STRANDINGS

Newsletter of the Southeast United States Marine Mammal Health And Stranding Network
Winter 2006/Spring 2007

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Bottlenose dolphin playing with a depredated (stolen) grouper that still has a fishing hook and lure attached. *South Skyway Fishing Pier, Manatee Co., FL, NMFS, 2006*

Harmful Habits

Kristin Thoms, Southeast Regional Office 2006

Peering over the cement railing of the fishing pier, a young boy stands on his tip-toes watching with anticipation while his father casts a fishing line far across the water. When the hook and lure plop beneath the surface, the father steadily reels in the line towing a sparkling silver-spoon lure, which shimmies and sparkles to entice nearby Spanish mackerel. Also watching – a wild bottlenose dolphin camouflaged by the shadows of the pier and suspended almost motionless in the waters below their feet. Suddenly, a Spanish mackerel hits the line! The boy hollers in excitement as his father frantically winds the reel to bring in his catch, but before he has the chance, a rush of water swooshes near the surface as the dolphin launches out from under the pier and swiftly swipes the mackerel off the lure.

- Observation by the author from the South Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier, Manatee County, FL, April 21, 2006

Although in this case a dolphin successfully snatches an easy meal from an angler without becoming hooked or ensnared in monofilament, this is not the case for an escalating number of bottlenose dolphins participating in similar depredatory or stealing behavior throughout Florida.

It has been an extremely busy year for the Southeast U.S. Stranding Network who continue responding to reports of bottlenose dolphins entangled, stranded, or injured by recreational fishing gear.

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Coordinator's Corner **By: Blair Mase-Guthrie, Southeast Regional Stranding Coordinator**

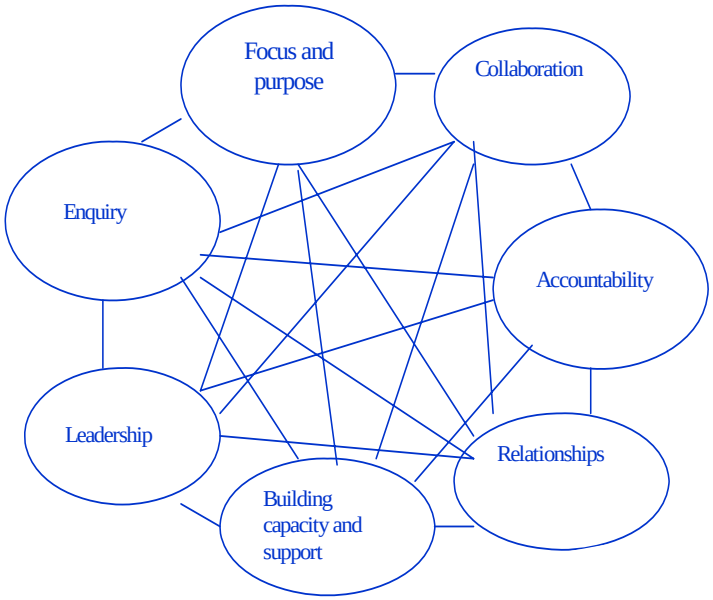
WHAT MAKES A NETWORK WORK?

The Webster dictionary defines the word network as: "anything resembling a net in concept or form, as being dispersed in intersecting lines of communication." In reading this definition I started to wonder, what makes a network successful? As I investigated this further, I found a model of a network on the internet that seemed appropriate for the Stranding Network. The model outlines seven significant features that make a network function. The features include: 1) focus and purpose; 2) collaboration; 3) accountability; 4) leadership; 5) relationships; 6) enquiry and 7) building capacity and support (see model below). I encourage each of us to consider how these features apply to our own organizations as well as how they relate to others within the Southeast U.S. Stranding Network.

Focus and Purpose: Establishing a key purpose of your organization moves a network towards clear and purposeful actions.

Enquiry: Enquiry is the process for exploring and considering information from research, experts, and each other to support decision-making and problem-solving.

Accountability: Accountability implies a sense of responsibility from each individual and organization within the network. There is also the act of self-monitoring as well as providing transparent and informative statements to others for the goal of improvement.



Bill Richards: National Teaching Association 2006

Building Capacity: Change and growth within the network require planned strategies and available resources for building capacity and support. An effective network requires the ability to continually expand capacity to change its future.

Collaboration: Collaboration within the network is intended to engage the members as well as open up beliefs and practices in order to provide the opportunity to participate in the development of their own organization.

Leadership: Leaders should provide vision, focus, training opportunities and support. The dissemination of information as well as creating buffers from the outside critics and naysayer is crucial.

Relationships: Networks are a function of the ongoing and dynamic interaction between members of the group. Strong group cohesion is based on trust and mutual accountability.

