jan-2015	Alive	CBD	N/A	members of the public encircled what they believed to be a "sick" dolphin with a fishing net and separated it from 2 other dolphins; the dolphin was described as breathing frequently and listing to the side prior to its capture; the net was kept loose to see if the dolphin would breathe on its own; the animal was within the net for an estimated 5 minutes; when the net was opened, the animal "swam out like a shot" and re-joined the other 2 dolphins and they quickly lost sight of the animals	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 92	Tt	GOM/Calcas ieu Lake Stock	24-Mar-2015	Alive	Serious	S6	animal was sighted entangled in gear resembling green pool noodle used in gill fishing with black line hanging from it	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 93	Tt	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	23-Mar-2015	Alive	CBD	N/A	calf sighted with monofilament loosely entangled around left fluke	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 94	Tt	GOM/Baratar ia Bay Estuarine System Stock	10-Apr-2015	Alive	Serious	S8a	NOAA researchers spotted an animal with a constricting white strap around its head during a dolphin survey	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 95	Tt	GOM/Easter n Coastal Stock	22-Apr-2015	Alive	Serious	S6	calf with both fluke tips entangled, the left fluke tip nearly severed; gear trailing behind the animal; sighted with adult (presumed mother) who was actively depredating fishing lines	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 96	Tt	GOM/St. Andrew Bay Stock or Northern Coastal	18-Apr-2015	Alive	Serious	S5a	animal sighted with a lure with a treble hook on each end, embedded in top and bottom of rostrum; animal appeared to be able to open its mouth only ~1 in.	N/A	N/A	N/A

Stock											
At-Sea	Row 97	Tt	GOM/Easter n Coastal Stock	2-May- 2015	Alive	Serious	S6	animal sighted with mesh net around the face (mostly the rostrum); able to surface and breathe without hindrance	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 98	Tt	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	14-May- 2015	Alive	Serious	S6	animal with dorsal fin entanglement; animal was towing ~4 ft of line with some biofouling, and for a short time on 14-May- 2015 there was a plastic water bottle involved in entanglement; animal re-sighted on 4-Jul-2015 and the dorsal fin was still entangled and line was cutting through the fin and also still trailing behind the animal	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 99	Tt	GOM/Lagun a Madre Stock	1-Jun- 2015	Alive	Serious	S6	animal entangled around its flukes and tail stock with what was thought to be a rope with heavy biofouling	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 100	Tt	GOM/Easter n Coastal Stock	31-May- 2015	Alive	CBD	N/A	citizen reported adult (mother of mom/calf pair) with a white body wrap of rope or wire; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 101	Tt	GOM/Saraso ta Bay, Little Sarasota Bay Stock	15-Apr- 2015	Alive	CBD	N/A	a charter boat captain reported a dolphin with a fishing jig on/near its dorsal fin	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 102	Tt	GOM/St. Joseph Sound, Clearwater Harbor Stock	28-Jun- 2015	Alive	Serious	S6	animal was hooked in the dorsal fin with steel leader and fishing line attached and trailing; animal reported as lethargic	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 103	Tt	GOM/Galves ton Bay, East Bay, Trinity Bay Stock	23-Jun- 2015	Alive	CBD	N/A	animal sighted with plastic debris anterior to the dorsal fin, and it appeared to have a dorsal fin entanglement of unknown nature as well; it is not certain if plastic material was actually wrapped completely around the animal's body or just draped to give it a wrapped look; animal was not resighted	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 104	Tt (4 individ uals)	GOM/ Mobile Bay, Bonneour Bay Stock or Northern Coastal Stock	12-Jul- 2015	Alive	CBD	N/A	citizen reported 4 dolphins were in a commercial gillnet and person was close enough to hear vocalizations and blows; responders went to area with marine patrol and did not find dolphins; fishers reported no dolphins	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 105	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	7-Aug- 2015	Alive	Not serious	S8b	calf initially sighted on 7-Aug-2015 with a loose wrap of monofilament around the lower leading edge of the dorsal fin but not cutting into the fin; later sighted (25-Aug-2015)	N/A	N/A	N/A

								gear free; animal shed gear on its own			
At-Sea	Row 106 [FB78]	Tt	GOM/Sarasota Bay, Little Sarasota Bay Stock	5-Aug-2015	Alive	Not serious	S5c	researchers sighted a known animal with a hook in its dorsal fin with a small amount of trailing monofilament line; animal shed gear on its own and was sighted gear free on 9-Sep-2015	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 108	Tt	ATL/NNCE S Stock	20-Aug-2015	Alive	Serious	S8a	animal sighted with an Aerobie ring around its head; a disentanglement effort was planned, but the animal was not sighted during the disentanglement surveys in early September; no further reports on this animal	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 109	Tt	GOM/Apalachee Bay Stock	6-Sep-2015	Alive, unknown	CBD	N/A	a citizen reported a dolphin entangled in crab trap/pot gear; responders were not able to locate the animal; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 110	Tt	GOM/Galveston Bay, East Bay, Trinity Bay Stock	28-Aug-2015	Alive, injured	Not serious	S13a	animal initially sighted in August 2015 with a "rat's nest" of fishing line and biofouling cutting through its dorsal fin; later sighted with line trailing behind as well; at a subsequent sighting in September 2015 the fin was cut halfway through and was greatly disfigured; resighted in July 2016 without the upper portion of its dorsal fin	N/A	N/A	N/A
At-Sea	Row 115	Tt	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	25-Nov-2015	Alive	CBD	N/A	citizen reported animal as wrapped behind dorsal fin with thick white fishing line; little info available	N/A	N/A	N/A
STR; unknown material/gear	SER11-2390 [Spartacus]	Tt	ATL/JES Stock	1-Jun-2011	Alive	Not serious	S6	animal entangled around peduncle and flukes in unknown material/gear; gear is trailing 1 ft. behind the animal's flukes; still alive as of 20-Sep-2012; resighted in 2014 gear-free and behaving normally	N/A	N/A	N/A
STR; commercial crab trap/pot gear	SER11-2104	Tt	ATL/Central Georgia Estuarine System Stock	19-Jun-2011	Alive, uninjured	Serious	S7a, S8a	animal entangled in crab trap/pot gear; the buoy line was wrapped and twisted tightly around the dolphin's peduncle; it was able to lift only the tip of its head out of the water and move short distances	Not serious	S7b	line was cut and animal swam away normally, breached, and joined other dolphins; did not appear injured
STR; hook and line gear	SER11-1502 [Rio]	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	24-Feb-2011	Alive, injured	Serious	S8a, S13a	thick "fly line" was wrapped around the dorsal fin at least 16 times and was cutting through the fin; monofilament line was present below "fly line"; lesions present on animal	Serious	S7b, S13a	this marks the animal's 3rd disentanglement event; disentangled and released on 4 May 2011; (animal stranded dead in early September 2011 following a subsequent entanglement to flukes and dorsal fin. 8 entanglements were documented and 3 disentanglement interventions

