



## **Serious Injury Determinations for Small Cetaceans off the Southeast U.S. Coast, 2018–2022**

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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, where a “serious injury” is defined as an injury that is more likely than not to lead to the death of the animal. NMFS has issued a policy directive and procedural directives to establish a process for distinguishing serious from non-serious injuries (NMFS 2012, 2023). This document summarizes serious injury determinations for small cetaceans in southeast U.S. waters during 2018–2022.

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. Serious injury determinations were made in each case 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.

Serious injury determinations were made following NMFS policy and guidelines (NMFS 2012, 2023). Initial determinations were made for each case 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 (NEFSC) and NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO), as well as by Atlantic Scientific Review Group members.

In some cases, NOAA, stranding network partners, or private citizens disentangled or removed hooks from an animal post-interaction (i.e., at some time after the initial entanglement or hooking). In cases 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 fishers or fisheries researchers released animals from gear at the time of the interaction. For management purposes (i.e., classifying fisheries on the Marine Mammal Protection Act's List of Fisheries [LOF] and take reduction planning), the initial (pre-mitigation) determinations are 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 Potential Biological Removal (PBR) in the Stock Assessment Reports (SARs) and are presented in the results section. The NMFS (2023) procedural directive states: “For cases where the animal is determined to be seriously injured and (a) is successfully disentangled or dehooked and the animal is determined to have no or non-serious injuries when released or (b) the animal is later seen with no or non-serious injuries and is presumed to have self-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 2021) containing data from the pelagic longline observer program and the mandatory fishery logbook reporting program. This document contains one case involving the pelagic longline fishery that was self-reported by a fisher through the Marine Mammal Authorization Program.

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.

The assignment of animals from the Western North Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico to a particular stock is impossible in some seasons and regions due to stock overlap (e.g., coastal waters of North Carolina and Virginia and estuarine waters near Beaufort Inlet). Therefore, some of the animals in Table 1 were assigned to more than one possible stock of origin (see Maze-Foley *et al.* 2019 for details on how animals are assigned to stock).

For bottlenose dolphin SARs that were revised in 2022–2024 (2 Gulf of Mexico bay, sound, and estuary stocks (BSE) stocks and 11 Atlantic BSE and coastal stocks), any cases that were evaluated for serious injury where it could not be determined whether or not the animal was seriously injured, denoted as “CBD”, were assigned to an injury category (i.e., serious or not serious) based upon the observed proportion of serious injuries in prior cases of bottlenose dolphins from 2007 to 2020 where an injury determination could be made as recommended in the NMFS (2023) procedural guidelines. All cases were categorized by the type of gear interaction (i.e., hook and line or trap/pot gear), age class of the animal (calf or non-calf), and whether it was an initial determination (no mitigation or pre-mitigation) or a post-mitigation determination. Calves were animals denoted as such in descriptions or described as small, yearling, or a juvenile/small animal with a larger animal nearby. We used a one-sided z-test for proportions to determine if the observed data from prior years in each interaction category provide sufficient evidence to assign CBD cases to an injury category. The null hypothesis for these tests was that the observed proportion of serious injuries was equal to 0.5. When sample sizes were insufficient to allow the test (fewer than 5 observations), the CBD observations were left unassigned (CBD). The procedure for assigning CBD cases to injury categories is described in Table 2.

## Results

One hundred sixty-three small cetacean events from southeast U.S. waters during 2018–2022 for which a determination was made of serious versus non-serious injury are included in Table 1. All events involved either a common bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*, or a Tamanend’s bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops erebennus* (hereafter referred to as bottlenose dolphin or *Tursiops*), with the exception of two, one of which involved a single rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*) in the Gulf of Mexico, and the other a single short-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) in the Atlantic Ocean. Both the rough-toothed dolphin and short-finned pilot whale were considered seriously injured. In total, 99 bottlenose dolphins were considered seriously injured; 28 bottlenose dolphins were considered not seriously injured; and for 34 bottlenose dolphins, it could not be determined if the injury was serious or not.

For the five bottlenose dolphin BSE and coastal SARs revised in 2023 and 2024, there were two CBD cases in total from the following two stocks: Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock and Northern Florida Coastal Stock. The remaining three stocks updated for 2023 and 2024, Biscayne Bay Stock, Northern Florida Coastal Stock, and Central Florida Coastal Stock, had no CBD cases in need of further evaluation. The outcomes of assignment of the CBD cases from

SARs updated in 2022–2024 are presented in the stock summaries within Table 1 below and in the relevant SAR. The results of the statistical tests for each category are shown in Table 3.

The Western North Atlantic bottlenose dolphin stocks for which cases were evaluated for serious injuries included the following stocks: Northern Migratory Coastal; Southern Migratory Coastal; South Carolina/Georgia Coastal; Northern Florida Coastal; Central Florida Coastal; Northern North Carolina Estuarine System (NNCES); Southern North Carolina Estuarine System (SNCES); Northern South Carolina Estuarine System (NSCES); Biscayne Bay; Charleston Estuarine System (CES); Northern Georgia/Southern South Carolina Estuarine System (NGSSCES); Southern Georgia Estuarine System (SGES); Jacksonville Estuarine System (JES); Indian River Lagoon Estuarine System (IRLES), and an undefined stock area for northern Florida estuarine waters.

The Gulf of Mexico bottlenose dolphin stocks for which cases were evaluated for serious injuries included the following stocks: Laguna Madre; Neuces Bay/Corpus Christi Bay; Copano Bay/Aransas Bay/San Antonio Bay/Redfish Bay/Espiritu Santo Bay; Matagorda Bay/Tres Palacios Bay/Lavaca Bay; Galveston Bay/East Bay/Trinity Bay; Barataria Bay Estuarine System; Mississippi Sound/Lake Borgne/Bay Boudreau; Mobile Bay/Bonsecour Bay; Perdido Bay; Pensacola Bay/East Bay; Choctawhatchee Bay; St. Andrew Bay; Waccasassa Bay/Withlacoochee Bay/Crystal Bay; St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor; Tampa Bay; Sarasota Bay/Little Sarasota Bay; Pine Island Sound/Charlotte Harbor/Gasparilla Sound/Lemon Bay; Caloosahatchee River; Estero Bay; Chokoloskee Bay/Ten Thousand Islands/Gullivan Bay; Florida Keys; Florida Bay; Western Coastal; Northern Coastal; Eastern Coastal; and Continental Shelf.

In addition, there was one case from the Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands Stock in the Caribbean Sea.

The largest number of records was from at-sea observations ( $n=74$ ), and the majority of observations consisted of animals entangled in and sometimes trailing hook and line fishing gear or monofilament line, followed by entanglements in unidentified line/rope/gear/debris, animals with vessel strike wounds, and entanglements in trap/pot gear. There were also at-sea records of animals entangled in gillnet gear and a beach seine. The second largest number of records was from the NOAA National Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Database ( $n=71$  stranding records excluding incidental takes). The majority of stranding records were cases of bottlenose dolphins entangled in commercial crab trap/pot gear or unidentified trap/pot gear, hook and line fishing gear, and unidentified rope/line/gear. The remaining stranding records included vessel strikes and entanglements in gillnets and research gillnets, a stop net, a shrimp trawl, a trotline, a Hawaiian sling/spear gear, a boat hook, and an unauthorized human intervention. The third most frequent number of records were of incidental takes ( $n=11$  incidental take records, 9 of which were also included within the stranding data) involving research fishing gear, the majority of which was gillnet gear, but there were also records of vertical longline gear and trawl gear (unauthorized research gear takes). There was also one one take in a commercial shrimp trawl. In addition, there were records from the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (fishermen self-reports,  $n=5$ ) involving mid-Atlantic haul beach seine gear, menhaden purse seine gear, pelagic longline gear, and North Carolina beach seine gear. Finally, there were observer program records ( $n=2$ ) from the mid-Atlantic gillnet fishery and the snapper-grouper and other reef fish bottom longline fishery.

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**Tables 1a–1c.** Serious injury (SI) determinations for cetaceans taken in SE U.S. waters during 2018–2022 using criteria in “Process for distinguishing serious from non-serious injury of marine mammals: Process for injury determinations” (NMFS 2023; see Appendix I for details of injury categories and criteria). Table 1a contains cases from the Gulf of Mexico, Table 1b contains cases from the Atlantic Ocean, and Table 1c contains cases from the Caribbean Sea. 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; Gm = *Globicephala macrorhynchus*; Sb = *Steno bredanensis*; Tursiops = *Tursiops erebennus* (Tamanend’s bottlenose dolphin) or *Tursiops truncatus* (common bottlenose dolphin); 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; NNCES = Northern North Carolina Estuarine System; NGSSCES = Northern Georgia/Southern South Carolina Estuarine System; NM Coastal = Northern Migratory Coastal; NSCES = Northern South Carolina Estuarine System; PIS = Pine Island Sound/Charlotte Harbor/Gasparilla Sound/Lemon Bay; SM Coastal = Southern Migratory Coastal; SNCES = Southern North Carolina Estuarine System; CBD = could not be determined. SI Averted = a SI was averted due to disentanglement or other mitigation efforts, such that the initial SI determination was “Serious” but the post-mitigation SI determination was “Not serious”.

**Table 1a. Gulf of Mexico**

Source of Data/ Fishery Type	Animal ID	Genus/ 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 (for Small Cetaceans)	Injury Determination Criteria/Comments	Post-Mitigation SI Determination (N/A is noted for cases without mitigation)	NMFS 2012 SI Policy Criteria (for Small Cetaceans)	SI Averted	Post-Mitigation Injury Determination Criteria/Comments
STR; hook and line gear	SER18-00628 [47IMMS101218]	Sb	GOM	12-Oct-2018	Alive	Serious	S5a	juvenile rough-toothed dolphin stranded hooked in the mouth with additional hooks and line trailing from the first hook; this gear type is called a “Ballyhoo Rig”; dolphin also was reported to have a hook above the eye when it stranded but that was no longer there when stranding responders arrived on scene; dolphin had a deep abscess in its oral cavity; responders noted the gear was suspected of contributing to the stranding event; dolphin was taken to rehab and later deemed unreleasable and is being held permanently in captivity	N/A		N/A	
<b>GOM rough-toothed dolphin stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-Sea	Row 181 [Y49]	Tursiops	GOM/Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock	7-Jun-2019	Alive	Serious	S6	researchers documented an animal with an entanglement of monofilament line (rat’s nest) near the tip of the dorsal fin and trailing off/behind the dorsal fin	N/A		N/A	
MMAP; menhaden purse seine fishery		Tursiops	GOM/Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock	22-Aug-2022	Alive	CBD	S7b	captain of purse seine vessel reported an entanglement; once the dolphin was noticed in the net, the captain reported he took extra precautions and released	N/A		N/A	

								the dolphin unharmed back into sea; little info available				
<b>Barataria Bay Estuarine System Stock summary (n=2 cases): Total # of Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1, before analysis of CBD case. The CBD was prorated as 0.5 SIs. Revised total: # Serious injures=1.5; # Not serious=0.</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-sea	Row 212	Tursiops	GOM/Caloosahatchee River Stock	7-Aug-2020	Alive	Serious	S6	citizen documented a dolphin with plastic debris, likely part of plastic bag, encircling its body, posterior to the blowhole and anterior of the pectoral fins	N/A		N/A	
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER19-00193[F MMSN1 914]	Tursiops	GOM/Caloosahatchee River Stock	10-Feb-2019	Alive, anchored	Serious	S7a, S8a	a dolphin was reported entangled; responders found the animal entangled around the peduncle and anchored in place by commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	Not serious	S7b	Yes	Responders remotely disentangled the dolphin; the animal was brought to the side of the vessel and the gear was removed; dolphin was released gear-free; animal was observed on 26-Mar-2019 successfully foraging off a seawall and appeared in good body condition
<b>Caloosahatchee River Stock summary (n=2 cases): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=1; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 1</b>	
At-sea	Row 30, vessel-strike tab	Tursiops	GOM/Choctawhatchee Bay Stock	21-Sep-2020	Alive, "peanut" head and visible ribs	Serious	S13a	citizen reported a dolphin with a floppy dorsal fin and pink and white tissue; stranding network subsequently found the animal and took photos and video; dorsal fin is sliced once and bent to the left at a 90 deg angle; white and offwhite tissue was observed at the wound site; animal is thin with visible ribs and a "peanut" head	N/A		N/A	
At-sea; possible vessel strike/propeller injury or could be from gear entanglement	Row 35, vessel-strike tab [18ECW R070322]	Tursiops	GOM/Choctawhatchee Bay Stock	3-Jul-2022	Alive, emaciated	Serious	S1, S13a	citizens and stranding network members reported and documented an animal with an injury to its dorsal fin; fin had been cut (could have been by a propeller or by monofilament or other line entanglement); dorsal fin is disfigured with part of the fin folding over to the left; animal's behavior was considered not normal, as it remained in one area mostly, surfaced frequently, and did not show its flukes; animal was emaciated with a peanut-head and visible ribs; animal was monitored for a week and exhibited similar behavior; animal was resighted on 24-Aug-2022 and still appeared to have a peanut-head	N/A		N/A	

STR; hook and line gear	dependent calf of SER20-00158 [05ECW R021020]	Tursiops	GOM/Choctawhatchee Bay Stock	10-Feb-2020 to 5-Mar-2020	dependent calf, thought to be ~1.5-2 years old	Serious	S15b	an adult dolphin (presumed mother) with an accompanying calf was continuously monitored via photo-ID surveys during February and early March 2020 due to severe entanglement and obvious signs of emaciation; it was deemed an intervention was necessary to disentangle the animal, however, due to no additional sightings the intervention was postponed; on 5 March 2020 the adult stranded dead	N/A		N/A	
<b>Choctawhatchee Bay Stock summary (n=3 cases): # Serious injuries=3; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-Sea	Row 158 [Jing Jing]	Tursiops	GOM/Chokoloskee Bay/Ten Thousand Islands/ Gullivan Bay Stock	25-Mar-2018	Alive	Not serious	S13a, S7b	dolphin was documented by ecotour operator and local researchers as having an entanglement involving a lure and line wrapped around the dorsal fin, with line extending back to the flukes and taut, compromising the movement of the animal; shortly after, it was reported that the line between the dorsal fin and flukes broke and only the dorsal entanglement remained; as of late February 2019, the dolphin was free of gear; the uppermost portion of the dorsal fin, about one-third of the fin, has been severed off over time by the line	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 172 [FMMS N1903, Ariel]	Tursiops	GOM/Chokoloskee Bay/Ten Thousand Islands/ Gullivan Bay Stock	6-Jan-2019	Alive	Not serious	S13a	researchers documented an animal with monofilament wrapped around its dorsal fin, cutting into the anterior/leading edge of the fin, and trailing behind the animal; animal was later documented gear-free with no intervention	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 173	Tursiops	GOM/Chokoloskee Bay/Ten Thousand Islands/ Gullivan Bay Stock	15-Feb-2019	Alive	Serious	S8a, S13a	public and researchers documented an animal with biofouled monofilament wrapped around its dorsal fin, cutting through and disfiguring the fin, with gear trailing behind the dorsal fin	N/A		N/A	
STR; vessel strike	row 33, vessel-strike tab [FMMS N2122; SDRP Naples ID 0091; Kirill, 10k Island catalog]	Tursiops	GOM/Chokoloskee Bay/Ten Thousand Islands/Gullivan Bay Stock	15-Dec-2021	Alive	Serious	S9, S12	animal documented with a series of 5 fresh, parallel propeller wounds plus an additional non-parallel wound to the side; wounds extend from just behind the blowhole to the dorsal fin; wounds appeared deep, not superficial; a large flap of flesh was dangling off the animal's body	N/A		N/A	