I have observed (and I hope you have too) an obvious shift within the network. There has been a lot of change not only in the amount of paperwork that is required (a joke) but an overall change in the exchange of ideas, feedback, training and growth. This not only has to do with leadership but has to do with its role within the network. We all do this job because we believe in it, we care about what we do and the impact we have on science, biology, animal care, and conservation. Thinking about our role within the network and making the "net" work will help us continue to grow our network.

Harmful Habits Continued

Preliminary data for 2006 shows a substantial increase in bottlenose dolphin interactions with recreational fishing gear in Florida. In 2005, statewide, there were only two reports of bottlenose dolphins stranded dead with recreational gear during the months of January through July, with a total of four reports the entire year. This year between January and July, eleven bottlenose dolphins have stranded dead with fishing gear attached. These 11 reports include seven cases of ingesting hooks/lures; three entanglements in monofilament; and one dolphin with a hook and monofilament line in its mouth. Five of these interactions occurred near Sarasota, Florida and six occurred in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), between Ponce Inlet and Jupiter Inlet on Florida's east coast.

According to Dr. Randall Wells, Manager of the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program at Mote Marine Laboratory, this year's mortalities from recreational gear are unprecedented in his 36-plus years of research in Sarasota Bay, Tampa Bay, and Charlotte Harbor, Florida. Thus far, Mote Marine Laboratory has responded to five strandings associated with recreational gear. Four of the stranded dolphins died as a result of the recreational gear — three adults from ingestion of lures, hooks and line, and one calf from entanglement that nearly severed its tail. According to Wells, the four dead adults — two males and two

MML0609 "Jose" stranded along Siesta Key, on April 12, 2006
Mote Marine Laboratory
Stranding Investigations Program, 2006

Dolphin moving in to steal a fishermen's catch.
Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, 2006

females — were all well-known, long-term residents of Sarasota Bay. The two males had been observed since their births 17 and 22 years ago, with no known history of interacting with fishing gear.

Wells reported that the 17-year-old male, (FB 100), ingested a Bomber lure and 2 treble hooks. The lure was lodged in his throat near the goosebeak, a large hook and leader were embedded just above the lure, and monofilament line was entwined in his stomach. Surprisingly, FB 100 also had several relatively fresh pinfish in his stomach – indicating that he somehow managed to slip down a meal despite the sharp obstructions piercing his throat. He weighed an "astounding"108 pounds (48 kg) less on July 13 than he did on June 8, which was about one month after he was examined during Mote's health assessment project. At the time of the health assessment, he was free of fishing gear and appeared relatively healthy.

In the Indian River Lagoon this year, between January 1 and July 15, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute (HSWRI) recovered six bottlenose dolphins with recreational fishing gear present. In four of these cases, the gear significantly contributed to the dolphins mortalities.

HSWRI staff recently compiled recreational fishing interactions from 1997-2005 for dolphins inhabiting the IRL. Data revealed that 14% of the stranded animals examined during that time period had fishing

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Harmful Habits Continued

gear attached —an average of 3.6 animals per year (Stolen and Durden, 2006).

Although the IRL and Southwest Florida (Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, and Tampa Bay) appear to be the only areas with a marked increase in strandings of bottlenose dolphins associated with recreational gear, other areas around the state are experiencing similar increased depredation activity by bottlenose dolphins.

MML0619 Stranded off the Sarasota coast on July 13, 2006
Hook in esophagus.
Mote Marine Laboratory

NOAA Fisheries Service regularly receives anecdotal reports of dolphins depredating or stealing from commercial fishing gear, fishing gear used from recreational vessels and charter boats, and from recreational gear used off fishing piers. This risky behavior by dolphins increases their risk of entanglement in monofilament line or ingestion of hooks/lures and monofilament. It also spawns a growing number of frustrated fishermen who are repeatedly losing their catch and/or gear.

Recently in Panama City, Florida, a frustrated charter boat captain began shooting at wild dolphins swimming near his boat. He pleaded guilty to this criminal violation, and now faces a maximum of one-year in prison and/or $100,000 fine for knowingly and unlawfully shooting at one or more dolphins in U.S. waters.

The increase of anecdotal reports and the direct observations of dolphins stalking recreational and charter fishing boats and patrolling alongside fishing piers in search of an easy meal, is almost as distressing as the strandings themselves. Whether it is bait or catch dangling from a fishing line, leftover bait tossed into the water, or an under-sized throwback, a number of bottlenose dolphins in Florida have learned that humans on boats and piers have food, and that means a free lunch.