Incident Details and Response											
Stranding Summary											
STR; crab trap/pot gear	SER11-1622	Tt	ATL/Charleston Estuarine System Stock	13-May-2011	Alive	Serious	S7a	animal entangled by crab trap/pot gear loosely wrapped around the flukes	Not serious	S7b	were made)
STR; hook and line gear	SER11-2102 [C797]	Tt	GOM/Sarasota Bay, Little Sarasota Bay Stock	18-Mar-2011	Alive, injured	Serious	S1, S5a, S6	calf hooked in mouth multiple times and entangled in line, weights, and lures for 3 months; animal accumulated additional gear over time (5 different entanglements); body condition deteriorated markedly prior to disentanglement	Serious	S1, S5a, S7b	line was cut and animal swam away quickly
STR; commercial crab trap/pot gear, likely blue crab	SER11-2415	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	18-Aug-2011	Alive, uninjured	Serious	S7a	animal entangled by crab trap/pot gear wrapped around half of flukes	Not serious	S7b	line was cut and animal appeared to be gear free and swimming normally
STR; hook and line gear	SER11-2388	Tt	GOM/Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock	8-Aug-2011	Alive, injured	Serious	S8a	monofilament line and leader wrapped around the dorsal fin and appeared to be cutting through the skin; entanglement occurred in area of old propeller strike wound	Not serious	S7b	all gear removed; animal examined by veterinarians during NRDA health assessment
STR; crab trap/pot gear	SER11-2362	Tt	GOM/Galveston Bay, East Bay, Trinity Bay Stock	13-Jul-2011	Alive, injured	CBD	N/A	animal entangled by crab trap/pot gear wrapped tightly around peduncle and flukes; superficial cuts reported; animal floating stationary; reported by member of the public	CBD	N/A	animal floating stationary and did not struggle during disentanglement by members of the public; reported to swim away after disentanglement
STR; hook and line gear	SER11-2517	Tt	ATL/undefined northern FL estuarine stock	16-Dec-2011	Alive, injured	Serious	S8a	calf with monofilament line wrapped around the body and cutting into and circumscribing the head; line also cutting into leading edge of dorsal fin and right pectoral flipper	Not serious	S7b	disentangled; follow-up monitoring shows animal is doing well; still alive as of 4-Oct-2012 (pers. comm., W. Noke Durden)
STR; hook and line gear	SER11-2436 [Vidalia]	Tt	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	2-Jul-2011	Alive, injured	Serious	S8a	animal entangled in monofilament line; line cutting through the jaw and cheeks, deeply into the right flipper, and several inches into the leading edge of dorsal fin	Not serious	S7b	calf disentangled from monofilament line on 15-Nov-2011; follow-up monitoring shows animal is healing; still alive as of 5-Mar-2017 (pers. comm., A. Weaver)
STR; hook and line gear	SER11-2139 [Mono]	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	21-Jan-2011	Alive, uninjured	Serious	S6	calf entangled in monofilament line and hooks	Not serious	S7b	calf disentangled from monofilament line and hooks; follow-up monitoring showed animal alive and with mother
STR; hook and line gear	SER11-2564 [Mono]	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	5-May-2011	Alive, injured	Serious	S5c, S6	calf hooked in mouth multiple times (soft palate) and trailing fishing line	Not serious	S5c, S7b	all gear removed during disentanglement effort; follow-up monitoring indicated the animal recovered
STR;	SER11-	Tt	ATL/IRLES	27-Jul-	Alive,	Serious	S8a	calf with circumferential wrap of	Serious	S1, S7b	all gear removed during