Chokoloskee Bay/Ten Thousand Islands/Gullivan Bay Stock summary (n=4 cases): # Serious injuries=2; # Not serious=2; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
ITR; research vertical longline		Tursiops	GOM/Continental Shelf Stock	5-Aug-2018	Alive, injured	Serious	S6, S8a	researchers reported a dolphin entangled around its flukes in vertical longline gear; researchers backed down to the animal to get it as close to the vessel as possible, however the animal was thrashing too much to risk someone getting hooked and attached to it, so they cut the mainline; animal swam off and dove slowly entangled with ~7.3 m of total gear, including ~1 m of mainline (400 lb test monofilament) and gangions with hooks (~6.3 m, 100-400 lb test) entangled around its flukes	N/A		N/A	
OBS; commercial snapper- grouper and other reef fish bottom longline fishery		Tursiops	GOM/Continental Shelf Stock	7-Mar-2018	Alive	Serious	S6	dolphin became entangled with bottom longline gear wrapped around its flukes and also wrapped around the body just anterior to the dorsal fin and pectoral flippers; the crew was able to reel the dolphin to the side of the boat, and as they were removing gear from the dolphin it broke the mainline and swam away with gear still attached including ~25 hooks, a weight, and ~30 feet of line still attached (totaling ~5 lbs); the observer noticed abrasions from the gear near the flukes	N/A		N/A	
Continental Shelf Stock summary (n=2 cases): # Serious injuries=2; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-sea; hook and line gear	Row 243	Tursiops	GOM/Copano Bay,...Stock	6-May-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	researchers reported a neonate with fishing line wrapped around its dorsal fin; bright pink/red fishing lure was also visible	N/A		N/A	

ITR; STR; research gillnet gear	SER19- 01183 [PO546 B]	Tursiops	GOM/Copano Bay,... Stock	18- Sep- 2019	Alive	Serious	S7b	a dolphin became entangled in a research gillnet arounds its flukes; the entanglement wraps consisted of both the floatline, leadline and the entire mesh in between, and all this gear was wrapped around 3-4 times; it is not certain how long the animal was entangled due to the net soaking overnight unattended; researchers cut through 3 lines to remove the animal; was initially entangled in the anchor line first then wrapped into other lines; animal wasn't as active at first but became more active as it noticed the researchers' presence; as the researchers pulled the net up (and hence flukes), it would get more lively, then they would take a break and it would bring its flukes back down and calm down; animal had small (1-2 inch by .25 inch) shallow wound on base of tail; immediately swam away slowly; appeared fatigued	N/A		N/A	
STR; trap/pot gear	SER21- 01086 [PA1284 ]	Tursiops	GOM/ Copano Bay,...Stock	31- Aug- 2021	Alive	Serious	S6	dolphin was documented swimming entangled in rope and a white buoy, which was later confirmed to be trap/pot gear; based on photos and video, rope and float appeared to be wrapped around the body and across the dorsal fin; one guide stated that a trap was still attached and dragging behind the animal; it was reported by several different fishers on different days (31-Aug, 1-Sep, 3-Sep, and 4-Sep), but was never sighted by the stranding response team; several fishers reported independently to the stranding network that they had attempted to chase and disentangle the dolphin without success; in the last sighting reported, the buoy was no longer attached, so the animal may have been partially disentangled by the public	N/A		N/A	
<b>Copano Bay, ... Stock summary (n=3 cases): # Serious injuries=3; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-Sea	Row 159	Tursiops	GOM/ Eastern Coastal Stock	27- Mar- 2018	Alive, unknown	CBD		citizen reported a dolphin to be anchored/tethered near a fishing pier; no further details available	N/A		N/A	

At-Sea	Row 178	Tursiops	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	16-Apr-2019	Alive	Serious	S6	citizen reported a dolphin bobbing up and down near a red/white crab trap buoy for ~20 minutes, and then swimming south dragging the buoy behind it; stranding network and law enforcement members searched for the animal but were unable to locate it	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 186	Tursiops	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	22-Jul-2019	Alive, reported as lethargic	Serious	S6	citizen documented an animal with what appears to be an entanglement around the right pectoral fin and trailing several feet along the body; poor photo quality prevents discerning details	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 193	Tursiops	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	22-Oct-2019	Alive	Serious	S5a	citizen reported an animal with line and hook in its mouth; later confirmed by stranding network but no photos were obtained	N/A		N/A	
At-sea	Row 218	Tursiops	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	26-Oct-2020	Alive	Serious	S6	citizen reported a calf of a mom-calf pair with black line wrapped around its body in front of and behind the dorsal fin; no buoy present; calf did not appear to be anchored; citizen observed animals from his boogie board at close distance and thought it looked like crab pot line	N/A		N/A	
At-sea; hook and line gear	Row 245	Tursiops	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	15-Jun-2022	Alive	Serious	S2 or S5a	animal documented with a pink bobber or lure hanging off the left gape; unknown if the animal has ingested gear or the gear is hooked in or just outside the mouth	N/A		N/A	

STR; commercial stone crab trap/pot gear	SER18- 00698 [CMA- Tt-1824]	Tursiops	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	17- Nov- 2018	Alive	Serious	S7a	citizen found a bottlenose dolphin calf (estimated to be 3–4 feet in length) entangled in crab trap/pot gear; a second, free swimming animal, estimated to be 7–8 feet in length, was observed within 50 feet of the tethered animal; citizen reported the animal was tethered in place, surfacing continuously in the same location	CBD	S7b	No	citizen and his passengers used a boat hook to grab the buoy line, pulling the animal to the port side of the vessel; they grabbed the flukes of the animal, fully submerging the body cranial of the dorsal fin; calf was thrashing violently as citizens pulled it to the vessel and handled it; citizen stated the animal was wrapped in ½ inch thick black line wrapped 2 full times around the caudal peduncle; no abrasions or discoloration were observed on the peduncle by the citizen; the disentanglement took only ~2 minutes; after the line was cut, the calf took several breaths and then swam away from the vessel at what was described as a "moderate speed"; the second animal swam in the same direction; however, it was not observed closely associated with the calf
STR; trap/pot gear	SER22- 00379 [CMA22 18]	Tursiops	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	20-Jul- 2022	Alive	Serious	S7a	calf was entangled, and grounded, in crab trap line underneath a pier	Serious	S7b	No	lifeguards cut the calf free of gear; the calf exhibited frequent listing behavior and minimal swimming post release; ultimately, the calf restranded; it was transferred to rehab

STR; commercial stone crab trap/pot gear	SER22- 00484 [MML2 211]	Tursiops	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock	29-Oct- 2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S7a	stranding network received a report on 29-Oct-2022 at 1907 hrs regarding a dolphin entangled around the flukes in a crab pot line at the mouth of Venice Inlet; complainant sent coordinates and photos but none confirming an entanglement; photos did show buoy number indicating that it was an active commercial stone crab trap; due to time of day and lack of vessel support, no response was mounted; animal was presumed to be entangled overnight based on reports the following morning	Serious	S7b	No	on 30-Oct-2022 at 0826 hrs, stranding network received another report regarding a citizen in a 16 foot boat attempting to pull in a dolphin that was entangled in a crab pot line near the Venice Inlet; complainant reported that the animal was being towed by its flukes to the beach and was disentangled by a fisher; when law enforcement arrived on scene at 0847 hrs, the boat and the dolphin were gone; no photos/videos were taken; a search of the surrounding area did not find any animals in distress
<b>Eastern Coastal Stock summary (n=9 cases): # Serious injuries=7; # Not serious=0; # CBD=2</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-Sea	Row 153 [CW33]	Tursiops	GOM/Eastern Coastal Stock or Tampa Bay Stock	6-Feb- 2018	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	local researchers documented a dolphin with monofilament line wrapped around the right and left flukes and trailing off the animal in a "Y" shape; gear trailed off for many feet behind the animal; the line is cutting into the leading edge of the flukes	N/A		N/A	
<b>Eastern Coastal Stock or Tampa Bay Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-Sea	Row 160	Tursiops	GOM/Estero Bay Stock	26- Mar- 2018	Alive	Serious	S5a	ecotour operator documented a dolphin with a hook in its mouth with line connecting to and entangling the left pectoral flipper; the line is biofouled	N/A		N/A	
<b>Estero Bay Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	

STR; commercial stone crab trap/pot gear	SER20- 00315 [DPMM R-2003- Tt]	Tursiops	GOM/Florida Bay Stock	18- Apr- 2020	Alive	Serious	S6, S7a	on 18 April 2020 at 1400 hrs local fishing guides reported a dolphin struggling in near shore waters (5-8 ft deep); dolphin was described as struggling to surface at 30 second intervals against an increasing tidal flow; the dolphin apparently dragged the trap from where it was set in ~5 ft depth towards a channel 7-9 feet deep; video depicted it surfacing near vertically for air	CBD	S7b	No	guides who initially reported the dolphin (1400 hrs) made one unsuccessful attempt to disentangle it from a crab pot buoy line wrapped around the tail fluke; at 1515 hrs, responders removed a three-strand 3/8” polypropylene line from the peduncle and the animal was released without incident; dolphin remained calm and did not struggle during assessment and disentanglement; a ~30- min focal follow was conducted post-release; during post-release observations the dolphin demonstrated stability, strength and ability to navigate, while slowly regaining strength and increasing swimming speed over the course of first 10-12 minutes post release; respiration rate returned to normal; superficial wounds visible on the ventral peduncle; no other marks, external injuries or evidence of HI present
<b>Florida Bay Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=0; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1, before analysis of CBD cases. The CBD was prorated as 0.5 SIs. Revised total: # Serious injures=0.5; # Not serious=0.</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-sea; hook and line gear	Row 238	Tursiops	GOM/Florida Keys Stock	17- Feb- 2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	ecotour operator documented a dolphin with monofilament line cutting through its dorsal fin and trailing behind the animal, past its flukes, though the flukes were not thought to be involved in the entanglement; biofouling and possibly lead weights are also involved in the entanglement; dorsal fin appears slightly bent over by the gear	N/A		N/A	

STR; commercial spiny lobster trap/pot gear	SER19-01277 [DPMM R-1908-Tt]	Tursiops	GOM/Florida Keys Stock	30-Nov-2019	Alive, anchored	Serious	S7a	tour operator sighted a mom/calf pair; calf was entangled in lobster trap/pot gear and was struggling to reach the surface; mom was pushing the animal to the surface	Serious	S6	No	tour operator approached the pair and crew jumped into the water; the animals became agitated and began swimming rapidly and were very vocal; the crew then dove down to the pot and cut line as high up as they could trying not cause more stress to the calf; calf swam away with what appeared to be three wraps at the base of peduncle and 5-6 feet of trailing line
<b>Florida Keys Stock summary (n=2 cases): # Serious injuries=2; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-Sea	Row 184	Tursiops	GOM/Galveston Bay/East Bay/Trinity Bay Stock	3-Jun-2019	Alive	Serious	S8a , S13a	researchers documented an animal with an entanglement of monofilament line wrapping tightly around, cutting through, and disfiguring the dorsal fin so that it twists and turns in multiple directions; animal has not been resighted	N/A		N/A	
STR; commercial trotline	calf of SER18-00721 [GA2238]	Tursiops	GOM/Galveston Bay/East Bay/Trinity Bay Stock	3-Nov-2018	Alive	Serious	S15b	a calf that remained in close contact with an animal presumed to be its mother; the mother was entangled in commercial trotline gear and drowned; mother's body and gear were recovered by the stranding network; animal was reported to be a young calf and estimated at only 2 ft in length.	N/A		N/A	
STR; hook and line gear	SER22-00382 [GA2563]	Tursiops	GOM/Galveston Bay/East Bay/Trinity Bay Stock	24-Jul-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	entangled dolphin calf reported to stranding hotline as having line from dorsal fin to tail; gear was also entangled and trailing from the flukes; dolphin was swimming in small circles next to fishing boat	Serious	S6, S8a	No	stranding network responded within one hour and using a remote cutting pole, cut the monofilament line that was connecting the dorsal fin to the tail flukes; fishing line was still visibly wrapped around both tail flukes with sargassum entangled in the line and trailing with an orange fishing bobber; responders attempted to remove the trailing line but were unable to do so

Galveston Bay/East Bay/Trinity Bay Stock summary (n=3 cases): # Serious injuries=3; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-Sea	Row 162	Tursiops	GOM/Laguna Madre Stock	9-Apr-2018	Alive, injured	Serious	S6, S9	ecotour operator documented an animal with deep cuts, similar to propeller wounds, and a fluke entanglement; the cuts range along the body from just behind the blowhole to just anterior of the flukes; the entanglement appears to be completely wrapped around the flukes and bulky in nature; the material/nature of the wrap could not be identified	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 194	Tursiops	GOM/Laguna Madre Stock	18-Nov-2019	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	ecotour operator documented an animal with an entanglement around its flukes; entanglement is heavily biofouled and trailing behind the flukes; appears line is cutting deeply into the leading edge of flukes	N/A		N/A	
At-sea (hook and line gear?)	Row 222	Tursiops	GOM/Laguna Madre Stock	23-Feb-2021	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	ecotour/fishing charter documented a dolphin with what looks like monofilament line running from the dorsal fin, which is partially cut, to the flukes; the line is taut	N/A		N/A	
ITR; STR; research gillnet gear	SER19-01205 [CC369]	Tursiops	GOM/Laguna Madre Stock	2-Oct-2019	Alive	Serious	S7b	biologists noticed one of the largest floats out of place along the research gillnet as they patrolled the net; when they approached they could hear and see a dolphin calmly resting at the surface, not thrashing; it appeared to hit the mono mesh and turned and became entangled by its flukes; dolphin was wrapped no more than twice; there were three biologists on boat; they went directly to the animal and all assumed roles; they gently held tail up and allowed it to rest; they cut all gear off the fluke (line was cut in four places in floatline and leadline; would allow the dolphin to come up and breathe, cut gear away, allow it to rest, then cut some more; dolphin became active when they would lift fluke up; dolphin would thrash a little bit at times, but not for very long, just a couple of thrashes when lifted tail up higher; when biologists thought the dolphin was getting agitated, they would put tail back in the water, then let it calm, and start again; when free of the gear, the dolphin did not shoot away immediately but breathed by the boat; it swam away and came up and breathed	N/A		N/A	