NOAA Fisheries Service realized the extent of dolphin depredation from recreational fishing gear during a pilot study conducted this past winter and spring in partnership with Mote Marine Laboratory. The pier study took place at the South Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier in Manatee County, Florida, and was prompted following anecdotal reports of dolphins depredating and angry fishermen throwing sinkers at the dolphins in an attempt to deter them. During the 10-day field study, the team recorded 129 reported and observed interactions between dolphins and recreational gear. Approximately 20 dolphins were seen during the study, of those, 15 have been identified through photo identification.
Anecdotal reports of dolphins being hooked and snapping fish off the line with the hook/lure still attached were recorded nearly every day.

During the pier characterization study, the team also witnessed, first-hand, people intentionally and unintentionally feeding dolphins and dolphins routinely stealing bait and catch from anglers' lines. Although it remains uncertain what triggers depredatory behavior, the reports and observations collected at the South Sunshine Skyway Pier helped NOAA Fisheries Service begin to characterize the problem – a problem that may be the result of a combination of factors, such as:

- Continued illegal feeding of wild dolphins
- Natural, environmental factors, such as localized depleted fish stocks
- Increased recreational fishing activity

There is no doubt that illegally feeding wild dolphins contributes to the depredation issue — a problem that persists in the Southeast U.S. Rewarding dolphins with handouts inevitably teaches them to approach people and boats for an easy meal, which makes them less wary of humans and increases their

(Continued on Page 5)

Harmful Habits Continued

risk of accidental entanglement in fishing gear. Through recent observations, it appears these unnatural behaviors are now being passed on to calves and other dolphins, resulting in new generations of wild dolphins learning to beg for food, shadow boaters, and steal from anglers' gear.

After the severe 2005 red tide event, Mote's Sarasota Dolphin Research Program documented that pinfish stocks were "significantly depleted" in Sarasota Bay. According to Wells, pinfish are the top prey item of bottlenose dolphins in Sarasota Bay, as well as a favorite bait used by anglers. Recent health assessments of Sarasota Bay dolphins also showed many to be significantly below expected weights – likely a result of depleted fish stocks from the red tide. However, it is interesting that increasing depredation has also been observed in areas not hit by the 2005 red tide event, such as the Indian River Lagoon.

Protect Dolphins Billboard in Panama City, FL. NMFS,

As people continue to flock to Florida's coastal areas each year, fishing effort will likely continue to increase. To help spread the word about harmful interactions with wild dolphins, NOAA Fisheries has complimented the national Protect Dolphins Campaign by implementing a comprehensive outreach and education strategy specific to areas of the southeast region and tailored to localized concerns. The strategy highlights innovative methods for distributing important conservation messages to raise public awareness about responsible viewing of wild dolphins and that feeding wild dolphins is illegal. Ongoing and future education efforts include: posting billboards; presenting at educational workshops; issuing press releases; producing and distributing fact sheets, brochures, and other outreach materials; airing public service announcements for radio and television broadcasts; writing articles for magazines, providing information at conventions, shows, and festivals; posting signs, and much, much more.

Recently, with the help of researchers and fishery managers, NOAA Fisheries developed a suite of best fishing practices to guide recreational anglers on how to avoid interactions with dolphins. If followed, the simple, commonsense guidelines could break the harmful "feeding" habits of humans and bottlenose dolphins. The agency will showcase the "Best Fishing Practices for Avoiding Interactions with Wild Dolphins," along with other conservation messages, by way of metal signs at fishing piers, marinas, and boat ramps; wallet/tackle box cards; radio announcements; etc. To view these practices, log onto http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/protres.htm#faq.

Although four more months remain in the year, the number of wild dolphins killed or wounded this year as a result of entanglement or hooking with recreational fishing gear is already much greater than in years past. If this trend persists, mortalities from recreational gear could have significant effects on coastal bottlenose dolphin populations when combined with natural mortalities that occur throughout the year. It will take the steadfast cooperation and dedication of all those involved in wild dolphin conservation to help raise awareness and tackle this problem. The conservation of dolphins depends on our ability to better understand the complex nature of this issue and find effective ways to prevent the occurrence of harmful interactions between dolphins and humans.

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Southeast Region Stranding Summary
November 2005 to May 2006

Species	AL	FL	GA	LA	MS	NC	SC	TX	PR	EZ	Total
Hooded seal *Cystophora cristata*	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Northern Right whale *Eubalaena glacialis*	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Pygmy Killer whale *Feresa attunuata*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Risso's dolphin *Grampus griseus*	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Grey seal *Halichoerus grypus*	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pygmy Sperm whale *Kogia breviceps*	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Dwarf Sperm whale *Kogia sima*	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Sperm whale sp. *Kogia sp.*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Fraser's dolphin *Lagenodelphis hosei*	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Atlantic White-Sided dolphin *Lagenorhynchus acutus*	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4
Melonheaded whale *Peponocephala electra*	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
Harp seal *Phoca groenlandica*	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Harbor seal *Phoca vitulina*	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	5
Harbor porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
Sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus*	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Striped dolphin *Stenalla coeruleoalba*	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Atlantic Spotted dolphin *Stenalla frontalis*	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stenella sp.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rough-toothed dolphin *Steno bredanensis*	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*	16	204	19	9	8	44	24	74	1	0	399
Cuvier's Beaked whale *Ziphius cavirostris*	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Unknown cetacean	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Unknown delphinid	1	19	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	22
Unknown mysticete	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Unknown pinniped	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Unknown Odontocete	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	17	240	22	9	8	75	29	77	0	2	482