unidentified gear or debris	2565 [Mono]	S Stock	2011	injured			lanyard-style cord			disentanglement effort; observed to be in lean/poor body condition during follow-up monitoring (8 Sep 2011)	
STR; hook and line gear	SER11-2421 [Fily]	Tt	ATL/IRLE S Stock	27-Sep-2011	Alive, injured	Serious	S7b	calf entangled in monofilament line; injured left pectoral fin and tail stock and in poor body condition	Not serious	S7b	disentangled and released; follow-up monitoring indicated the animal recovered (captured in June 2012 during health assessment and sighted in August 2012; pers. comm., S. Burton and S. McCulloch)
STR; unidentified fishing gear and debris	SER12-0352 [Lobo]	Tt	GOM/PIS Stock	12-June-2012	Alive	Serious	S6	animal with entanglement running caudally from the dorsal fin to the peduncle/flukes and trailing behind the flukes; animal also has a severe case of lobomycosis	Not serious	S7b	disentanglement attempt was made on 14-Jun-2012; the section of the entanglement that connected the dorsal fin to the peduncle/flukes was cut; visible line remained embedded in the lobomycosis on the dorsal fin (this line was not considered likely to become constricting, be ingested, accumulate drag, or become snagged); after the cut was made, animal swam rapidly away
STR; unidentified fishing gear and debris	SER12-0805 [Lobo]	Tt	GOM/PIS Stock	6-Jul-2012	Alive, in distress	Serious	S1, S6	animal with entanglement around its dorsal fin and flukes and seemingly anchored and in distress; animal also had a severe case of lobomycosis	Serious	S1, S6	second disentanglement effort made for this animal; additional line that was ensnared in the lobomycosis of the dorsal fin and flukes were removed and the animal was disentangled from a possible cast net and other debris around its flukes; a small amount of gear remained on animal; animal appeared thin and transverse processes were apparent (4+ months later, animal stranded dead with gear attached and embedded , 17-Nov-2012)
STR; unidentified green line	SER12-0746	Tt	ATL/JES Stock	19-Dec-2012	Alive, injured and restricted in motion	Serious	S6, S8a, S9	animal has line wrapped around and cutting through dorsal fin anteriorly and posteriorly; line is also wrapped around peduncle and flukes, holding the peduncle and flukes at a 90° angle and cutting into the flukes; animal is trailing line and entangled debris	N/A	N/A	N/A
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER12-0364	Tt	ATL/JES Stock	29-Apr-2012	Alive, floating, mostly immobile	Serious	S7a	animal was entangled in 3 crab traps; lines and floats were wrapped multiple times around the peduncle just above the flukes; animal had numerous indentations on the body, and behind the dorsal fin	Not serious	S7b	disentanglement effort was made; animal forcefully swam away once gear-free

STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER12-0514	Tt	ATL/JES Stock	5-Aug-2012	Alive, swimming	Serious	S6, S8a	the dorsum had been rubbed raw animal was entangled in crab pot line and buoy; three wraps of line were reported around the peduncle	Serious	S8a	disentanglement effort was made; line was cut and buoy was removed; attempt was made to pull on the remaining line that was wrapped three times around the peduncle, but it did not come loose; line did not appear to be embedded in the animal; biologists unable to relocate
STR; suspected crab trap/pot gear	SER12-0461	Tt	GOM/St. Joseph Sound, Clearwater Harbor Stock	17-May-2012	Alive, surfacing in same spot	CBD	N/A	animal reported to be in distress; reportedly surfacing in one spot and believed to be entangled around the peduncle or flukes by a line which was suspected to be a crab trap line; responders were not able to locate the animal; few details available	N/A	N/A	N/A
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER12-0688	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	30-Oct-2012	Alive, swimming	Serious	S6, S8a	calf entangled in crab pot buoy and rope wrapped around its peduncle researchers	Not serious	S7b	successful disentanglement on 2-Nov-2012; mother and calf were captured, calf was disentangled, and both animals were released; calf was sighted twice subsequently during 2012 by local researchers
STR; hook and line gear	SER12-0086	Tt	ATL/undefined northern FL estuarine stock	10-Jan-2012	Alive, injured	Serious	S8a, S13d	~9 mos. old calf entangled in monofilament line and fishing gear; line cutting into and embedded in pectoral fins; lesions present; animal appeared thin and small for its age	Serious	S7b, S13d	disentanglement effort on 10-Feb-2012 during which mother and calf were captured, calf was disentangled, and animals were released; calf stranded dead 2 weeks later
STR; hook and line gear with biofouling	SER12-0759	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	29-Dec-2012	Alive, emaciated and injured	Serious	S6	animal entangled in thick fishing line that was heavily biofouled and trailing behind flukes; animal emaciated and was not lifting its flukes nor displaying normal foraging behavior; lacerations visible on the flukes	Not serious	S7b	successful disentanglement effort took place on 8-Jan-2013; sighted 2 weeks and 6 weeks post-release; researchers observed wounds healing, the animal actively foraging and body condition to be good
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER12-0010	Tt	ATL/undefined northern FL estuarine stock	17-Jan-2012	Alive, minor injuries	Serious	S6, S8a	animal was tightly entangled in crab pot line around the right pectoral flipper with the buoy snug at the axilla	Not serious	S7b	disentanglement effort was made on the same day as initial sighting; animal travelled away quickly upon release and appeared in good body condition; multiple sightings following disentanglement indicate animal is doing well
STR; hook and line gear	SER12-0204 [Seymour]	Tt	GOM/Chokoloskee Bay, Ten Thousand Islands, Gullivan Bay Stock	9-Mar-2012	Alive, injured	CBD	N/A	animal with monofilament line wrapped tightly around the peduncle near the flukes; line cutting into the flukes; scar tissue is present (animal first reported with entanglement in December 2011)	CBD	N/A	animal was disentangled, freeze-branded, satellite-tagged, and released on 9-Mar-2012; animal was tracked for 84 days and informal reports indicate animal recovered, but a lack of any sightings following the tracking leave the animal's fate in question

STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER12-0289	Tt	ATL/Charles ton Estuarine System Stock	2-May-2012	Alive	Serious	S7a	animal was entangled in crab trap/pot gear; line was wrapped loosely once around the base of the flukes	Not serious	S7b	disentanglement effort was made on the same day as initial sighting; animal had minor abrasions only; animal swam quickly away upon release
STR; non-commercial shrimp trawl net	SER12-0567	Tt	GOM/Perdido Bay Stock	13-Oct-2012	Alive	Not serious	S7b	a tour guide reported disentangling a dolphin from his shrimp net; he stated that he was able to cut the dolphin out of the net and it swam away without damage to itself; he also stated that it was breathing well and was in the net a total of no more than 3 minutes; he waited in the area for about half an hour after the release of the dolphin to observe behavior which appeared normal	N/A	N/A	N/A
STR; hook and line gear	SER12-0807 [Lizzie]	Tt	GOM/Sarasota Bay, Little Sarasota Bay Stock	20-Jul-2012	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	animal had monofilament line cutting 5cm into leading edge and 3 cm into trailing edge of right fluke, and line seemed to be on its way to severing the fluke; small "rat's nest" of gear hanging off of flukes	Not serious	S7b	animal was disentangled during a health assessment capture-release project; animal in good condition; still alive as of April 2017 (pers. comm., R. Wells)
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER12-0802	Tt	GOM/Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock	20-Nov-2012	Alive	Serious	S7a	animal was entangled in crab pot gear; line was wrapped around the base of the peduncle	Not serious	S7b	disentanglement effort was made on the same day as initial sighting; team cut the line; dolphin was reported to be very cooperative and once the line was cut the dolphin swam away quickly; only a few cuts were seen at the base of the peduncle and fluke area; dolphin appeared to be in very good condition and strong enough to pull away once the line was cut
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER13-0583 [Lasso]	Tt	ATL/JES Stock	19-Apr-2013	Alive	Serious	S6	rope wrapped around body in front of dorsal fin; ~3ft of additional line and a float are attached to the wrapped rope and trailing; animal is later observed to have 2 floats trailing	Not serious	S6	multiple disentanglement attempts were made; animal was partially disentangled, but gear remained around body and trailing; body condition was noted to be deteriorating in June 2013 and animal had extensive skin lesions; animal was re-sighted during April 2015 without any entanglement and behaving normally
STR: debris, Aerobie (frisbee)	SER13-0131	Tt	ATL/JES Stock	7-Feb-2013	Alive	Serious	S6	young animal with an Aerobie (frisbee) around its neck	Not serious	S7b	successful disentanglement on 20-Feb-2013 during which Aerobie was removed from around animal's neck
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER13-0607	Tt	ATL/NGSS CES Stock	1-Aug-2013	Alive	Serious	S7a	a crab pot buoy line was entangled tightly around the flukes and peduncle and attached to a trap/pot on the river bottom	Not serious	S7b	successful disentanglement on 1-Aug-2013; animal swam away gear-free; appeared to be uninjured

STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER13-0724	Tt	ATL/Central Georgia Estuarine System Stock	16-Sep-2013	Alive, uninjured	Serious	S7a	animal was entangled around flukes and peduncle in a crab pot buoy line attached to a trap/pot	Not serious	S7b	animal was disentangled and swam away gear-free; appeared to be uninjured; entanglement was believed to be of short duration based on conversation with trap owner
STR; spiny lobster trap/pot gear	SER13-1210	Tt	GOM/Florida Keys Stock	5-Aug-2013	Alive	Serious	S7a, S8a	small animal, possibly calf, entangled in trap/pot gear, with ~30 wraps around its fluke insertion and 3 buoys attached	CBD	N/A	disentangled and released by citizen; condition unknown
STR; hook and line gear	SER13-0548 [Y23]	Tt	GOM/Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock	24-Jun-2013	Alive,	Not serious	S5b	hook found in lower left jaw/lip of animal during live capture health assessment; no trailing gear	Not serious	S5b	hook was removed; dolphin was released following health assessment work-up; animal resighted in November 2013
STR; hook and line gear	SER13-0549 [Y49]	Tt	GOM/Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock	21-Jun-2013	Alive, injured	Not serious	S13a	braided line wrapped around the upper portion of the dorsal fin and cutting into leading and trailing edges of fin	Not serious	S7b, S13a	line was cut and removed during live capture health assessment; dolphin was released following health assessment work-up
STR; hook and line gear	SER13-0600	Tt	GOM/PIS Stock	13-Apr-2013	Alive	CBD	N/A	citizen described event as a lethargic dolphin became entangled in his fishing line around its flukes	CBD	N/A	the citizen pulled the dolphin to his boat and disentangled it; dolphin swam away and was not relocated; little info available
STR; crab trap/pot gear	SER13-0602	Tt	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	13-May-2013	Alive	Serious	S7a	calf was entangled in a crab trap line around the dorsal fin, head, and mouth;	Serious	S15	citizen disentangled dolphin calf against biologist's advice; citizen pulled the dolphin to his boat and disentangled; the dolphin swam away and was not relocated; dependent animal released alone
STR; unknown gear	SER13-0837	Tt	GOM/ PIS Stock	28-Feb-2013	Alive, unknown	Serious	S6, S15	calf reported entangled in unknown gear; local biologist responded to the scene but was unable to locate the entangled dolphin; he was informed by nearby fisherman that they had seen an entangled dolphin calf swimming in the area; it is believed a boat captain partially disentangled the calf and it was free- swimming but still carrying gear	N/A	N/A	N/A
STR; hook and line gear	SER13-0903	Tt	GOM/Esteros Bay Stock	15-Aug-2013	Alive, injured	Serious	S6	calf entangled around flukes in biofouled line with gear trailing; first reported entangled on 15-Aug-2013; verified and monitored until disentanglement effort on 18-Nov-2013	Not serious	S7b	successful disentanglement effort on 18-Nov-2013; animal was captured and all gear was removed; wounds on the flukes were treated; resighted on 13-Jan-2014
STR; research gillnet	SER13-1176	Tt	GOM/Mississippi River Delta Stock	4-Apr-2013	Alive, uninjured	Not serious	S7b	animal became entangled in research strike gillnet; staff were able to respond right away upon seeing splashing and remove the net from the dolphin's flukes and body; animal swam away vigorously	N/A	N/A	N/A