								again; dolphin left pretty quickly and was observed probably less than 5 minutes; animal reported to have no noticeable injuries				
STR; Mexican gillnet gear	SER22-00321 [PI320]	Tursiops	GOM/Laguna Madre Stock	4-May-2022	Alive	Serious	S7a	U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) reported an animal entangled in gillnet gear; the animal's entire body was wrapped in the gear	CBD	S7b	No	USCG petty officer was able to successfully cut away the net and fully disentangle and release; dolphin reportedly swam away strongly; duration of entanglement unknown
STR; vessel strike; harassment; illegal feeding; habituation	SER22-00417 [PA1317 ; Izzy]	Tursiops	GOM/Laguna Madre Stock	30-Jun-2022	Alive	Serious	S1, S16	habituated dolphin, Izzy, observed out of habitat since December 2019; Izzy was exposed to frequent harassment from people and watercraft; suffered a vessel strike with injuries, an eye injury, and started to experience declining health	Serious	S1, removed from wild population	No	due to declining health, Izzy was rescued on 3-Jun-2022 and entered rehabilitation; she was later transferred to a permanent care facility
<b>Laguna Madre Stock summary (n=6 cases): # Serious injuries=5; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
ITR & STR; research gillnet	SER21-01247 [PO569]	Tursiops	GOM/Matagorda Bay/Tres Palacios Bay/Lavaca Bay Stock	10-Jul-2021	Alive	Not serious	S7b	a large (adult-sized) dolphin was reported as going through a research gillnet set to capture and tag sea turtles; researchers were checking the first net (out of two continuous nets) for sea turtles when they saw a large splash further down at the end of the second net, saw the net move, and spotted the dorsal fin of a dolphin; they released the net and immediately went to the disturbed area but the dolphin had already left; the dolphin went through the net in a minute or minute and a half; dolphin was thought to be unharmed since it broke the links of the mesh so easily and fast and all panels were still on the net; from the time researchers first noticed the large splash and disturbed area, it took from 30 seconds to 1 minute to reach the net location where the dolphin take occurred and then 20-30 seconds more to reach the exact location on the net; they were checking net #1, so released it and moved to net #2, slowed down to approach the net and grabbed the net about 10 m before the area and then turned off the motor and moved manually pulling the net until they reached the area because they thought the dolphin would still be there; but	N/A		N/A	

								when they reached where the dolphin should have been, there was only a large gap and a lot of broken net; they kept seeing parts of the dolphin as they moved towards the area and then when they got closer to the net the big movements stopped and the water was left all stirred up; they realized the dolphin had left already when they grabbed and pulled up the net and it was empty; the dolphin became disentangled on its own				
STR; research gillnet	SER22-00545 [PO578]	Tursiops	GOM/Matagorda Bay/Tres Palacios Bay/Lavaca Bay Stock	27-Sep-2022	Alive	Serious	S7b	a small dolphin (older calf or juvenile) was entangled by its flukes in lead and float lines of 5 inch mesh state research gillnet; dolphin still surfacing frequently for breaths; water depth was 1m; researchers made multiple approaches to pull the net to the side of the boat and cut the dolphin free; the animal was thrashing vigorously; on the first attempt, no cuts were made; on the second attempt, some of the monofilament mesh was cut; on the third attempt to pull the net beside the boat, the animal thrashed and was able to free itself from the net; researchers presumed the animal was recently caught because it was energetic and they could not see any line markings or injuries; the disentanglement occurred ~7 minutes from first observation	N/A		N/A	
<b>Matagorda Bay/Tres Palacios Bay/Lavaca Bay Stock summary (n=2 cases): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=1; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
ITR & STR; commercial shrimp trawl fishery	SER20-00488 [56IMM S072120]	Tursiops	GOM/Mississippi Sound/Lake Borgne/Bay Boudreau Stock	21-Jul-2020	Alive	Serious	S4	captain of shrimp trawler reported a live dolphin had been entangled in rope, not net and that he had brought dolphin onto boat deck and removed rope entangled around peduncle (report at 9:40am); stranding network responded, arriving around 10:10am; upon arrival, dolphin was in left lateral recumbency; Captain stated he attempted to put animal in ventral recumbency previously but animal began thrashing; responders placed animal in ventral recumbency and monitored breaths; minor abrasions were noted on dorsal and ventral peduncle; dolphin was released from side of the boat at 10:30am; Captain stated dolphin was out of the water for over an hour; dolphin was not sighted again after release	N/A		N/A	

Mississippi Sound/Lake Borgne/Bay Boudreau Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
STR; research gillnet	SER21- 01034 [29DISL 071521]	Tursiops	GOM/Mobile Bay/Bonsecour Bay Stock	15-Jul- 2021	Alive	Serious	S7b	young dolphin (estimated length ~152 cm) was entangled in a research gillnet that was set for an hour and retrieved; buoys on the floatline did submerge but the crew did not see any related struggles or commotion until they were up on that section of the net where the dolphin was entangled; since the crew did not immediately investigate the submerged buoys or suspect a protected species interaction, the duration of entanglement is unknown; dolphin was wrapped in the mesh panel from floatline to leadline; crew estimated the dolphin was trapped in the middle of the net panel and rolled itself up in the entire panel; one of the 3-person crew held the dolphin above water to allow the other crew members to disentangle it; dolphin was reported to be breathing but was not heavily thrashing; dolphin was calm during disentanglement – the crew did not need to fight or struggle with the dolphin; the crew had to cut the entire floatline out of that section where the dolphin was entangled, but they were able to cut holes in the mesh away from where the dolphin was entangled by the flukes and dorsal fin; they reported that it was fairly easy to free; took about one minute to disentangle and release the animal; there were lacerations around leading edge of dorsal fin and fluke insertion lacerations with mild bleeding at both points; upon release the dolphin swam away immediately and swiftly to another larger dolphin, possibly the animal's mother, located approximately 50m away; the crew observed the area for about 10 min prior to leaving; they saw the previously entangled animal surface to breathe	N/A		N/A	
Mobile Bay/Bonsecour Bay Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-sea	Row 28, vessel- strike tab	Tursiops	GOM/Northern Coastal Stock	12-Jun- 2020	Alive	CBD		ecotour operator reported a dolphin with a wound that was deep and just anterior to the dorsal fin; described as looking like a fresh propeller wound; little info available	N/A		N/A	

STR; vessel strike	SER21-01287 [GW2021022A]	Tursiops	GOM/Northern Coastal Stock	7-Oct-2021	Alive, unknown	Serious	S16	U.S. Navy personnel were returning to base in a 32-ft MonArk aluminum crew/dive boat travelling at ~22 kts when the operator observed a dolphin's dorsal fin surface approximately 5 ft off the port bow and then submerge immediately after; the dolphin was travelling from the port side of the vessel towards the starboard side as the vessel was heading in a NW direction preparing to enter the pass leading to St. Andrew Bay; the operator felt the vessel strike the dolphin by a hard bump with blood observed in the water immediately after the bump was felt; the operator stopped and saw numerous chunks of meat in the water slowly sinking and recovered one chunk to investigate the probability of the strike being in fact a dolphin; the chunk was reported to have a stench, be dark in color, have the consistency of canned dog food; no identifiable parts of the dolphin were observed; the operator searched the area for ~20 minutes but did not resight the animal; no evidence was present when the divers investigated the vessel hull and propellers the day after the incident; dolphin was reported to ~8 ft long	N/A		N/A	
Northern Coastal Stock summary (n=2 cases): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1											SI Averted Tally: 0	
ITR & STR; research gillnet gear	SER21-01257 [PA1291]	Tursiops	GOM/Nueces Bay/Corpus Christi Bay Stock	11-Oct-2021	Alive	Serious	S7b	dolphin was entangled in research gillnet gear; flukes and rostrum were entangled in the mesh; animal was at the surface and breathing; unknown how long the animal was entangled before the crew arrived; the crew disentangled the animal in roughly 2 minutes; crew reported that the animal was active during disentanglement and swam away vigorously upon release with no obvious injuries; no photos or videos available	N/A		N/A	
Nueces Bay/Corpus Christi Bay Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-sea	Row 209 [Half hitch or half tail]	Tursiops	GOM/Pensacola Bay/East Bay Stock	26-Jun-2019; 4-Jul-2020	Alive	Not serious	S5c	citizen documented a dolphin with a hook, likely a J hook, in the left gape area; animal subsequently documented on 4-Jul-2020 and appears to be gear free with possibly a small scar in left gape area	N/A		N/A	

STR; unid. gear; debris [check gear analysis]	SER22-00355 [17ECW R061622 ]	Tursiops	GOM/Pensacola Bay/East Bay Stock	16-Jun-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	a calf was entangled with gear bridled in its mouth, around its body, and around one or possibly both front flippers; fishing line as a mass of heavy monofilament with 3 ft trailing as well as some netting and other plastic debris in the mass	CBD	S7b	No	a remote disentanglement was performed; the mass was hooked and the animal was able to be moved closer to the vessel; one main monofilament line around the front pectoral fins was cut, and the dolphin was released from the mass; once free of gear the animal swam off quickly with the adult animal (presumed mother) that had been with the calf throughout the encounter; no wounds observed but the degree of disentanglement and injury was not verified; it is unclear if the animal was partially or fully disentangled
<b>Pensacola Bay Stock summary (n=2 cases): # Serious injuries=0; # Not serious=1; # CBD=1</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-Sea	Row 25, vessel-strike tab	Tursiops	GOM/Perdido Bay Stock	3-May-2018	Alive	Serious	S13a	ecotour operator documented an animal with a propeller injury to its dorsal fin resulting in a loss of ~60% of the fin with loose pieces of dorsal fin dangling from main portion of the fin; ecotour operator thought the animal appeared to be somewhat supported by the group of dolphins it was swimming with	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 168	Tursiops	GOM/Perdido Bay Stock	July/August 2018, exact date unknown	Alive	CBD		an angler reported hooking a dolphin with hook and line gear from a marina; little info available	N/A		N/A	
At-sea	Row 224	Tursiops	GOM/Perdido Bay Stock	17-Mar-2021	Alive	CBD		tour boat captain documented a small animal, potentially a calf, that has what appears to be a lead weight or other fishing gear a few centimeters cranial to the dorsal fin; there are also two suspect monofilament lines in the same area; it is unclear where the gear originates; animal may be thin; distance and photo quality prevent discerning details	N/A		N/A	

ITR; STR; experimental research gillnet gear	SER19-01285 [59DISL 110519]	Tursiops	GOM/Perdido Bay Stock	5-Nov-2019	Alive	CBD	S7b	while biologists were retrieving an experimental gillnet that had been soaking for an hour, they came across a dolphin entangled in the mesh; they didn't notice any splashing until within 20 feet of dolphin; dolphin was completely submerged within 2 feet of water, with one layer of net totally entangled over it; once reached dolphin, it had slipped out of the mesh layer and was just entangled in the rope; float and lead lines were wrapped around flukes; dolphin was kicking its flukes profusely; it was reported to have 5-7 layers of line wrapped around its flukes indicating it had rolled in the net; one biologist held onto the dolphin while the other cut the net and lines free with a knife; disentanglement process took ~7 minutes until the dolphin was released free of gear; animal was reported to swim away vigorously unharmed with only a small laceration at the base of the dorsal fin with minimal bleeding (from a screw on the gunwale of the boat)	N/A		N/A	
ITR & STR; research gillnet	SER20-00059 [05DISL 010820]	Tursiops	GOM/Perdido Bay Stock	8-Jan-2020	Alive	Not serious	S7b	incidental take in state-run fisheries research project; the 800 ft net had been set for ~50 min when splashing was heard and researchers could see a dolphin surfacing and splashing near the net; by the time researchers turned the boat on and reached the net (~30 sec), the dolphin had disentangled itself and swam away; upon inspection of the net, a tear of ~1 m and another of ~50 cm were observed	N/A		N/A	
ITR & STR; research gillnet	SER20-00228 [13DISL 031020]	Tursiops	GOM/Perdido Bay Stock	1-Mar-2020	Alive	Not serious	S7b	incidental take in state-run fisheries research project; after ~50 minutes of soak time researchers noticed a little bit of splashing in net and could tell it was a dolphin, and they saw a second dolphin on the outside of the net; they moved their vessel up to the dolphin to grab the floatline but cut the engine first; work was conducted from the bow; there was one layer of monofilament net around the flukes but no lead or float line; grabbed mesh up to and on top of the flukes on the animal; when they pulled around one side of the fluke, it released the other side of the fluke and the dolphin shot out of the net and the other dolphin swam away with it; animal swam away	N/A		N/A	

								with no gear remaining on the body; researchers believed both animals swam off together – saw two animals breathing about 100 m away headed south and less than a minute later; they noted it almost seemed like there was an existing hole in the net that the dolphin shot through but the edges of the fluke got caught; during the disentanglement, the dolphin never surfaced until after it shot out of the net; as biologist pulled up (took maybe 30 sec to idle over to the area), pulled the dolphin up about 1 ft; no splashing because the dolphin was submerged underwater; when pulled mono off fluke, it was on its way to diving; no splashing; at this depth, the net was fairly stretched open [Note, researchers thought the animal outside the net was much larger than the one entangled, so this was likely a mom/calf pair with the calf entangled]				
STR; possible gillnet gear; monofilament line and debris	SER18-00592 [27DISL 080718]	Tursiops	GOM/Perdido Bay Stock	26-Jul-2018	Alive	Not serious	S7b	dolphin calf was first reported during July 2018 with possible gillnet gear wrapped around its peduncle and flukes and trailing behind the animal; debris was also entangled within the gear; this calf was monitored and a disentanglement effort was planned, but the calf was not resighted during search efforts; during April 2019 the calf and its mother were resighted and the calf was documented to be free of the gear	N/A		N/A	
STR; entanglement of unknown nature; semi-anchored	SER20-00572 [68DISL 101620]	Tursiops	GOM/Perdido Bay Stock	16-Oct-2020	Alive	Serious	S6, S7a	a young dolphin was reported entangled in line and semi-anchored in place at 10:13 hrs; according to the reporter and a video submitted, the dolphin was able to reach the surface to breathe, but was struggling against the line holding it in place and having some difficulty breathing; the reporter stated it was about 4-5 ft in length and that another large dolphin, presumably the mother, was swimming in circles around it; law enforcement arrived on scene via boat at ~10:40 hrs and confirmed the entanglement of some type of line around the distal peduncle, but was not able to stay on scene due to another emergency; during the initial 30 minutes of the sighting, it was determined the dolphin was not completely anchored as first reported and swam approximately 200 m	N/A		N/A	

								northwest along a shallow sandbar in site of the initial reporter based on land; police arrived on scene via boat to monitor the dolphin at ~10:50 hrs while stranding responders were en route; police searched the area for approximately 1.5 hours and were not able to locate the entangled dolphin; they did observe several dolphin groups, including one small dolphin that was seen tail-slapping repeatedly at the surface, but noted that the tail-slapping dolphin was moving along with the others in the group and they could not see anything apparent wrapped around the flukes; additional local personnel also assisted with this response via boat search beginning at ~12:30 hrs; stranding responders arrived on scene at 12:57 hrs; network and local personnel searched the area via boat until 14:21 hrs; due to Hurricane Sally's effects on the Orange Beach area, there was a large amount of debris in the water, both floating and submerged				
<b>Perdido Bay Stock summary (n=8 cases): # Serious injuries=2; # Not serious=3; # CBD=3</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-Sea	Row 175	Tursiops	GOM/PIS Stock	22-Mar-2019	Alive	Serious	S6, likely also S5a	an ecotour operator documented a dolphin with an entanglement originating in the mouth and trailing biofouled line along the right side of the body; a metal leader was cutting into the gape of the mouth	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 27, vessel-strike tab [FMMS N1937]	Tursiops	GOM/PIS Stock	26-May-2019	Alive	Serious	S16	animal reported with a watercraft-related injury; citizen documented via video and described 6 to 7 superficial, linear wounds on the dorsal portion of the head, and a superficial, triangular-shaped scrape was observed on the dorsal fin; the dolphin was observed logging at the surface for approximately 30 minutes, taking a breath every 2-3 minutes; upon approach by the citizen's vessel, the dolphin submerged and was not resighted	N/A		N/A	
At-sea	Row 196	Tursiops	GOM/PIS Stock	7-Jan-2020	Alive	Not serious	S8b	the animal has what appears to be a small amount of biofouled monofilament line embedded within an area of lobomycosis infection	N/A		N/A	