STR; hook and line gear	SER13-1252	Tt	GOM/Chokeloskee Bay, Ten Thousand Islands, Gullivan Bay Stock	26-Dec-2013	Alive, unknown	CBD	N/A	dolphin was reported as entangled in hook and line gear running from its dorsal fin to its flukes	CBD	N/A	disentangled by citizens; they corralled dolphin in shallow water and removed ~30ft of high tech fishing line, hook, and lure; no photos available; not sure if all gear was removed
STR; research longline gear	SER13-1265	Tt	GOM/Mobile Bay, Bonsecour Bay Stock	6-Aug-2013	Alive	Serious	S6	dolphin was caught by a 15/0 circle hook in its flukes during a longline research survey; dolphin broke free from the gear, but the hook and ~2m of trailing gear were still attached	N/A	N/A	N/A
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	NER14-00463	Tt	ATL/NNCE S or SM Coastal Stock	20-Jul-2014	Alive, injured	Serious	S12	trap/pot lines were twisted around each other and wrapped very tightly just forward of the animal's flukes; a commercial fisherman got the animal alongside his boat; he pulled the pots up to release tension on the line that was wrapped tightly around the fluke; he cut the twisted line off and said there were deep incisions where the lines were wrapped, going almost completely through to the bone; animal was very lethargic during the disentanglement	N/A	N/A	N/A
STR; haul/beach seine net	NER14-00652	Tt	ATL/NNCE S, NM Coastal, or SM Coastal Stock	20-Oct-2014	Alive	Serious	S7b	dolphin seen inside the haul seine net; when fishermen tried to lift net to let animal out, witnesses reported seeing a lot of thrashing but could not confirm the animal became entangled in the mesh at any point; dolphin beached itself (stranded) shortly after and the fishermen turned it back around and it swam off	N/A	N/A	N/A
STR; commercial stone crab trap/pot gear	SER14-00042 [NIPT]	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	19-Jan-2014	Alive	Serious	S6	animal has line wrapped around its body anterior to dorsal fin and posterior to flippers; line is also wrapped around a flipper; additional line and a red buoy are trailing behind the animal	Not serious	S7b	successful disentanglement effort took place on 27-Jan-2014; animal still being sighted by local researchers as of June 2015
STR; hook and line gear	SER14-00670	Tt	GOM/Choctawhatchee Bay Stock	30-Jul-2014	Alive	Serious	S6	monofilament line embedded in both fluke blades of a calf and trailing behind 3-4', with bio-fouling of trailing line; left fluke is partially severed	Not serious	S7b	successful disentanglement of monofilament line from calf flukes conducted, with release on site; animal resighted with mother on 20-Nov-2014 and appeared to be swimming well
STR; hook and line gear	SER14-00782 [Skipper]	Tt	GOM/Chokeloskee Bay, Ten Thousand Islands, Gullivan Bay Stock	9-Aug-2014	Alive	Serious	S6	metal leader and line wrapped around the peduncle of a calf and trailing ~5-6'.	Not serious	S7b	successful disentanglement of gear from calf's peduncle on 4-Sep-2014; animal resighted with its mother in February 2015 and appeared to be fine (animal subsequently resighted in March 2016 and January

												2017)
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER14-00853	Tt	ATL/JES Stock	25-Oct-2014	Alive	Serious	S7a	animal was anchored by crab trap line wrapped around its peduncle/flukes	Not serious	S7b	successful disentanglement of line from animal's peduncle/flukes by citizen who was able to cut the line (single wrap); citizen reported no signs of injury	
STR; hook and line gear	SER14-00877	Tt	GOM/Northern Coastal Stock	14-Aug-2014	Alive	Serious	S6	juvenile animal that hangs around Pensacola Fishing Pier is entangled in monofilament line; entanglement wraps around both flukes' leading edges, lacerating the tissue, with about two feet of trailing line coming off the left fluke; the line is cutting into flukes, 2-3 inches deep and the left fluke appears to have a flap of tissue still attached but hanging; attempts were made to capture the animal for disentanglement, but all attempts were unsuccessful	N/A	N/A	N/A	
STR; hook and line gear	SER14-00899	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	13-Nov-2014	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	calf was initially sighted on 13 November entangled in hook and line fishing gear around the dorsal fin which was cutting into leading edge of the dorsal fin with some damage to the trailing edge as well; line was taut and the animal appeared to have difficulty surfacing normally (not fully raising the dorsal fin above the surface); when surfacing the line could be seen tugging on the animal with a recoil-like response in the calf; along the left side of the animal a semi-circular metal object could be seen along with an oval metal sinker; the line was taut and extended caudally the distance of the flukes; further caudal from the dorsal fin there was yellow object attached to the line	Not serious	S7b	successful capture and disentanglement of calf from fishing gear on 20-Nov-2014; the laceration to the leading edge of the dorsal fin extends a quarter of the way through the fin and an additional laceration is present along the trailing edge of the dorsal fin; there is a small healed laceration on the leading edge of the left fluke; there are two small lacerations (bleeding) on the dorsal side of the peduncle (possibly resulting from the capture net); following the release the calf rejoined the mom and was witnessed high surfacing and breaching and was not having difficulty swimming as witnessed prior to intervention	
STR; crab trap/pot gear	NER15-00409	Tt	ATL/NNCE S or SM Coastal Stock	3-Aug-2015	Alive, injured	Serious	S6	an animal was reported to the stranding network as having a rope from a crab pot with an attached float wrapped through the mouth around the lower mandible, and extending around the left pectoral flipper	Serious	S7b	the citizen on site reported that in order to release the rope he did not cut it, but rather released the tension and unraveled the rope; at this point the citizen had been, and continued to be, in the water with the animal; after removing the rope, the citizen reported that the animal swam away and began to swim in circles, and eventually rested against him in the water; he reported that the animal appeared weak and	