At-sea	Row 211	Tursiops	GOM/PIS Stock	12-Jul-2020	Alive	CBD		citizen documented a dolphin with fishing hooks and what appears to be monofilament line along the leading edge of the dorsal fin; it is unknown if any line was trailing from the animal or if any pectoral fins or flukes were involved	N/A		N/A	
At-sea	Row 225 [FMMS N2105; FMMN1 950]	Tursiops	GOM/PIS Stock	25-Mar-2021	Alive, thin	Serious	S1, possible S2	animal was reported and confirmed to have some sort of fishing gear (lure or sinker) at the right gape of the rostrum; it was also noted the animal appeared thin and had signs of Lobomycosis; during follow-up sighting on 16-Jun-21 there was no external evidence of human interaction, but the animal appeared thinner than at the previous sighting, with sunken epaxial musculature and slight peanut head	N/A		N/A	
STR; hook and line gear	SER18-00973 [FMMS N1918; F314]	Tursiops	GOM/PIS Stock	6-Apr-2018	Alive	Serious	S6	free-swimming, entangled male calf with what appears to be fishing line and associated lacerations at the leading edge of both flukes, near the fluke insertion; there is approximately two feet of line trailing from the flukes, with two distinct areas of biofouling; additionally there is what appears to be a circumferential wrap of monofilament line on the cranial aspect; on the dorsum, the line was observed caudal to the blowhole; on the left lateral aspect, the line appeared angled, immediately cranial to the left eye; on the right lateral aspect, this line also appeared angled, but towards the right pectoral fin; on this side, the line appeared wadded and was biofouled; no lacerations/abrasions were observed with the cranial entanglement; it is suspected that this animal may be dealing with two separate entanglements	Not serious	S7b	Yes	during February and March 2019, the calf was seen repeatedly in the same area with additional entanglements; a capture-release disentanglement was performed on 11 March 2019; deeply embedded line was removed from the calf's mouth and both blades of the flukes; the animals were freeze-branded, the mother received a satellite-linked tag, and they were released on site; subsequent sightings were made of the mother and calf through at least 26-Oct-2020
STR; possible Hawaiian sling; unid gear; hook and line gear	SER20-00190 [FMMS N2007]	Tursiops	GOM/PIS Stock	23-Jan-2020	Alive	Serious	S6, S13a	FWC Fisheries Independent Monitoring staff reported a dolphin entangled in a black line of unknown origin, attached to a suspect Hawaiian sling on 23 January 2020. FWC SWFL staff responded and verified that the dolphin was entangled and in thin body condition; in the following days (25, 28, and 29 January), additional monitoring efforts were conducted, and though the suspect Hawaiian sling was no longer observed, the dolphin remained entangled; entanglement	N/A		N/A	

								<p>consisted of a black line that was twisted/knotted onto itself on the left side of the dolphin, forming a loop with two trailing bitter ends; the front of the loop had severed through approximately 2/3 of the leading edge of the dorsal fin, and was wrapped around and under the peduncle, with one of the bitter ends typically trailing over and past the flukes; the loop was observed loose during the upstroke of the tail, but tightened and prevented a full downstroke, hindering the dolphin from swimming and was suspected to be painful; as a result, NOAA provided FWC SWFL with the approval to conduct a remote disentanglement; on 3 February, FWC SWFL attempted to remotely disentangle the dolphin, however, upon locating the animal, the dolphin was confirmed to no longer be entangled in a loop of black line, and appeared to only be entangled at the dorsal fin, trailing approximately 6 inches of monofilament line; the decision was made to conduct no further actions; the dorsal fin is disfigured, much is torn off and there are multiple "flaps" of the fin; the wound is unhealed and deep reed; the remaining gear is biofouled; the dorsal fin and gear are likely to become snagged on something in the environment and produce drag; it is unclear as to how the animal became disentangled from the black line, and how it acquired monofilament gear; on the intended day of intervention, fresh signs of shark predation were observed on the peduncle; it is possible that the gear was removed via predation; additionally, monitoring efforts had revealed that the animal associated with recreational fisher vessels, and observations were made of fishers feeding fish to the dolphin; therefore, it is also plausible that the gear was removed by a citizen during one of these types of encounters</p>				
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STR; human intervention	SER20-00499 [FMMS N2012]	Tursiops	GOM/PIS Stock	29-Jul-2020	Alive, stranded on a sandbar	Serious	S9	tour guide and one other citizen attempted to "rescue" a stranded dolphin from a sandbar; they tied a rope around the animal's peduncle and dragged it off the sandbar; tour guide was pulling rope and dragging dolphin flukes first across the sand while the second person did some initial pushing; dolphin was thrashing wildly and rolling while it was being dragged	N/A		N/A	
<b>PIS Stock summary (n=8 cases): # Serious injuries=5; # Not serious=2; # CBD=1</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 1</b>	
At-sea; hook and line gear	Row 246 [FMMS N2218]	Tursiops	GOM/PIS Stock or Eastern Coastal Stock	8-Jul-2022	Alive	Serious	S5a	animal documented with a minimum of two hooks embedded on the right side of the mouth; animal was reported to be exhibiting begging behavior	N/A		N/A	
<b>PIS Stock or Eastern Coastal Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-sea	Row 203 [SDRP animal SEWL]	Tursiops	GOM/Sarasota Bay/Little Sarasota Bay Stock	9-Apr-2020	Alive	Serious	S8a	researchers documented an entangled dolphin with encircling gear embedded in the skin behind the head	N/A		N/A	
At-sea	Row 216	Tursiops	GOM/Sarasota Bay/Little Sarasota Bay Stock	12-Oct-2020	Alive	CBD		ecotour operator reported a customer saw a dolphin with a red "net" on its dorsal fin near the Rod and Reel Pier; little info available	N/A		N/A	
ITR; shark research gillnet		Tursiops	GOM/Sarasota Bay/Little Sarasota Bay Stock	3-Jul-2018	Alive	Not serious	S7b	researchers reported a dolphin entangled in their gillnet (4-inch mesh portion) just after the net had been set; it was mostly entangled by the fluke and peduncle along with mesh along the flank and wrapped over the tip of the rostrum; researchers immediately started cutting the net away and disentangled the animal; duration of entanglement was 10 minutes or less; animal swam away vigorously without injury and free of gear, and was observed surfacing to breathe several times as it left the area	N/A		N/A	

STR; hook and line gear	SER19-00478 [MML1 903; F316]	Tursiops	GOM/Sarasota Bay/Little Sarasota Bay Stock	21-Mar-2019	Alive, reported to be thin	Serious	S6, S8a	known 2-year-old calf reported to be thin and entangled in monofilament line and Spectra/spiderwire line embedded deeply into its right fluke blade, with biofouled gear trailing behind the animal	Not serious	S7b	Yes	an intervention was carried out on 1-Apr-2019 in which the calf was captured, all gear was removed, and the animal was released; on 7-Jun-2019 animal was caught and examined; fluke was reported to be healing nicely. This dolphin has been seen by researchers as recently as 10-Feb-2021, and appears to be in good condition.
Sarasota Bay/Little Sarasota Bay Stock summary (n=4 cases): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=2; # CBD=1											SI Averted Tally: 1	
At-sea	Row 208	Tursiops	GOM/St. Andrew Bay Stock	17-Jun-2020	Alive	CBD		citizen reported a dolphin with line and a lure in its mouth, saying it was anchored; the animal was viewed from the pier but it dove and disappeared; photographs were taken but the quality did not allow any details to be apparent; little info available	N/A		N/A	
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER18-00225 [GW201 8009A]	Tursiops	GOM/St. Andrew Bay Stock	8-Mar-2018	Alive	Serious	S7a	FWC officer on duty responded to a report of dolphin entangled in a crab trap/pot line; the officer reported that the animal was struggling to stay up, was in ~20 feet deep water and the buoy was pulling it down	Serious	S7b	No	FWC officer proceeded to grab the buoy and pull it alongside his vessel; he disentangled the animal in ~15 minutes; he also reported that the animal was passive during the event; he observed the animal for 15 minutes following disentanglement, and reported that the animal was improving; at first it stayed alongside the boat, but then began swimming more strongly in the direction of deeper water, with the respirations becoming stronger; the line was reportedly wrapped 4-5 times around the flukes, and once removed there was evidence of human interaction

St. Andrew Bay Stock summary (n=2 cases): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-sea; hook and line gear	Row 241	Tursiops	GOM/St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor Stock	26-Apr-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	animal documented with at least two lines of clear monofilament wrapped around, and imbedded into the leading edge of the dorsal fin, and trailing at least 2-3 ft behind the fin; it was uncertain if the flukes were involved in the entanglement	N/A		N/A	
STR; hook and line gear	SER18-00102 [CMA-Tt-1804; Lenny]	Tursiops	GOM/St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor Stock	8-Feb-2018	Alive	Serious	S6	dolphin had line and hook wrapped around both flukes and trailing ~2-3 feet behind in a "Y" shape; the flukes are disfigured by a complicated wrap of multi-stranded line with multiple strands present across each point on insertion, and line is embedded within the flukes	Not serious	S7b	Yes	stranding partners captured, disentangled, and released the dolphin on 22-Feb-2018; close examination and disentanglement revealed that the ventral fluke surface is diffusely discolored with large areas of elevated nodular white tissue that are associated with the line passage through and against the tissue with possible chronic irritation and movement; 2 strands of line originating from the right fluke loop are causing a deep cut in the ventral fluke ridge then travels to the leading edge of the left fluke; the right loop of line had elicited a tissue response ventrally with a nodular elevation of tissue along the insertion line; severity of the wounds was a concern noted by veterinarians; however, animal has been resighted with some regularity by local researchers; alive and in good condition as of 1-Jul-2019

STR; hook and line gear; trap/pot gear; boat hook	SER21-01284 [CMA21 19; ECDP BMBE; JP 167]	Tursiops	GOM/St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor Stock	21-Apr-2021	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	mom of m/c pair, carrying gear in the leading edge of dorsal fin; initial entanglement was a monofilament line encircling and trailing from the dorsal fin with a yellow and white bobber trailing about 1.5 ft behind; the animal has acquired and dropped other gear and items as well including a black braided rope and buoy, later followed by a boat hook; for all three entanglements, the gear/equipment was trailing behind the animal as it swam	Serious	S6, S8a	No	unauthorized chases/harassment and disentanglement attempts were made by two different members of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office on successive days and citizen involvement occurred as well; animal was observed rubbing against a dock which resulted in the loss of the rope and buoy without intervention; it may have picked up the boat hook entanglement from a citizen or the sheriff's office who were both reported to be using boat hooks to try and disentangle the dolphin; the animal was filmed one day trailing the boat hook, and the following day the boat hook was no longer present; it is not known how the animal became disentangled from the boat hook; the animal still has monofilament line encircling and cutting into the dorsal fin with gear trailing
STR; vessel strike	SER21-00895 [CMA21 09]	Tursiops	GOM/St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor Stock	6-May-2021	Alive	Serious	S16	video documented a breaching dolphin being struck by a recreational vessel moving at high speed (running on plane and creating large wake)	N/A		N/A	
<b>St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor Stock summary (n=4 cases): # Serious injuries=3; # Not serious=1; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 1</b>	
At-Sea	Row 156	Tursiops	GOM/St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor Stock or Eastern Coastal Stock	25-Feb-2018	Alive	CBD		citizen reported a dolphin with an entanglement around its dorsal fin involving 2-3 wraps of braided line and a treble hook; line is reported as cutting 1 inch into dorsal fin; no photos; little info available	N/A		N/A	

At-Sea	Row 179	Tursiops	GOM/ St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor Stock or Eastern Coastal Stock	17-Mar-2018, 29-Aug-2018, 29-Apr-2019	Alive	CBD	S13a	this animal was documented on multiple occasions spanning more than one year by citizens and an ecotour operator; dolphin has monofilament line wrapped around (constricting) and embedded in the dorsal fin; no trailing line was evident; the entanglement has resulted in slight disfiguration of the dorsal fin	N/A		N/A	
<b>St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor Stock or Eastern Coastal Stock summary (n=2 cases): # Serious injuries=0; # Not serious=0; # CBD=2</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-Sea	Row 155	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	25-Feb-2018	Alive	CBD		citizen reported a dolphin with monofilament line around its flukes and peduncle; also reported red and white discoloration of peduncle; little info available	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 171	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	13-Sep-2018	Alive	Serious	S8a, S13a	researchers documented a young-of-the-year animal with monofilament wrapped around the anterior portion of its dorsal fin; line appears to extend around the peduncle; the line is taut and is cutting through the anterior portion of the dorsal fin at the fin's base	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 176	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	29-Mar-2019	Alive	Serious	S6	ecotour operator documented an animal with monofilament line entangled around the tip of the dorsal fin where there is a notch missing; the line is trailing from the dorsal fin to at least the peduncle area (at least ~3 feet)	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 182/183	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	8-Jun-2019	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	a citizen documented a calf with monofilament line or net wrapped around and trailing behind the dorsal fin	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 189	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	21-Aug-2019	Alive, appears thin	Serious	S8a	researchers documented a dolphin (older calf) with what appears to a line/strap/belt (dark with metal present) wrapped around its body posterior to the dorsal fin; line appears to have cut into the animal as there are flaps of tissue apparent; flukes do not appear to be involved in the entanglement	N/A		N/A	

At-Sea	Row 190	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	25-Sep-2019	Alive	Serious	S5d	citizen at fishing pier reported an animal with a hook in the leading edge of its dorsal fin with 3-4 feet of monofilament line trailing	N/A		N/A	
At-sea	Row 228 [MMPL 2008]	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	7-Jan-2020	Alive	Serious	S8a, S13a	multiple citizens reported and photographed a dolphin from 7 January through 26 January; the dolphin had line entangled around its dorsal fin; the dorsal fin was severely damaged/disfigured and beginning to fall off; the animal was hooked by a fisherman on 26 January but broke the line before stranding network could respond	N/A		N/A	
At-sea	Row 210	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	27-Jun-2020	Alive	Serious	S6	an ecotour operator documented a very small calf that was entangled with monofilament line or rope around its peduncle; there is also a 4 inch orange bobber, and the animal is trailing ~ 6 feet of line; calf was sighted multiple times with its presumed mother	N/A		N/A	
At-sea (possible packing strap)	Row 223 [MMPL 2102]	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	13-Mar-2021	Alive	Serious	S8a	animal was documented with what appears to be a packing strap encircling its head; wrap is constricting; animal appears to be behaving normally and was documented while wake-riding a vessel	N/A		N/A	
At-sea	Row 234	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	24-Dec-2021	Alive	Serious	S6	researchers documented a calf with a hook embedded in its ventrum (possibly a large treble hook); there is line trailing off the animal with biofouling	N/A		N/A	
At-sea; hook and line gear	Row 237	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	24-Jan-2022	Alive	Serious	S5a, S6	multiple citizens working at and fishing at the south Skyway Fishing Pier reported a dolphin entangled in fishing gear; it was reported to be an animal known to depredate gear at both the north and south piers; video and photos did not show the entanglement in detail, but the animal reportedly was hooked in the mouth with gear trailing from the mouth leading to more gear wrapped around the dorsal fin; a large amount of line, a hook, and a bobber were reported entangled around the dorsal fin	N/A		N/A	
At-sea; hook and line gear	Row 247 [ST01]	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	6-Jun-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	researchers documented a calf with monofilament line wrapping around the anterior lower dorsal fin, beginning to slice into the fin; line is taut and it was unconfirmed whether the flukes or other parts are involved	N/A		N/A	