											disoriented, and eventually left him and rested against reeds in the marsh; it is unclear how long the animal rested in this position, however, when responders arrived they observed the animal free swimming in a circular pattern; they noted the animal would change direction if their boat came near to it; no further actions were taken and responders did not observe the animal for long
STR; hook and line gear	SER15-00166 [CPEA]	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	18-Jan-2015	Alive, injured	Serious	S8a	calf's maxilla was wrapped tightly multiple times with monofilament line; the line was cutting deeply into the maxilla	Not serious	S7b	successful capture of mother/calf pair and disentanglement of calf on 6-Mar-2015; all gear was removed and a VHF tag was placed on the mother for post-release monitoring; calf still alive and sighted with mother during February and June of 2016
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER15-00147	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	24-Mar-2015	Alive, injured	Serious	S6	dolphin was seen trailing a black and yellow circular buoy less than one body-length behind its tail; witnesses say the dolphin struggled to surface and lifted only its head and part of its dorsal fin when surfacing to breathe; the initial complainant called to report that the animal had become stuck on the rocks on the northern shore of the entrance to Ballard Park; upon contacting the complainant the animal had freed itself from the rocks and continued north	Serious	S7b	animal was entangled for more than 5 1/2 hrs based on witness reports throughout the day; late in the day a jet skier approached the dolphin from behind and grabbed the trailing crab pot buoy; the rope was handed off to boaters who tied the trailing line around a cleat on their bow; jet skier and two individuals on board the boat entered the water (~3feet deep) and struggled to pull in the line; when they had the dolphin close enough they observed one loop of rope around the caudal peduncle at the fluke insertion; rope looped around the ventral portion of the caudal peduncle and was twisted tightly together on the dorsal surface of the flukes; they freed the animal by untwisting the rope and guiding it off of the flukes (no cuts were made); they observed 1/2" deep by 1/2" wide wounds on the leading edge of each fluke at the fluke insertion; wounds were described as red and open, but not bleeding; group reported that they had

STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER15-00182	Tt	ATL/South Carolina/Georgia Coastal Stock or SM Coastal Stock	21-Feb-2015	Alive	Serious	S6	beachgoers observed a large adult dolphin surfacing abnormally in shallow water along the edge of a sandbar at ~14:00 during the outgoing tide; at ~14:45 the tide was almost low and the dolphin stranded on the sandbar; it was entangled with a crab pot buoy line around its peduncle attached to a crab pot	Serious	S7b	very little contact with the dolphin, and were handling the rope and fluke area only; upon removing the rope the dolphin reportedly fled the area very quickly, swimming directly west towards a group of 2+ other dolphins.
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER15-00213	Tt	ATL/Southern Georgia Estuarine System Stock	3-Apr-2015	Alive	Serious	S7a	live dolphin entangled in a crab pot buoy line was reported by recreational boater at 11:15; GDNR staff launched boat and arrived onsite at 11:45; subadult dolphin was entangled around the peduncle at the buoy end of the line with red foam bullet buoy flush against peduncle; dolphin was anchored by the crab pot, surfacing occasionally to breathe, but apparently unable to move	CBD	N/A	GDNR staff repeatedly approached dolphin and attempted to grab the buoy line with a boat hook and flying grapple mounted on a pole, but dolphin submerged each time; at 12:17 the buoy line was snagged with a throwing grapple, the dolphin's flukes were pulled alongside the boat and the crab pot was pulled into the bow; the line was cinched tightly around peduncle and peduncle was bleeding mildly; the buoy line was cut in one location adjacent to the peduncle and the dolphin swam away gear-free at 12:20; dolphin swam fast to the north and disappeared
STR; boat collision	SER15-00490 [Babyface]	Tt	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	9-Jul-2015	Alive, injured	Not serious	S16	Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) received calls about an animal with extensive multiple lacerations on its peduncle; staff were dispatched on multiple days to monitor; on most days, the animal was sighted; photos, videos, GPS coordinates, and ethograms were collected; respiration rate ranged from 9 to 13 breaths per five minutes; animal seemed to be	N/A	N/A	N/A

<p>in fair condition, with the periphery of the lacerations showing signs of healing; dolphin was sighted throughout the Treasure Island area and seemed to move with ease; strongly suspected that the animal was foraging; additionally, reports have described people feeding the dolphin off of John's Pass boardwalk (not verified); photos were shared amongst mark-recapture researchers, and the animal has been positively identified as "Babyface"; CMA continued to monitor alongside other researchers; in mid-August, monitoring was suspended as a result of the animal's improved healing and behavior; no intervention was made</p>											
STR; oil boom entrapment	SER15-00491	Tt	GOM/St. Joseph Sound, Clearwater Harbor Stock	20-Jul-2015	Alive, uninjured	Serious	S7a	a dolphin was reported as trapped by an oil boom in a marina and boat club; first responders arrived on scene at approximately 2130; two oil booms were observed, one of which was situated between the west oil boom and highway; dolphin was confirmed to be trapped as a result of low tide; another dolphin was heard outside of this area, however, the west oil boom had a 3-4ft clearance and thus, this animal did not appear to be trapped	Not serious	S7b	NMFS was contacted and it was decided that the first responders would cut the rope of the east oil boom to open it up; once opened, the trapped dolphin was observed leaving the area
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER15-00558	Tt	ATL/Charles ton Estuarine System Stock	8-Oct-2015	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	a dolphin entangled in a crab pot line and buoy was found by a sailing tour vessel	Serious	S6, S8a	the sailing vessel deployed a jon boat to closely approach the animal; a crew member cut the dolphin free from some line and a buoy but left an unknown amount of line wrapped around the base of the flukes as the animal swam off; it was estimated that the animal had 5-6 line wraps around the base of the flukes
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER15-00559	Tt	ATL/Charles ton Estuarine System Stock	13-Oct-2015	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	a dolphin entangled in a crab pot line and buoy were reported by boaters; line was wrapped tightly multiple times around the flukes	CBD	N/A	stranding network members arrived 2hrs 10 min after first report to begin disentanglement efforts; animal displayed some strong kicking of the flukes throughout much of the effort; a disentanglement knife was used to cut the lines; the first cut only released a small section of line; a second attempt allowed for the blade