At-sea; hook and line gear	Row 253	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	18-Oct-2022	Alive	Serious	S5a	citizen reported and partially documented a dolphin with a spoon lure in the right gape of its rostrum	N/A		N/A	
STR; hook and line gear	SER19-01296 [CMA19 17]	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	3-June-19	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	dolphin was initially reported on 3 June 2019 as having an entanglement to the dorsal fin; several other sightings were reported in the following weeks, then not again until 11 December 2019; the animal was resighted a few times again over the following weeks, but then reports ceased; gear was constricting and deforming the dorsal fin and trailing off the animal	Serious	S6, S8a	No	dolphin was sighted by an SDRP survey team on 7 April 2021; on April 9, 2021, a Sarasota Dolphin Research Program survey team was able to use a cutting tool on a long pole to remove a substantial amount of the trailing fishing gear; the one and only attempt cut much of the gear trailing from the dorsal fin; dolphin's reaction was medium, with a slight roll and tail kick; it moved and stayed much closer to its likely mother, SDRP code SCAM, and was no longer approachable enough to cut more line; algae-covered line remains around and through the dorsal fin, and trailing perhaps 30 cm behind the fin, but it no longer appears to be trailing over or behind the flukes; removed line and gear had a wet weight of 29 grams; gear includes, but is not limited to, at least two different tests of monofilament, a lead weight, a swivel, and the top of a small broken hook
STR; trap/pot gear	SER22-00517 [MMPL 2221]	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock	6-Nov-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S7a	complainant reported a dolphin entangled in a crab trap line that appeared to be tethered; video provided by the complainant showed a dolphin surfacing in an odd manner with what appeared to be a buoy closely associated with its flukes	CBD	S7b	No	while response personnel were en route, witnesses stated that an unknown citizen cut the dolphin free and the dolphin swam out of the area; personnel surveyed the area but were unable to locate the dolphin or any remaining gear in the

												water; there are no photos or video of the disentanglement; it is unknown if all gear was removed
Tampa Bay Stock summary (n=15 cases): # Serious injuries=13; # Not serious=0; # CBD=2											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-Sea	Row 192	Tursiops	GOM/Tampa Bay Stock or St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor	22-Oct-2019	Alive	Not serious	S7b	researchers initially documented an animal with fishing line cutting into the leading edge of its dorsal fin approximately midway down the fin; a fishing hook was seen trailing a few inches past the dorsal fin from its right side, and line on its left side appeared to extend further down toward the peduncle/flukes; animal was resighted on 27-Oct-2019 gear-free	N/A		N/A	
Tampa Bay Stock or St. Joseph Sound/Clearwater Harbor summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=0; # Not serious=1; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
STR; hook and line gear	SER20-00529 [UFTt2008]	Tursiops	GOM/Waccasassa Bay/Withlacoochee Bay/Crystal Bay Stock	30-Aug-2020	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	video reports from on the scene to the stranding network confirmed a calf was swimming abnormally and was suspected to be entangled; the calf was struggling to maintain its speed, position in the water column, and ascend normally; calf was thin and unable to sustain itself.	Serious	S7b	No	citizens remained standing by while a disentanglement team reported to the scene; the calf was restrained by a veterinarian, who with assistance from people on the boat, cut the entanglement which included severe wrapping and damage to the flukes, a loop around the pectoral fins, and through the mouth; left fluke blade was bent ventrally by the mass of material which included a shark fishing heavy monofilament line, hook, two lead weights, and two smaller pier fishing hooks, plus possible spider wire; the bulk of the material was held on the dorsal surface of the flukes with additional material on the ventral surface of the flukes; due to a severe impending storm, the age of the calf, and photo evaluation, the

												calf was released immediately when freed of all line; calf was alert and responsive but did not struggle after initial capture; it continued to breathe regularly throughout the procedure; the calf swam strongly towards two adults who stayed in close proximity during the short procedure, assuming one to be its mother; no sightings of the calf since the disentanglement
Waccasassa Bay/Withlacoochee Bay/Crystal Bay Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
STR; commercial crab trap/pot gear	SER20-00703 [GA238 2]	Tursiops	GOM/Western Coastal Stock	9-Sep-2020	Alive	Serious	S6, S7a	on 9 September 2020 an entangled dolphin was reported by personnel from a fishing charter; they reported what appeared to be an adult dolphin with a crab pot line wrapped around its tail stock; the dolphin was surfacing to breathe but not swimming any discernable distance (depth ~13 ft); report reached stranding network at 11:23am and a follow-up video was provided at 11:35am	Serious	S7b	No	stranding network and US Coast Guard (USCG) responded and found the dolphin at 1:40pm (animal had not moved from the originally reported location); dolphin surfaced several times with its head/rostrum out of the water, listing slightly to its left side, and its dorsal fin and tail were not generally visible above water; there were two small round buoys (1 small red buoy and 1 larger white buoy with the number 721 impressed into it) that were in close proximity to the dolphin at all times; dolphin was observed for approximately 10 minutes from a distance, briefly taking respiration rate (5 bpm); as responders slowly moved closer to the dolphin, it slowly swam away, submerging the two buoys that were attached to it; responders were able to

												<p>easily spot the dolphin nearby when it, and the buoys, re-surfaced; dolphin was briefly slightly more active at this point, with more of the body visible at the surface, bringing its head and neck up and out of the water at one point; as the dolphin reduced activity again, the USCG boat used a man overboard procedure to approach the dolphin on port side, keeping the buoys in between the dolphin and the boat; as vessel slowly approached the buoys, responder took hold of them and slowly pulled the buoy line in; the dolphin surfaced ventrum-up by the boat quickly with the tail wrap visible - the point of entanglement was in close proximity to the end of the line/buoys; a handheld safety cutting knife was used to make 4 cuts and rope was completely disentangled from the dolphin (both the dorsal and ventral side of the tail were inspected; the rope had made several noticeable line impressions, but was not deeply embedded in the tissue and it came off easily; from the time the fluke was visible, and throughout the rope-cutting procedure, the dolphin was very still and did not resist; once the animal was disentangled, it was released, maintaining a hold of the buoys/line and the dolphin slowly floated away from the boat, underwater and still ventrum-up; less</p>
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												than 2 minutes later, it surfaced near the boat, with head and dorsal fin visible above the water; it was observed surfacing a couple of times over the course of 2 minutes, slowly swimming in a southeast direction towards the Galveston Ship Channel, before it was no longer visible; responders continued searching for approximately 15 minutes, at which point they began observing several other dolphins in the area; animal appeared to be a large adult, estimated at 260 cm, and had a thin body condition, loss of nuchal fat, but unclear if it was emaciated
STR; marine debris	SER20- 00707 [GA238 5b]	Tursiops	GOM/Western Coastal Stock	4-Nov- 2020	Alive	Serious	S8a	entangled calf observed during photo-ID survey; calf presented with some sort of plastic or packing strap wrapped tightly around the head with algae growth; calf was active with the presumed mom and several associates on the initial sighting; calf was observed and photographed by a member of the public in the same area five days later; expert input from veterinarians determined the entanglement to be life threatening, however, the dolphins were not re-sighted in order to carry out intervention	N/A		N/A	

STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER21- 00885 [GA249 6]	Tursiops	GOM/Western Coastal Stock	7-May- 2021	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	at ~08:30am a fisher reported a dolphin remaining in the same general area near a fishing pier, surfacing to breathe but entangled in some buoys; stranding network was contacted at ~10:55am and was onsite within 10 minutes; the dolphin was too far from shore to access but was observed lifting its head at regular intervals for breaths; a white buoy and a red buoy were visible at the surface of the water; a second adult dolphin was also observed swimming in the area and circling the entangled dolphin briefly; at ~11:15am the stranding network contacted the beach patrol to request assistance from a jet-ski in order to gain access to the animal; the dolphin was monitored from shore and from the fishing pier; it appeared to be surfacing less frequently, was moving farther from shore into deeper water and submerging the buoys	Serious	S7b	No	beach patrol arrived on jet-ski at ~11:40am, and a stranding network member joined to go out for an assessment; the red buoy became visible and as the jet-ski approached slowly, the dolphin pulled the buoys down under the surface where they were no longer visible; after several slow approaches, the dolphin continued to swim down slowly, submerging the two buoys and re-surfacing; once a pattern of behavior upon approach was observed, the jet-ski was able to cut the ignition and glide in so that the dolphin remained calm and floats could be reached at the surface; from the back of the jet-ski, the stranding network responder pulled the line and both floats up out of the water exposing the tail flukes; once the tail flukes were in hand, the dolphin was initially very active and pulling hard, however, responders were able to hold onto the tail and gear until the animal calmed enough to make cuts and remove the gear; using a net knife with a safety blade guard, 4 cuts were made and the large loop of twisted rope was dislodged from the right fluke; several superficial abrasions from the rope were observed on the tail flukes and fluke base with minimal bleeding; no other injuries or lesions were observed and it appeared to be a robust
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												adult in good body condition; the dolphin remained upright and took two breaths while the gear was being removed; the dolphin was disentangled and released at ~11:55am; once the dolphin was disentangled, it was released while responders maintained hold of the gear, including the crab pot, rope, and buoys; the dolphin surfaced twice, lifting its head above the water and then swam away quickly; it was not observed in the area for approximately 15 minutes post release
Western Coastal Stock summary (n=3 cases): # Serious injuries=3; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0												SI Averted Tally: 0

**Table 1b. Atlantic Ocean**

Source of Data/ Fishery 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 (for Small Cetaceans)	Injury Determination Criteria/Comments	Post-Mitigation SI Determination (N/A is noted for cases without mitigation)	NMFS 2012 SI Policy Criteria (for Small Cetaceans)	SI Averted	Post-Mitigation Injury Determination Criteria/Comments
MMAP; pelagic longline fishery		Gm	ATL/short-finned pilot whale	15-May-2022	Alive	Serious	S5a	fishermen self-reported an entanglement of a short-finned pilot whale; 16/0 hook appeared to be in the corner of the mouth; the leader was cut close to the hook; pilot whale swam away vigorously; no injuries or blood observed by fishers	N/A		N/A	
<b>Short-finned Pilot Whale Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER20-00705 [MARS2003]	Tursiops	ATL/Biscayne Bay Stock	28-Dec-2020	Alive	Serious	S7a	a dolphin in distress with a rope entanglement around the tail was reported at 14:45 hrs; the first of the response teams arrived at 3pm and additional team at 15:15 hrs; dolphin was alone, around 5 ft in length or possibly less, could reach the surface of the water to breathe, was vocalizing repeatedly, and was entangled by a white rope around the tail notch and caudal peduncle that was connected to a trap/pot; depth was estimated to be about 6-8 ft	Serious	S15a, S7b	No	once all response teams were in place and had discussed a rescue plan and photographed the animal, the first attempt was successful to gaff the rope line and pull it in; the vessel engine was immediately cut off and the rope was pulled to the port side; the captain held the pot rope line and secured it to the vessel; other team members held the animal's flukes just above the water's surface and cut one piece of the rope; rope was wrapped twice around the caudal peduncle in an overlapping manner that did not allow for one cut to release the animal; another wrap of line was from the peduncle to the tail notch in a 'T' shape for the entanglement; team members had to make a second cut on the line to finish the rope release; the dorsal aspect of the peduncle was already abraded with red skin visible and bleeding; during the release the animal breathed twice; the animal immediately dove and swam NW; the release was completed at 15:27 hrs; dolphin was entangled at least 45 minutes; no documentation of injuries or disentanglement



STR; trap/pot gear	SER20-00603 [MIA20 20-01]	Tursiops	ATL/Biscayne Bay Stock	21-Nov-2020	Alive	Serious	S7a	two members of the public on jet-skis found a dolphin struggling to surface; the dolphin had thick nylon line wrapped around the peduncle and was weighed down by the attached crab trap	Serious	S6	No	the two men got in the water and one man used a knife to cut one of the lines; the man returned to his jet ski and pulled the crab trap up and used it to pull the animal closer so he could cut the line connecting the peduncle and trap; the dolphin was thrashing as it was being pulled closer to the jet ski; it took ~4 minutes to cut the lines and free the dolphin; the network contacted one of the citizen responders who said a loop of rope remained around the animal's peduncle but he believed it would be loose enough to fall away; duration of entanglement unknown; unknown status of remaining gear; no information on dolphin's condition or behavior as it swam away
STR; gillnet gear	SER21-01286 [MIA21 01]	Tursiops	ATL/Biscayne Bay Stock	10-Dec-2021	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	a dolphin was reported as in distress; animal was wrapped in gillnet gear and mostly logging at the surface; it was occasionally submerging; a thicker lead or float line was wrapped around the animal as well as monofilament mesh; from video recordings, the animal appeared anchored as well	Serious	S7b	No	law enforcement officer responded and disentangled the animal; it took 2.5 minutes and 3 cutting attempts to remove all of the gear; the officer used a boat hook to grab hold of the gillnet gear and ease the dolphin towards his vessel; he began cutting line; the animal began thrashing and pulled away; this happened twice; both times the officer used the boat hook to again grab the gear and pull the animal close to the vessel; the animal did not go far so the boat was able to drift the whole time; the officer believed he removed all of the gear; unknown but lengthy entanglement; the animal was first recorded at 7:45am and the disentanglement occurred ~2:10pm; video cut off and did not record the animal after the last lines were cut; unable to determine if the gear was anchored in some fashion or the behavior post-release
Biscayne Bay Stock summary (n=3 cases): # Serious injuries=3; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-sea	Row 29, vessel-strike tab	Tursiops	ATL/Central Florida Coastal Stock	8-Jul-2020	Alive	Serious	S9, S13a	citizen reported an injured dolphin and described as having several wounds from blowhole to peduncle, dorsal fin sliced off, wounds red; little info available	N/A		N/A	

Central Florida Coastal Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-Sea	Row 165	Tursiops	ATL/Charleston Estuarine System Stock	2-Jun-2018	Alive	CBD		citizen reported an animal entangled in crab trap/pot gear; responders could not locate the animal; little info available	N/A		N/A	
STR; marine debris (rope)	SER18-00246 [SC1823]	Tursiops	ATL/Charleston Estuarine System Stock	10-Apr-2018	Alive	Not serious	S7b	a dolphin in a shallow water creek next to a road had a line wrapped around its flukes; as SCDNR employees approached the animal from the marsh, the animal was spooked and began thrashing; the line was thrown off the flukes by the thrashing; animal disentangled itself prior to intervention	N/A		N/A	
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER18-00468 [SC1836]	Tursiops	ATL/Charleston Estuarine System Stock	10-Jun-2018	Alive	Serious	S6	citizens reported a dolphin entangled in crab trap/pot gear; little info available	CBD		No	citizens disentangled the dolphin; they began pulling the line up and the dolphin slipped out so it was presumed the gear was loosely attached; the disentanglement effort was very brief and the animal was reported to be gear-free; no documentation of this case and few details are available
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER18-00656 [SC1853]	Tursiops	ATL/Charleston Estuarine System Stock	29-Sep-2018	Alive	Serious	S6	dolphin was reported as entangled in crab trap/pot gear; line was wrapped around the base of the flukes multiple times and a buoy was present; it was later determined that the crab pot was also attached	CBD	S7b	No	fire department personnel responded within 35 minutes of the report to attempt disentanglement; disentanglement took 3-5 minutes; the dolphin was reported to struggle initially and then calm down once line was being cut; dolphin swam away quickly once released and was observed to surface normally
STR; buoy line entanglement (dredge buoy or crab trap/pot buoy)	SER18-00684 [SC1860]	Tursiops	ATL/Charleston Estuarine System Stock	21-Nov-2018	Alive	Serious	S6	citizen found a dolphin entangled around its flukes in unidentified buoy line (either a dredge buoy or crab trap/pot buoy)	Serious	S6	No	citizen attempted to cut the line off the flukes but cut his hand badly during the attempt; dolphin remained entangled in the line; law enforcement officers attempted to locate the dolphin but were unable to find it
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER19-01138 [SC1944]	Tursiops	ATL/Charleston Estuarine System Stock	1-Sep-2019	Alive	Serious	S7b	dolphin observed and documented by public as entangled in trap/pot gear	Serious	S7b	No	members of the public cut the line but the animal was released with line still attached to its flukes; little info available
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER19-01091 [SC1947]	Tursiops	ATL/Charleston Estuarine System Stock	13-Sep-2019	Alive	Not serious	S8b	Coast Guard crew member observed a dolphin entangled in trap/pot gear; the animal was able to self-disentangle and shake the line from its flukes; from the time it was reported to	N/A		N/A	

								the time it released itself was ~5 minutes				
STR; trap/pot gear	SER20-00460 [SC2023]	Tursiops	ATL/Charleston Estuarine System Stock	15-May-2020	Alive	Serious	S7a	dolphin reported as entangled in trap/pot gear; animal was anchored to the pot	CBD	S7b	No	witness reported seeing a crab pot fisherman cut the dolphin free from the trap/pot gear; dolphin jumped and swam away "unharmd" with no gear attached; the entangled animal was anchored to the pot and the fisherman was observed pulling up the pot after releasing the dolphin
STR; commercial trap/pot gear	SER22-00245 [SC2213]	Tursiops	ATL/Charleston Estuarine System Stock	7-Apr-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S7a	dolphin entangled ~280 cm from the buoy in 563 cm of line around the fluke insertion; trailing line and buoy; pot not attached to the line; reported as struggling but able to lift its head to breathe	Serious	S7b	No	dolphin was disentangled by law enforcement officers; officer stated "we chased him hard until he got supertired and then we could grab him"; animal was pulled alongside the vessel and handled to disentangle
<b>Charleston Estuarine System Stock summary (n=9 cases): # Serious injuries=3; # Not serious=2; # CBD=4, before analysis of CBD cases. The 4 CBDs were prorated as 2.4 SIs. Revised total: # Serious injures=5.4; # Not serious=2.</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-Sea	Row 24, vessel-strike tab [CM68]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	16-Feb-2018	Alive	Not serious	S13a	researchers documented a dolphin whose dorsal fin had been almost completely removed by a propeller; skin is removed from the peduncle area as well and exposed blubber is red; animal was resighted by local researchers in January 2019 and appeared to be doing well	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 164 [c4BITT]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	18-Apr-2018	Alive	Not serious	S7b	researchers documented a calf with a body wrap of monofilament or cord anterior to dorsal fin; on 23-May-2018 the animal was documented to be gear-free; the animal shed the gear on its own	N/A		N/A	
At-Sea	Row 185 [c3POOH]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	25-Jun-2019	Alive	Not serious	S13a	in June 2019 researchers documented a calf, ~2 years old, with an entanglement of monofilament wrapped tightly and constricting and cutting through the upper dorsal fin; calf was later sighted in January 2020 gear-free with a slight disfigurement of the upper dorsal fin; calf sighted additional times by researchers, as recently as October 2020, and the animal appears to be doing well	N/A		N/A	

At-Sea	Row 198	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	7-Dec-2019	Alive	Serious	S6	ecotour operator documented an animal with an entanglement; very poor video quality, but entanglement reported to be around flukes and trailing ~5 feet behind the animal	N/A		N/A	
At-sea	Row 205 (YMLA, mom)	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	18-Apr-2020	Alive	Serious	S6, S13a	mom of a mom-calf pair; at 13:24 a mom and calf pair were reported by a boater; caller indicated that both animals were entangled with deep lacerations to their dorsal fins but swimming ok; stranding HSWRI volunteer was onsite within 30 minutes and located the animals at 14:40 in the same general area; limited images were taken before two large vessels passed through and she lost sight of the animals; adult is entangled in bright green fishing line (likely high test) which is wrapped around the dorsal fin and trails the animal by several feet	Not serious	S7b, S13a	N/A	this animal and its calf were captured as part of a live-capture health assessment on 21-Jan-2021 and confirmed to be gear-free
STR; hook and line gear	SER21-00144 [Row 206; Hubbs-2111-Tt; ZUKI, calf)	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	18-Apr-2020	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a, S13a	calf of a mom-calf pair; at 13:24 a mom and calf pair were reported by a boater; caller indicated that both animals were entangled with deep lacerations to their dorsal fins but swimming ok; stranding HSWRI volunteer was onsite within 30 minutes and located the animals at 14:40 in the same general area; limited images were taken before two large vessels passed through and she lost sight of the animals; calf was only very briefly observed by HSWRI volunteers but was described as having bright green fishing line around the dorsal fin (cutting into the leading edge) that extends toward the peduncle and is possibly wrapped around the insertion of the flukes; calf also has white rope entangled in the fishing line along the lateral sides (matching the complainant's original call)	Not serious	S7b, S13a	Yes	this animal and its mom were captured as part of a live-capture health assessment on 21-Jan-2021 and confirmed to be gear-free; however the animal was reported entangled again on 6-Feb-2021 - thick green fishing line was found wrapped tightly around the dorsal fin (rat's nest of gear) and trailing behind the dolphin beyond the length of its flukes (which are clear of gear); green line was also wrapped tightly around the right pectoral fin; biofouling is present in the gear, along with different types of fishing line, and a green buoy is attached within the gear; the animal was disentangled and released on 26-Feb-21; it was sighted multiple times post-release and appeared to be doing well

At-sea	Row 219	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	15-Nov-2020	Alive	Serious	S8a, S13a	older calf, initially reported by a citizen but subsequently sighted by researchers on multiple occasions; dolphin appears to be in decent body condition, although may be slightly thin; animal has green line encircling, cutting through, and disfiguring the dorsal fin; gear is trailing the dorsal fin and a metal sinker can be seen in the trailing gear	N/A		N/A	
At-sea (hook and line gear)	Row 221	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	31-Jan-2021	Alive	Serious	S6	animal was documented tail slapping in what may have been an attempt to remove an entanglement from around its flukes; animal has an entanglement wrapped around and trailing behind its flukes; the entanglement appears like fishing line with a sinker or similar object attached to the line	N/A		N/A	
At-sea; unid line	Row 239 [c2ERNI]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	3-Mar-2022	Alive	Not serious	S7b	animal documented with a heavy, yellow line entangled around its upper dorsal fin and trailing; line is taut; line has cut a notch into the leading edge of the dorsal fin; animal documented on 8-Mar-2022 gear-free	N/A		N/A	
At-sea; hook and line gear; unid gear	Row 250	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	7-Sep-2022	Alive, thin	Serious	S6, S8a, S13a	researchers reported and partially documented an animal entangled with what they thought was biofouled monofilament line in leading edge of dorsal fin at base, cutting into and slightly disfiguring the dorsal fin at its base; the animal also had line in the gape of its rostrum and round flat floats along its ventrum/abdomen	N/A		N/A	

STR; hook and line gear	SER19-01290 [Hubbs-1927-Tt; c1BROW-BR0120]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	15-Jul-2019	Alive, possibly thin	Serious	S8a	researchers documented a subadult dolphin with an entanglement encircling its head consisting of clear monofilament fishing line with a broken metal leader attached; the entanglement was chronic and embedded in portions of the encirclement; an intervention attempt occurred on 27 August 2019, but unfortunately the dolphin was not captured during this attempt or subsequent attempts; the dolphin has not been sighted since 28 October 2019 despite continued efforts (last attempt Jan 2020); shifting of the gear between sighting dates (11 Jul, 20 Aug, 27 Aug, 2 Oct, 28 Oct) was apparent with the more visible biofouling portions and leader of the line presumably shifting ventrally; upon last sighting (28 October 2019), the encirclement had healed over the gear in many areas; animal was thin with pox like lesions and an algae sheen; images illustrated that the encirclement didn't appear to involve the pectoral flippers or flukes; despite exhaustive search efforts the animal has not been resighted	N/A		N/A	
STR; hook and line gear	SER20-00530 [Hubbs-2036-Tt]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	5-Sep-2020	Alive	Serious	S6	at ~1445 while leading a boat tour, a guide observed a young dolphin breach three times; the dolphin was about 50 meters from the tour vessel and was with another larger dolphin (presumed mother); as the tour vessel approached, a mass of yellow fishing line on the dorsal fin and line trailing behind was observed	CBD	S7b	No	while tour boat was observing entangled dolphin, a recreational boater also noticed the dolphin as it closely approached their vessel; FWC law enforcement was able to get in touch with the boater, who recalled the sequence of events; he stated that they observed the dolphin struggling at the surface and turned around to help; they observed line trailing from the dorsal fin attached to two masses of tangled line or netting that was loosely encircling the tail, and trailing about 20 ft behind the animal; their first attempt to snag the line was not successful but the dolphin approached again and they were able to grab the trailing line and secure it to their boat; they did not touch or handle the dolphin,

												only the gear; the trailing line was composed of monofilament and yellow braided line; line was attached to the dolphin via a single hook in the mid trailing edge of the dorsal fin (the line was not encircling or embedded in the fin); they made a cut using fishing pliers about 12-14 inches from the dorsal fin and the rest of the gear came loose and was brought on board as the dolphin swam away; they described all of the gear in total was a mass about the size of a basketball, and was "fresh," clean gear without biofouling; subsequent reports of this same animal were made on 10 and 11 September 2020; animal was not sighted after despite extensive search efforts
STR; commerical blue crab trap/pot gear	SER20-00575 [Hubbs-2041-Tt]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	30-Oct-2020	Alive	Serious	S7a	dolphin reported as entangled in trap/pot gear; line was wrapped around the animal's peduncle	CBD	S7b	No	the county sherriff's vessel with FWC staff approached the entangled dolphin and snagged the line using a gaff; they described the line as knotted and looped in several places, and there was a single loop loosely wrapped around the base of the dolphin's flukes; they lifted the animal's flukes to the surface and made a single cut, freeing the animal from the gear; they described the dolphin as "fatigued" for a moment, but then swam away; dolphin was entangled at least ~30 minutes from initial call until confirming disentanglement
STR; hook and line gear	SER21-00833 [Hubbs-2117-Tt]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	5-May-2021	Alive	Serious	S8a, S13d	during a rescue operation for an out of habitat dolphin, the dolphin was found to have constricting gear wrapped around and cutting through its right pectoral fin	Serious	S7b	No	during the live capture effort, responders removed the gear from the dolphin's pectoral fin and released the animal; body condition was thin with post-nuchal depression and animal presented diffuse pox-like lesions; it was followed for 2 hours post-release and has not been resighted (as of Sep-2023)
STR; hook and line gear	SER21-01227 [Hubbs-2149-Tt]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	25-Nov-2021	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	a citizen boater indicated that he was traveling N along the Indian River when he sighted a dolphin calf that was sitting at the surface; he pulled alongside the calf which was accompanied by two other adult dolphins and noticed that the calf was entangled through	Serious	S7b	No	the citizen secured the calf by the flukes and quickly removed all of the gear from the animal; he estimated it took 30 seconds and he made ~14 cuts in the line to remove all of the gear; the calf squirmed some but was described as too exhausted to put up much of a fight; there were no bleeding

								the mouth, around the left pectoral flipper, around the base of the flukes, and was anchored in place (gear secured to something on the bottom of the lagoon)				wounds on the calf when it was released; the calf immediately joined the adults, which had moved ~25 yards away; the citizen remained with the group for 30 minutes post-release; he described the gear as clear monofilament fishing line which he estimated as 150 lb test; lacerations-impressions from the entanglement were visible in the images of the left lateral side around the head and along the leading edge of the dorsal fin
STR; hook and line gear	SER22-00577 [Hubbs-2250-Tt] [c2SOR T]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	30-Dec-2022	Alive, emaciated initially	CBD	S7b	on 30 December 2022 at 13:58, a report was made of an entangled calf "hog-tied" in green line, netting or rope, extending from mouth area to the flukes, and trailing behind the animal; the mother would prevent any attempts made to approach the calf; the calf remained close to the mother unless she was foraging; the surfacing pattern was unusual with the blowhole breaking the surface, the chin pulled sharply downward, and the dorsal fin would then break the surface; gear evaluation was not possible due to fading daylight; the calf (c2SORT) had a sighting history and was estimated to be 4 to 5 years old; on 30 December a remote disentanglement was attempted with authorization but the animals were repeatedly diving and staying in deep water; on 31 December 2022 three vessels were deployed to sight the animals and attempt a manual intervention; at 10:08 the pair was located but conditions were poor with overcast/thick fog (early); necrotic or scar tissue was observed by staff along the leading edge of the left and right flukes along with green trailing gear; a manual catch was not feasible as when approached closely, the animals consistently boat avoided and dove; on 2 January 2023 two vessels were	N/A		N/A	



								<p>deployed and animals were located; the calf has improved movement, and it is likely that the "hog-tie" that connected the head/mouth to the tail was severed; the calf is also routinely lifting its flukes above the surface, allowing for gear evaluation and documentation; deep lacerations are present along the leading edge of both flukes, and encircling the fluke insertion; green fishing line (several lines; ~3) extends posterior to the flukes for at least 1 m and is taut; the dorsal aspect of the rostrum presents a deep laceration and lacerations are present along the gape; the calf is emaciated and presents diffuse algal sheen; on 9 January 2023 the animal was located and followed; no line was on the rostrum but there was still line on the peduncle; calf is severely emaciated, with lesions and an algal sheen; on 12 January 2023 there was a collaborative rescue effort; a net was set but the animals were not caught; on 20 January 2023 the animal was located but gear was not visible; on 27 January 2023 animals were located and followed; gear was not visible; on 1 February 2023 the animals were located during routine Halifax River survey and no gear was visible; on 9 February 2023 animal was located and confirmed gear free; clear improvement from 9 January (improved body condition, lesion and algal sheen no longer present); on 1 March 2023 animals were located during routine Halifax survey; animal readily lifting and slapping tail, gear free and wounds clearly healing; improved body condition, lesion and algal sheen no longer present</p>				
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STR; unknown material	SER22-00578 [Hubbs-2320-Tt]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	3-Apr-2022	Alive	Serious	S8a	on 3 April, 2022, a local ecotour company reported a dolphin with a scar or wound encircling the head with line trailing along the animal's right side; a video was provided by the complainant that matched this description; extensive multi-vessel surveys were implemented to locate the dolphin which was primarily seen by an ecotour company in the canal system; the dolphin was briefly observed on 25 October 2022 and then again on 8 February 2023 and monitored throughout the months prior to intervention; images from ~40 sightings since the initial sighting indicated a progression of the wound, which appeared to be chronic and open; gear was not visible except for limited sightings from 2022 and the animal remained in decent body condition	Serious	S8a	No	on 7 June 2023, the animal was located in a group of three animals; the net was deployed at 0947 with two animals in the compass; the compass was reduced twice prior to the animals hitting the net (9:58); the non-target animal was promptly released; scar tissue encircled the target animal but was completely healed and no gear was present externally but rather likely deeply embedded; in consultation with NOAA Fisheries a small incision was made in the scar tissue but gear was not visible; antibiotics were administered and the dolphin was released onsite; the target and non-target rejoined and were observed post-release bow-riding the catch boat for several minutes
STR; hook and line gear	SER22-00394 [Hubbs-2230-Tt]	Tursiops	ATL/IRLES Stock	8-Aug-2022	Alive, emaciated	Serious	S6, S8a	emaciated calf with gear wrapped around peduncle and both fluke blades and trailing 3-4 ft. behind the animal; line has cut through the skin and started to deform the peduncle; trailing line contains biofouling	Serious	S1, S7b	No	animal was remotely disentangled; the gear was hooked but it was too tough to cut through, so responders pulled the calf along the side of the boat and the crew was able to cut all the gear off; follow-up surveys sighted the animal 2 months post-disentanglement, and the animal was still emaciated and described as not using its flukes well
<b>IRLES Stock summary (n=18 cases): # Serious injuries=9; # Not serious=6; # CBD=3, before analysis of CBD cases. The 3 CBDs were prorated as 1.5 SIs. Revised total: # Serious injures=10.5; # Not serious=6.</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 2</b>	
At-sea; unid line	Row 244 [TtNEFL 2214]	Tursiops	ATL/JES Stock	31-May-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a, S13a	researchers documented a dolphin with line cutting half-way through the dorsal fin, disfiguring the fin; gear is trailing behind the dorsal fin and appears to include biofouling or debris; unconfirmed whether the flukes were entangled as well	N/A		N/A	