STR; hook and line gear and plastic debris	SER15-00563	Tt	GOM/Easter n Coastal Stock	6-Oct-2015	Alive	Serious	S6	calf was entangled in a plastic strap around its body, anterior to the dorsal fin, and also multiple types of fishing line, a swivel, and crimp; gear was trailing ~5ft behind the animal as well	Not serious	S7b	on 15-Oct-2015 a disentanglement effort was conducted with multiple agencies, and the calf was successfully disentangled; a roto tag was applied, and the animal immediately released; on 20-Oct-2015 the mother and calf were sighted behaving normally and in good body condition.; animal sighted on 13-Jan-2017	
STR; commercial stone crab trap/pot gear	SER15-00576	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	22-Oct-2015	Alive	Serious	S7a	a camper reported a pair of dolphins staying in the same place for at least 3 hours; one of the animals seemed to be weighed down by something and was struggling to keep its head above water; stranding network volunteers assessed the animal's behavior and condition and determined that the dolphin was tethered, lifting just its blowhole and rostrum out of the water; a second dolphin was seen in deeper water ~500 m away	CBD	N/A	stranding network members entered the water via kayak and on foot; the member on foot felt a large trap; the trap was lifted and the animal was supported and brought to slightly more shallow water (~15ft backwards); the rope was wrapped tightly around the peduncle and then again around the trailing edge of the flukes; rope was cut and flukes were photographed before releasing the animal; the extent of damage to the flukes seemed to be no more than a cm deep into the leading edge of the flukes and ca. 0.5 cm in 2 spots along the trailing edge; the animal swam off with speed and was seen to surface 3 times at distances beyond 200 meters; no other dolphins were seen during after rescue attempt; the second dolphin (part of the original sighting) seen upon initial arrival was believed to be a 1-2 year old dolphin (not a newborn)	
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER15-00592	Tt	ATL/IRLES Stock	2-Nov-2015	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	animal was sighted swimming pulling crab trap gear, including trap, buoy and line	Not serious	S7b	animal was initially sighted by a salvage crew member, and this citizen cut the trap free from the animal, but line and buoy remained looped around	

STR; crab trap/pot gear	SER15-00630	Tt	GOM/Sarasota Bay, Little Sarasota Bay Stock	8-Nov-2015	Alive	Serious	S7a	animal was entangled by and trailing crab trap/pot gear	CBD	N/A	the peduncle and trailing behind animal; stranding network members attempted to remove the line and buoy, but were unsuccessful; however, the animal was sighted doing a few spins and the remaining gear was seen to come off on its own; animal resighted on 1-Dec-2015 and confirmed gear-free
STR; hook and line gear	SER15-00680	Tt	GOM/Choctawhatchee Bay Stock	16-Oct-2015	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	animal was entangled in red monofilament fishing line in its mouth and around the mandible; considered life threatening and plans were made to intervene, but no sightings were reported after 29-Nov-2015 and NOAA called off efforts b/c animal could not be found	N/A	N/A	USCG coxswain disentangled the dolphin; animal swam away gear free; it's not known how long the animal was entangled

Appendix I. Table 2 taken from NMFS 2012b.

TABLE 2: Summary of Small Cetacean¹ Injury Categories and Criteria

<p>Instructions: Each small cetacean injury event is recorded to the appropriate injury/information category using all available information and scientific judgment, as described in the Procedural Directive. For a single injury event to which several categories apply, the injury determination with the highest level of severity is assigned. More detailed information or extended observation on an individual case/animal may justify a determination differing from the guidance of this table. Any injury leading to apparent significant health decline (e.g., skin discoloration, fat loss) is a serious injury.</p>			
Category	Injury/Information	Injury Determination ²	Additional factors for evaluating whether “case specific” injuries are serious or non-serious (additional factors at end of table) *
S1	A free-swimming animal observed at a date later than its human interaction, exhibiting signs of declining health believed to be resulting from initial injury (e.g., a marked skin discoloration, fat loss)	SI ³	-
S2	Ingested gear ⁴ or hook(s)	SI	-
S3	Visible blood loss	Case specific ⁵	Amount of blood, location of the bleeding injury, duration of bleeding
S4	Animal brought on vessel deck following entanglement/entrapment (excluding scientific research targeting marine mammals and authorized as such under a NMFS scientific research permit, where the animal is brought on and placed on the vessel deck in a controlled manner)	SI	-
S5a	Hook(s) in head (excluding criterion S5b), regardless of the presence of gear	SI	-
S5b	Hook(s) confirmed in lip only, external tissue outside of teeth, no trailing gear	Case specific	Prolonged restraint or struggle that could lead to capture myopathy, size of hook, depth of hooking, impairing ability to feed, presence of other injuries
S5c	Hook(s) in any body part, but hook(s) is removed or pulls out	Case specific	Prolonged restraint or struggle that could lead to capture myopathy, depth of hook, hook pulls out cleanly vs. causes further injury during dehooking, method used to remove hook, length of time hooked
S5d	Hook(s) in appendage or body (excluding criterion S5a), without trailing gear or with trailing gear that does not have the potential ⁶ to: 1) become a constricting wrap on animal; 2) be ingested; 3) accumulate drag; or 4) become snagged on something in the environment, anchoring the animal	Case specific	Prolonged restraint or struggle that could lead to capture myopathy, depth and location of hook, type and amount of gear attached

¹ For the purposes of this table, small cetaceans include all odontocetes except sperm whales.

² This table includes only those criteria determined to be serious injuries or case specific based on expert opinion at the 2007 Workshop (Andersen *et al.*, 2008) and by small cetacean experts on the NMFS Determination Staff working group. For the purposes of streamlining the information for the reader, criteria determined to be non-serious injuries are not included in this table.

³ SI = serious injury.

⁴ For the purposes of this table, gear is defined as any portion of fishing gear excluding the hook, which is considered separately. Lures are considered gear. Gear also generally refers to any type of debris entangling or attached to the animal.

⁵ Case specific = Could be a serious or non-serious injury, but either 1) there is insufficient information about the impact of a particular injury, or 2) additional factors must be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine the severity

⁶ For the purposes of this table, “potential” as it relates criterion S5d indicates that the trailing gear IS NOT capable of leading to any of the situations listed.