At-sea; vessel strike	Row 34, vessel- strike tab [TtNEFL 2211]	Tursiops	ATL/JES Stock	17-May- 2022	Alive	Serious	S12, S13a	researchers documented an animal with what appeared to be a recent propeller injury to the leading portion of the dorsal fin; dorsal fin was sliced into two parts; injury running dorsal to ventral and now two portions of fin, anterior and posterior; wound extends beyond dorsal fin into body	N/A		N/A	
At-sea; vessel strike	Row 36, vessel- strike tab	Tursiops	ATL/JES Stock	8-Dec- 2022	Alive	CBD	S9	researchers documented a juvenile dolphin with recent but healing propeller wounds on the peduncle; one of the wounds appears to have been deep, penetrating the body cavity; the wound is healing, and the animal was swimming and behaving normally and in a group with other dolphins	N/A		N/A	
STR; unid debris (strap, line)	SER21- 00915 [TtNEFL 2114; Row 227]	Tursiops	ATL/JES Stock	8-Jun- 2021	Alive	Not serious	S7b	researchers observed an entangled calf on 8-Jun-21; the entanglement appears to be some type of strap wrapped around the anterior body, visible on both sides; the calf was swimming normally and keeping up with the group, occasionally at fast speeds; no trailing gear was observed; researchers resighted the calf on 15-Jul-21 and reported it appears the strap/line came off on its own; they were able to see both left and right sides of the body and were confident there was no longer any entanglement	N/A		N/A	
STR; unid gear	SER22- 00264 [TtNEFL 2210; at- sea row 242]	Tursiops	ATL/JES Stock	3-May- 2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	dolphin had line wrapped around and cutting through the dorsal fin with partial amputation; line is trailing/hanging off the dorsal fin with a small rat's nest of gear/debris; about 1 foot of line/debris trailing	N/A		N/A	

STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER22-00265 [TtNEFL 2209]	Tursiops	ATL/JES Stock	1-May-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	citizen reported a dolphin was entangled in crab pot line and buoy; line was wrapped around the flukes	CBD	S7b	No	citizen disentangled the dolphin before responder arrived; a single cut was made to the line, near the fluke insertion; unknown if all gear was removed; no photos or videos; little info available
<b>JES Stock summary (n=6 cases): # Serious injuries=3; # Not serious=1; # CBD=2, before analysis of CBD cases. One of the CBD cases was prorated as 0.5 SIs and the other case involving a vessel strike remains CBD due to insufficient sample size. Revised total: # Serious injuries=3.5; # Not serious=1; CBD=1.</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-sea (line)	Row 220	Tursiops	ATL/NGSSCES Stock	27-Nov-2020	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	animal has unidentified line encircling, cutting through the leading edge, and trailing behind the dorsal fin; it appears the line trailing behind the animal has debris entangled within it or is biofouled	N/A		N/A	
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER18-00071 [GA201 8009]	Tursiops	ATL/NGSSCES Stock	23-Feb-2018	Alive	Serious	S7a	marine patrol officer encountered a dolphin entangled in and anchored by crab trap/pot buoy line; line was wrapped around the peduncle ~3 times; animal was thrashing in the water	CBD	S7b	No	officer disentangled the dolphin; initially the officer attempted a disentanglement on his own for a couple minutes, then returned to the dock and brought 2 more people out to assist; the second attempt took ~3 minutes to disentangle the dolphin; the dolphin was believed to be free of all gear and unharmed; the dolphin swam away and joined other dolphins upon release
STR; hook and line gear	SER20-00462 [SC2024 ]	Tursiops	ATL/NGSSCES Stock	27-May-2020	Alive	Serious	S6	dolphin was sighted entangled in monofilament fishing line on multiple occasions on multiple days from different people over a two week period	N/A		N/A	
STR; commercial trap/pot gear	SER22-00496 [SC2225 ]	Tursiops	ATL/NGSSCES Stock	21-Jul-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S7a	animal was reported to be entangled in trap/pot gear (both buoy and pot were present); photos show the animal and gear but no details of how the animal was entangled; animal was described by the public as small in size, so possibly a calf or juvenile	Serious	S7b	No	animal was disentangled by a member of the public prior to speaking with the stranding network; complainant reported the line was wrapped through the mouth and around one of the pectoral flippers; little info available; unknown duration of entanglement
<b>NGSSCES Stock summary (n=4 cases): # Serious injuries=3; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1, before analysis of CBD case. The 1 CBD was prorated as 0.5 SIs. Revised total: # Serious injuries=3.5, # Not serious=0.</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
MMAF; mid-Atlantic haul beach seine gear		Tursiops	ATL/NM Coastal Stock or SM Coastal Stock	3-Jun-2020	Alive	Not serious	S7b	animal #1 struck the modified beach seine net (monofilament wing portion) and cleared itself unassisted from the fishermen; the dolphin swam outside the net area on its own	N/A		N/A	

MMAF; mid-Atlantic haul beach seine gear		Tursiops	ATL/NM Coastal Stock or SM Coastal Stock	3-Jun-2020	Alive	CBD	S7b	animal #2 struck the net, also at the monofilament wing portion, and was disentangled by the fishermen and released alive; animal #2 was entangled around its rostrum in the mesh; after removing the entanglement, fishermen cut the net open to allow the dolphin to swim through the cut net opening; after the dolphin pushed through the opening in the net, it took off and the fishermen did not see the animal again; about 2 min had lapsed from when they saw the animal hit the net to when they disentangled it	N/A		N/A	
MMAF; NC beach seine		Tursiops	ATL/NM Coastal Stock or SM Coastal Stock	5-Jun-2021	Alive	Not serious	S7b	reported by fishers who set a beach seine at 9am and began haul back at 2:30pm; when the crew began the haul back, ~6 bottlenose dolphins were sighted offshore of the beach seine; when the haul back began, which entailed hauling the offshore end of the monofilament wing to the beach, the gap between the shoreline and the beginning of the inshore wing was about 20 – 30ft; ~200 yards of the 250-yard monofilament offshore wing was hauled to the beach when a dolphin was first sighted within the arch of the net; the haul was stopped when the dolphin was spotted and then restarted very slowly in hopes the dolphin would use the gap between the shoreline and beginning of the inshore portion of the beach seine to escape; only 1 dolphin was spotted; water depth in the shoreline gap was estimated to be about 3 to 5 ft deep; dolphin struck the monofilament offshore wing very soon after crew spotted it while the monofilament wing was being hauled very slowly to the beach; dolphin struck the net headfirst and broke a few meshes of the net which allowed it to push its head	N/A		N/A	

								(rostrum) through the mono webbing of the net but its pectoral fins, dorsal fin or body were not entangled in the webbing; a crewmember was helping the dolphin within 1 minute after it struck the net since it occurred so close to the shoreline; it then took an additional ~1 minute for the crewmember to break the meshes and release the dolphin; total time from when the dolphin struck the net to being released is estimated at 2 minutes; dolphin swam out of the net as soon as net meshes were broken off its head, without hesitation heading offshore; dolphin struck net close to top line so stayed upright and never was underwater after it struck net; when initially striking the net, the dolphin thrashed for a moment then settled down enough to let crew member break webbing meshes off its head; dolphin was not rolling over on its side like it was disoriented or hurt; fisher watched the dolphin for a minute or two as it swam offshore and then brought his attention back to the haul				
NM Coastal Stock or SM Coastal Stock summary (n=3 cases): # Serious injuries=0; # Not serious=2; # CBD=1										SI Averted Tally: 0		
OBS; mid-Atlantic gillnet fishery (targeting Spanish mackerel)		Tursiops	ATL/NNCES Stock	25-May-2018	Alive	CBD	S7b	captain of commercial fishing vessel noticed splashing and an animal entangled in the gillnet; upon close approach, the crew realized it was a dolphin entangled in the net; animal was entangled in the float line and thrashing; the captain began cutting line with a gaff and he and a mate began pulling the netting over the dolphin to disentangle it; additional untangling of net around the flukes was also needed; once the animal was disentangled it swam away very quickly; as the animal was being disentangled the NMFS	N/A		N/A	

								observer got close looks at its body and it appeared to be free from net marks and wounds from the mesh; time from seeing the initial splash and having the dolphin next to the boat was 10 minutes; animal struggled for 2 minutes during disentanglement; animal was entangled for an estimated 12-15 minutes				
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER18-00619 [NCUR20181002]	Tursiops	ATL/NNCES Stock	2-Oct-2018	Alive	Serious	S7a	dolphin was reported as surfacing in the same area for 4 hours and with a buoy attached; it was later determined the animal was entangled in 3 crab traps/pots and 3 buoys twisted around each other	Serious	S6	No	stranding response teams searched for and found the entangled dolphin; a person in 1 of the 2 boats was able to get ahold of line with a boat hook and pull the dolphin to the side of the boat; 1 member cut the line because he thought the remaining line was merely twisted and would shed easily on its own, however photos documented the line to be knotted; 1 line remained wrapped around the peduncle and knotted with 2 lines trailing a foot behind; the dolphin thrashed during the disentanglement attempt and quickly swam off following cutting the line; however gear remained on the dolphin; it was entangled in 3 crab traps/pots and 3 buoys for at least 6 hours
STR; stop net gear	SER19-01166; [NCUR20191102]	Tursiops	ATL/NNCES Stock	2-Nov-2019	Alive	Serious	S7b	a fisherman saw splashing and a dolphin and realized the dolphin had hit the stop net; he called the other crew members, who had to take the strike net off the boat before launching it to get to the dolphin (or boat would sink in rough surf); it took ~14 minutes to get to the dolphin; when the crew arrived the dolphin was pretty active for ~35-40 seconds; they held the net up for a minute, and it finally calmed down; to disentangle the animal, they grabbed the top line and worked down to the webbing (had one person on each side hauling up the webbing) until they got to the dolphin; dolphin was right side up and breathing the entire time they were with it; the webbing was hung up on the dolphin's lower jaw (teeth) – it took ~5 seconds to cut the	N/A		N/A	

								webbing; during the cutting process, the dolphin splashed once pretty hard, then relaxed; after the dolphin was free from the gear, it remained in place for about 15 seconds before made a hard turn toward the NE away from the lead portion of the net; the dolphin got about 30 yards away from the lead, took a breath, then swam off; crew estimated it was ~18-19 minutes from the time the dolphin hit the net to its release; no wounds were visible				
NNCES Stock summary (n=3 cases): # Serious injuries=2; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-sea; unid line	Row 248 [calf of Cutty, NCMM# 0075]	Tursiops	ATL/NNCES Stock or SNCES Stock	23-Jun-2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8b	researchers documented a calf (~2 years old) with a wrap of line around its body just behind the blowhole; wrap does not appear to be constricting but could become so over time if it gets pushed further along the body posteriorly or as the animal grows	N/A		N/A	
NNCES Stock or SNCES Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
STR; hook and line gear	NER20-00682 [VAQS2 0201073]	Tursiops	ATL/ NNCES Stock or SM Coastal Stock	22-Jul-2020	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	an ecotour operator documented a live dolphin with an entanglement of green monofilament line; the left/cranial views showed a least three wraps going through the mouth; two of those wraps crossed over the blowhole; the third crossed over the left eye to the right lateral side of the animal which appears to have a rat's nest of line and possibly a dark object attached; the right pectoral flipper but not observed, but based on the nature of the entanglement it is possible that the entanglement may involve that fin; the line appeared to be putting tension on the left gape and indentations are visible on the dorsal aspects of the gape	N/A		N/A	



STR; hook and line gear	NER21-00464 [NA210 10TU]	Tursiops	ATL/ NNCES Stock or SM Coastal Stock	14-Aug-2021	Alive	Serious	S6	juvenile dolphin documented with a monofilament entanglement; line is entangled from somewhere forward of the dorsal fin, and line appears to be cutting into the dorsal fin; a long and large rat's nest of line (or possibly netting) is trailing from the dorsal fin off the right side of the animal extending to at least the peduncle; animal reported to be swimming slowly and with an adult dolphin that stayed about 15-20 meters away	N/A		N/A	
NNCES Stock or SM Coastal Stock summary (n=2 cases): # Serious injuries=2; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-sea	Row 226	Tursiops	ATL/ NNCES Stock, NM Coastal Stock, or SM Coastal Stock	8-Apr-2021	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	researchers documented a juvenile animal estimated at 1-2 years old, entangled with a single line wrapped around it and constricting, with possible trailing line; wrapped line is located posterior to the blowhole and anterior to the pectoral fins; due to it being constricting wrap around a young animal that would not allow growth and will cut into the pectoral fins, an intervention was deemed necessary, however, the animal was not sighted again	N/A		N/A	
STR; crab trap/pot gear	NER18-00881 [VAQS2 0181089 ]	Tursiops	ATL/ NNCES Stock, NM Coastal Stock, or SM Coastal Stock	20-Sep-2018	Alive	Serious	S6	citizen reported a dolphin entangled in crab trap/pot gear; the dolphin was entangled in line and a buoy; the line was wrapped around its mandible 4 times and also around its pectoral flippers	CBD	S7b	No	separate citizens from the one who made the report disentangled the dolphin from their kayak; the animal was thrashing during the disentanglement effort; all gear was removed and the animal swam away vigorously
STR; unid gear (line or net)	NER21-00752	Tursiops	ATL/ NNCES Stock, NM Coastal Stock, or SM Coastal Stock	12-Sep-2021	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a, S13a	local tour operator documented a dolphin with a dorsal fin entanglement; a rat's nest of line or section of netting is severing and disfiguring the upper portion of the dorsal fin	N/A		N/A	
NNCES Stock, NM Coastal Stock, or SM Coastal Stock summary (n=3 cases): # Serious injuries=2; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1											SI Averted Tally: 0	
At-Sea	Row 180	Tursiops	ATL/Northern Florida Coastal Stock	20-May-2019	Alive	CBD		a citizen documented an animal with either thick line draped over front of dorsal or thin line	N/A		N/A	

								sawing through; quality of image is too poor to determine				
<b>Northern Florida Coastal Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=0; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1. The 1 CBD was prorated as 1 SI. Revised total: # Serious injures=1; # Not serious=0.</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER18-00133 [SC1816]	Tursiops	ATL/NSCES Stock	20-Mar-2018	Alive	Serious	S6	dolphin was reported as entangled in and dragging line and trap/pot buoy	CBD	S7b	N/A	USFWS responded to this report and disentangled the animal; abrasions from the line were noted but animal was considered unharmed; no other details on the condition of the animal or duration of entanglement
<b>NSCES Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=0; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1, before analysis of CBD case. The 1 CBD was prorated as 0.5 SIs. Revised total: # Serious injures=0.5; # Not serious=0.</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
ITR; STR; research trawl gear	SER19-01153 [SC1955]	Tursiops	ATL/South Carolina/Georgia Coastal Stock	13-Oct-2019	Alive	Not serious	7b	researchers began hauling back at end of normal tow; once the tail bag reached the surface, they realized something didn't look right and then quickly realized there was a dolphin in tail bag; followed protocol of retrieving gear as quickly as they could using tripper device that allows them to release the tail bag while it is still in the water; researchers got the tail bag up next to the boat and tripped the bag open; they could tell the dolphin was alive and surfacing to breath while in the net; they tripped the bag and dolphin shot right out and swam off; crews' impression was the entanglement occurred during haulback when animals were interacting with their gear; animal believed to be entangled ~5 minutes	N/A		N/A	
STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER18-00222 [SC1822]	Tursiops	ATL/South Carolina/Georgia Coastal Stock	2-Apr-2018	Alive	Serious	S7a	initial complainant reported a dolphin entangled in crab trap/pot buoy gear; the complainant saw the dolphin's head only near the buoy; dolphin was stationary with 2 other dolphins circling it; the buoy was bobbing up and down as the dolphin moved up and down; it appeared the animal was anchored	Serious	S7b	N/A	USCG personnel responded and saw 2 dolphins circling the buoy but no other dolphin; when USCG personnel started pulling the buoy line up, they said it was difficult and 'heavy', and as they were pulling it suddenly became 'light' and easy to pull up; no dolphin was seen by USCG other than the 2 animals circling; animal may have died and sank
<b>South Carolina/Georgia Coastal Stock summary (n=2 cases): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=1; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	

At-sea; hook and line gear	Row 235 [GA127 94]	Tursiops	ATL/SGES Stock	15-Jan- 2022	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	animal documented with monofilament line wrapped around the leading edge of the dorsal fin and taut; it could not be determined what other body parts were involved in entanglement; animal could not be relocated for disentanglement attempt with cutting tools	N/A		N/A	
<b>Southern Georgia Estuarine System Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0.</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-sea; gillnet gear	Row 151	Tursiops	ATL/SNCES Stock	10-Jan- 2018	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	local researchers documented an animal with gillnet gear wrapped tightly around its dorsal fin and trailing off the animal	N/A		N/A	
<b>SNCES Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=0; # CBD=0</b>											<b>SI Averted Tally: 0</b>	
At-sea; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	Row 163	Tursiops	ATL/undefined stock area (northern Florida estuarine waters)	18-Apr- 2018	Alive	Not serious	S7b	a fisherman reported an animal entangled in commercial blue crab trap/pot gear; the animal was able to shed the gear on its own and did not require disentanglement	N/A		N/A	
STR; rope/line	SER18- 00847 [Hubbs- 1851-Tt]	Tursiops	ATL/undefined stock area (northern Florida estuarine waters)	8-Aug- 2018	Alive	Not serious	S7b	researchers documented a 3- month old calf of known mother with rope bridled through its mouth and wrapped around the body with rope trailing along the left side; during observations the calf appeared to be attempting to dislodge the rope by arching, leaping and rolling at the surface across the mother's back; rope impressions were apparent, but no open wounds; an intervention effort was planned for 10-Aug-2018; the calf was quickly located swimming with its mother, free from the entanglement with gear impressions apparent around the head; researchers conducted focal follows to confirm that the calf was no longer entangled; calf was observed swimming normally	N/A		N/A	

STR; commercial blue crab trap/pot gear	SER18- 00675 [Hubbs- 1847-Tt]	Tursiops	ATL/undefined stock area (northern Florida estuarine waters)	30-Nov- 2018	Alive	Serious	S6	dolphin was entangled around its body or pectoral flipper in crab trap/pot gear including a buoy and the crab pot; video taken shows the animal to be in good condition and moving well despite dragging the gear	CBD	S7b	No	dolphin was disentangled by a citizen; the citizen approached in his boat and cut the line; the animal was caught around the body or pectoral flipper and the citizen was confident the animal was free of all gear
STR; commercial crab trap/pot gear	SER21- 00052 [Hubbs- 2106-Tt]	Tursiops	ATL/undefined stock area (northern Florida estuarine waters)	4-Feb- 2021	Alive	Serious	S6, S8a	at ~10:40am stranding network received notification of a dolphin that was entangled in a crab pot and in distress; complainant indicated she was observing a dolphin (from land) that was entangled around the tail stock in a crab pot float line and a lime green commercial crab pot float was alongside the animal; animal was slowly traveling N but was struggling to swim; complainant forwarded a video and agreed to monitor the dolphin and provide updates until help could arrive; a later interviewee noted seeing the dolphin traveling N trailing a buoy for about 200-300 yards at which time he described the dolphin became ensnared in another crab pot line (yellow/orange buoy); citizens feared that the dolphin would die imminently as it began struggling to surface (head up in the water) and they thought it was anchored in place	Serious	S7b	No	while network responders and officers travelled to the scene to respond, the complainant indicated that a sailboat was deploying an inflatable dinghy to try to help the dolphin; responders arrived at ~11:32am, but an unauthorized disentanglement had just occurred; the person who removed the gear (SB) was interviewed; SB observed the dolphin traveling N trailing a buoy for about 200-300 yards at which time he described the dolphin became ensnared in another crab pot line (yellow/orange buoy); SB was aware that the entanglement had been reported and that a team was en route, but feared that the dolphin would die imminently as it began struggling to surface (head up in the water) and was anchored in place; SB walked out into the water in an attempt to assist the struggling dolphin, but the animal was in the center of the ICW; SB waved down the boater on the dinghy and boarded the vessel; together the two approached the dolphin and took the buoy on board the dinghy; SB indicated that he took hold of the rope and attempted to cut the two lines at once that were trailing from the base of the flukes and tied in a slipknot or noose configuration; he stated that once one line was severed (removing the buoy) the dolphin fluked strongly and he lost hold of the line; the dolphin dove down, and SB could see that rope was trailing behind the dolphin; he did not know if the pot itself was still attached; the dolphin then "took off" quickly to the north, seemingly unencumbered; when asked about any identifying markings, SB described white linear markings or abrasions along the dolphin's side, and red wounds

											<p>along the peduncle; he was unable to determine if the wounds were on the dorsal or ventral surface, as the disentanglement occurred while the dolphin was vertical in the water with only the flukes above the surface; multiple response vessels began searching the area N of the site for the dolphin; at 1228 a HSWRI vessel observed three dolphins 2.75 mi N of the location of the disentanglement; animals included a known male alliance pair and a smaller dolphin with a clean dorsal fin; the flukes of all three dolphins were observed to be clear of gear, although it was noted that the clean animal had several abrasions along its body; HSWRI continued searching for an entangled animal 6 mi N before returning S; at 1256 they resighted the same three dolphins just N of the initial sighting engaging in mill and probable feed behavior; an emphasis was placed on evaluating the animal with a clean dorsal fin to identify any signs of a recent entanglement; images revealed abrasion and rope impression marks encircling the head, from the dorsal fin cranially on the left side, and from the leading edge of the dorsal fin caudally on the right and a bloody wound at the insertion of the flukes; the animal presents a diffuse algal sheen; the group was witnessed engaging in probable feed behavior; respirations and behavior appeared normal; given the low density of dolphins in the area, and that the impressions, abrasions and wounds that corresponded with SB's description of the animal, responders were confident that this was the previously entangled dolphin; video footage corroborated SB's description of the sequence of events, and the dorsal fin seen in the video is consistent with the dolphin later identified with abrasions/wounds by HSWRI</p>
<p>Undefined stock area (northern Florida estuarine waters) summary (n=4 cases): # Serious injuries=1; # Not serious=2; # CBD=1</p>											<p>SI Averted Tally: 0</p>



**Table 1c. Caribbean Sea**

Source of Data/ Fishery 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 (for Small Cetaceans)	Injury Determination Criteria/Comments	Post-Mitigation SI Determination (N/A is noted for cases without mitigation)	NMFS 2012 SI Policy Criteria (for Small Cetaceans)	SI Averted	Post-Mitigation Injury Determination Criteria/Comments
At-Sea	Row 187	Tursiops	CAR/Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Stock	22-Jun-19	Alive	CBD		tourist reported dolphin entangled in beach seine near cement dock; biologist checked area but found nothing	N/A		N/A	
Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Stock summary (n=1 case): # Serious injuries=0; # Not serious=0; # CBD=1											SI Averted Tally: 0	

**Table 2.** Procedure for assigning bottlenose dolphin cases where it could not be determined (CBD) whether or not an animal was seriously injured to an injury category, Seriously Injured or Not Seriously Injured.

Condition	Hypothesis Tested	Outcome
Insufficient sample size	No Test Performed	Leave CBD cases unassigned
Sufficient sample size, Observed proportion of SI is $< 0.5$	Null Hypothesis: Proportion SI $\geq 0.5$  Alternative Hypothesis: Proportion SI $< 0.5$	Reject Null Hypothesis: Assign all CBD cases to Not Seriously Injured  Fail to Reject Null Hypothesis: Prorate CBD cases by observed proportion of SI from past data. Number of Serious Injuries in the category = Number of CBD observed x proportion of SI.
Sufficient sample size, Observed proportion of SI is $> 0.5$	Null Hypothesis: Proportion SI $\leq 0.5$  Alternative Hypothesis: Proportion SI $> 0.5$	Reject Null Hypothesis: Assign all CBD cases to Seriously Injured  Fail to Reject Null Hypothesis: Prorate CBD cases by observed proportion of SI from past data. Number of Serious Injuries in the category = Number of CBD observed x proportion of SI.



**Table 3.** Assignment of observed pre- and post-mitigation cases of bottlenose dolphins where the injury type cannot be determined (CBD) to injury categories (SI = serious injury) based upon one-sided z-tests for proportions. All cases occurred during 2007–2020.

<b>Pre-Mitigation Determinations</b>								
<b>Interaction Gear Category</b>	<b># CBD cases</b>	<b>Observed Past Cases with SI assignments</b>	<b>Observed proportion SI</b>	<b>Sufficient Sample Size for Test: (n &gt; 5)</b>	<b>p-value (one-sided test)</b>	<b>Reject Null Hypothesis</b>	<b>CBD Assignment Approach</b>	<b>CBDs Apportioned to SI</b>
Trap/pot (not calves)	10	19	0.74	Yes	0.0195	Yes	Assign Cases to SI	10
Hook and line (not calves)	12	48	0.77	Yes	0.0001	Yes	Assign Cases to SI	12
Hook and line (calves)	2	21	0.81	Yes	0.0023	Yes	Assign Cases to SI	2
Combined net (not calves)	11	31	0.45	Yes	0.2950	No	Prorate Cases	5
Unid gear/line/rope (not calves)	12	27	0.89	Yes	0.0000	Yes	Assign Cases to SI	12
Debris/booms	2	9	1.00	Yes	0.0013	Yes	Assign Cases to SI	2
Trawl	2	5	0.20	Yes	0.0899	No	Prorate Cases	0.4
<b>Post-Mitigation Determinations</b>								
<b>Interaction Gear Category</b>	<b># CBD cases</b>	<b>Observed Past Cases with SI assignments</b>	<b>Observed proportion SI</b>	<b>Sufficient Sample Size for Test: (n &gt; 5)</b>	<b>p-value (one-sided test)</b>	<b>Reject Null Hypothesis</b>	<b>CBD Assignment Approach</b>	<b>CBDs Apportioned to SI</b>
Trap/pot (not calves)	23	37	0.46	Yes	0.3109	No	Prorate Cases	11
Trap/pot (calves)	5	10	0.80	Yes	0.0289	Yes	Assign Cases to SI	5
Hook and line (not calves)	4	16	0.31	Yes	0.0668	No	Prorate Cases	1.2
Hook and line (calves)	1	23	0.17	Yes	0.0009	Yes	Assign Cases to not SI	0
Combined net (not calves)	1	0	0.00	No	NA	NA	Insufficient Data	0

**Appendix I.** Table 2 taken from NMFS Procedure 02-238-01 (NMFS 2023).

**TABLE 2: Summary of Small Cetacean<sup>1</sup> Injury Categories and Criteria**

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. <b>More detailed information or extended observation on an individual case/animal may justify a determination different from this table. Any injury leading to apparent significant health decline (e.g., skin discoloration, fat and muscle loss) is a serious injury.</b>			
Category	Injury/Information	Injury Determination	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 and muscle loss)	SI <sup>2</sup>	
S2	Ingested gear <sup>3</sup> or hook(s)	SI	
S3	Visible blood loss	Case specific <sup>4</sup>	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 (i.e., external tissue outside of teeth), no trailing gear	Case specific	Prolonged restraint or struggle that could lead to capture myopathy, impairing ability to feed, presence of other injuries. Confirming a lip hooking requires that at least part of the hook is visible outside the mouth and consideration of hook size and type, animal size, depth of hooking, hook location along the mouthline
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, the depth of the hook in the animal, hook pulls out cleanly vs. causes further injury during dehooking, method used to remove hook, length of time hooked

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

<sup>2</sup> SI = serious injury.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

S5d	Hook(s) in appendage or body (excluding criterion S5a), without trailing gear or with trailing gear that does not have the potential <sup>5</sup> 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
S6	Gear attached to free-swimming animal with potential <sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> or entrapped <sup>8</sup> 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 <sup>9</sup> 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	

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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, including: 1) if the remaining line is longer than the animal, regardless of where the line is attached and 2) if the remaining line is shorter than the animal, but attached in a location where the line could be ingested, wrap around a body part, or become snagged on something in the environment.

<sup>7</sup> For the purposes of this table, “immobilized” includes anchor lines, and how gear or other equipment is attached to the animal.

<sup>8</sup> For the purposes of this table, “entrapment” could also include human-made structures (e.g., levees, lock systems, inlets, or jetties).

<sup>9</sup> 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.

S12	Body cavity penetration <sup>10</sup> 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	
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 released alone post-interaction and separated from its social unit (excluding criteria S15a and S15b)	Case specific	Species social structure and likelihood of reuniting with conspecifics (e.g., stock residency, geographic range/likely home range, acoustic communication capabilities)
S15a	Dependent animal (i.e., calf) released alone post-interaction and separated from its mother	SI	
S15b	Dependent animal (i.e., calf) 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

<sup>10</sup> 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).

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

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

- |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| - Entanglement type (e.g., hooked, anchored, entrapment)                                                                              | - Habitat where animal is located (e.g., an animal with trailing gear in areas of dense gear or an area with vegetation is more likely to risk snagging the gear and becoming anchored) |
| - 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 duration                                                                                                                                                                 |
| - Entanglement constriction (e.g., tight, loose, multiple wraps)                                                                      | - Existence, type, and amount of any trailing gear                                                                                                                                      |
| - Type of gear (e.g., wire, monofilament)                                                                                             | - Method of handling the animal during disentanglement                                                                                                                                  |