S6	Gear attached to free-swimming animal with potential ⁷ to: 1) become a constricting wrap on animal; 2) be ingested; 3) accumulate drag; or 4) become snagged on something in the environment, anchoring the animal	SI	-
S7a	Anchored, immobilized, or entrapped and not freed	SI	-
S7b	Anchored, immobilized, entangled, or entrapped before being freed without gear attached	Case specific	Duration of entanglement/entrapment, prolonged restraint or struggle that could lead to capture myopathy, gear type, where/how gear is attached to animal, associated injury (i.e., where directly or indirectly caused by initial entanglement), response of individual animal, method used by human to remove gear from animal
S8a	Gear wrapped and constricting on any body part or is likely to become constricting as the animal moves or grows	SI	-
S8b	Gear wrapped and loose on any body part	Case specific	Gear type, amount of gear, potential for snag, potential to lead to criterion S8a, animal body size relative to gear (e.g., because of species or age), effect on animal movement, species sensitivity (e.g., frightens easily)
S9	Body trauma ⁸ not covered by any other criteria	Case specific	Location of wound, depth (e.g., superficial or to the bone, penetrating muscle or organs), length, number of lacerations, cleanliness (i.e., compression vs. tearing)
S10	Visible fracture(s), excluding pectoral fins (see criterion S13d for pectoral fin fractures)	SI	-
S11	Vertebral transection, including fully severed flukes	SI	-
S12	Body cavity penetration ⁹ by foreign object or body cavity exposure	SI	-
S13a	Loss or disfigurement of dorsal fin	Case specific	Cleanliness (i.e., compression vs. tearing), nature of injury causing the loss, extent of fin loss (i.e., full or partial), amount and duration of blood loss
S13b	Partially severed flukes, transecting midline	SI	-

⁷ For the purposes of this table, potential as it relates criterion S6 indicates that the trailing gear IS capable of leading to any of the situations listed.

⁸ For the purposes of this table, “trauma” is defined as a wound or bodily harm caused by an extrinsic agent. Blunt trauma is an injury (abrasion, laceration, contusion or skeletal fracture) produced by a blunt object striking the body or impact of the body against a blunt object or surface. Sharp force trauma is an injury caused by a sharp or pointed object creating a penetrating (stab, chop or incision) wound. Laceration is defined as a ragged incision or a tearing of the skin. Lacerations are caused by blunt trauma that results in stretching, tearing, crushing, shearing, or avulsion of the tissue.

⁹ For the purposes of this table, “penetration” is defined as a wound occurring when a foreign object punctures the body. Penetrating wounds can be characterized as one of three types: stab (small external wound that is greater in length into the body than is apparent on the skin surface), incised (clean cuts into the skin which are longer on the skin surface than they are deep), or chop wounds (incised wounds that penetrate deep to the bone, leaving a groove or cut in the bone).

S13c	Partially severed flukes, not transecting midline	Case specific	Cleanliness (i.e., compression vs. tearing), nature of injury causing the loss, amount and duration of blood loss
S13d	Partially or completely severed or fractured pectoral fin(s)	Case specific	Cleanliness (i.e., compression vs. tearing), nature of injury causing the loss, extent of fin loss (i.e., full or partial), amount and duration of blood loss, opened or closed fracture
S14	Social animal separated from group and/or released alone post-interaction (excluding criterion S15)	Case specific	Species (e.g., sensitivity, offshore vs. inshore), location of release (e.g., likelihood of animal locating its conspecifics)
S15	Dependent animal (i.e., calf, juvenile) released alone post-interaction or dependent animal left with a seriously injured or dead mother	SI	-
S16	Observed or reported collision with vessel	Case specific	Speed of vessel, size of vessel, hull shape, part of vessel to strike the animal, size of animal compared to size of vessel, behavior of animal after collision, extent and location of wound(s) on animal

* Factors listed in the far right column of Table 2 are unique to the associated injury type. In addition to those listed in this column, the factors that should be considered, if available, when reviewing all case specific injury events in Table 2 include, but are not limited to:

- Species
- Age or age class (e.g., calf, juvenile, adult)
- Sex
- Size of animal
- Overall health (e.g., nutritional status, body condition, pre-existing disease state, pre-existing injuries)
- Behavior during and/or after injury causing interaction (e.g., dorsal arching, listlessness)
- Reproductive status (e.g., pregnant, lactating, has dependant calf)
- Natural history (e.g., indigenous, migratory)
- Location of injury (e.g., mouth, head, body, fin, tail, internal)
- Size of injury
- Duration of injury (e.g., single event, repeated, chronic)
- Depth of injury (e.g., superficial or to the bone, penetrating muscle or organs)
- Cleanliness of injury (e.g., compression, tearing)
- Environmental condition (e.g., individuals out of their normal habitat, climate stressors)
- Social stressors (e.g., social structure of species, separation of social individuals from the group, cow/calf separation)
- Cumulative effects of repeated exposures
- Compounding effects of multiple injuries obtained during a single event
- Availability of data on multiple sequential events involving the same individual over time
- Susceptibility of the species to capture myopathy (spinner dolphins and porpoises notoriously sensitive; bottlenose dolphins robust; many others fall in between, with some unknown)
- Ability of rehabilitated animal to be released
- Relative effect of blood loss on different species

In addition to those factors listed above, the factors that apply to all fishery-interaction related case specific injuries include, but are not limited to:

- Entanglement type (e.g., hooked, anchored, entrapment)
- Amount and size of gear (e.g., size, length and number of branches of line; number of buoys, traps or anchors; volume of netting)
- Entanglement constriction (e.g., tight, loose, multiple wraps)
- Habitat where animal is located (e.g., an animal with trailing gear areas of dense gear or an area with vegetation is more likely to risk snagging the gear and becoming anchored)
- Entanglement duration
- Existence, type and amount of any trailing gear
- Method of handling the animal during disentanglement