Stranding Scene Safety Tips

Marine Mammal Stranding Responders are responsible for public safety, and the safety of their staff members and volunteers. Here are a few tips on how to ensure that every stranding scene is maintained with safety in mind.

Photo credit Tanya Pulfer Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) 2004. Alex Costidis of FWC examining one of several dolphins involved in a 2004 St. Joe Bay, FL stranding

- The public must be reminded that these are wild animals, children and pets should be kept away from the scene.
- Assign tasks on the basis of training.
- Designate safety and staff coordinators for large groups of volunteers.
- Establish a rotation schedule for in-water situations.
- Avoid contact with stranded animals, carcasses, tissues, or fluids if pregnant or immuno-suppressed..
- Change gloves as they become torn when handling animals, carcasses, tissues or fluids.
- Wear waterproof outerwear to protect clothing from contamination.
- Cover wounds with protective dressings.
- Wear face and/or eye protection when appropriate (e.g., during necropsies) and close contact with diseased animals.
- Wash exposed skin and clothing after handling animals or use a hand sanitizer in the field until washing facilities are available.
- Do not consume food or beverages in the vicinity of stranded animals or carcasses.

Network Member Spotlight

Heidi Watts

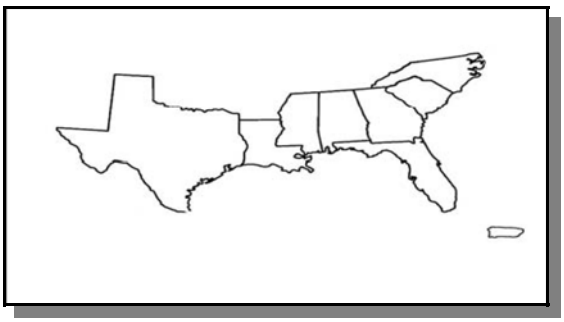
Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network

Heidi Watts is currently the Texas State Operations Coordinator. She has held this position with the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network (TMMSN) since 2005. Heidi was born and raised in the Houston area and graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in psychology. She continued her education at the University of Texas Dental School. While working in the dental field, she began volunteering with the TMMSN in 2002 and eventually became the Regional Stranding Coordinator in 2004. When asked what she likes most about working with the TMMSN she said, "I really enjoy the variety of work and people. There is never a dull moment here."

In May of 2006, Heidi was honored with NOAA's Environmental Hero award for her extraordinary efforts in facilitating the rescue of numerous marine mammals after hurricane Katrina and Rita battered the Gulf coast. She was also recognized for her overall commitment and enthusiasm for her work with the TMMSN.

The Southeast Region would like to thank Heidi Watts for the dedication and hard work she has put forth on behalf of the TMMSN. Her positive attitude and work ethic has made her a true asset to the Southeast Marine Mammals Stranding Network. Thank you, Heidi.

Southeast Regional News



Alabama

In Alabama there were a total of 17 strandings, 16 were bottlenose dolphins, and one was a unknown delphanid. Gerald T. Regan resigned as chief scientist on July 13, 2006, and was retained as a consultant for the Marterra Foundation Inc. A NOAA Fisheries Service site visit was conducted by Sarah Wilkin in May of this year.

Florida

In Florida there were a total of 240 marine mammal strandings between November 2005 and May 2006. Of these 204 were bottlenose dolphins.

In July 2005, a multi-species Unusual Mortality Event involving dolphins, manatees, sea turtles and sea birds was declared for west central Florida. Several agencies are investigating this event, and Network staff have been working closely with state and federal agencies in the collection and analysis of appropriate tissues and samples.

There was a successful rescue of a *T. truncatus* calf, debilitated by a crab pot entanglement. The animal's flukes fell off while being rehabilitated at Clearwater Marine Aquarium, but the animal is doing well despite this injury. Additionally, a hooded seal was rescued from a Melbourne, FL beach. On July 27th, the Marine Animal Rescue Society's Florida Keys Marine Mammal Rescue Team, and The Marine Mammal Conservancy responded to a 51ft sperm whale stranded on Big Pine Key.

Florida stranding information can be found at www.kogia.org/flstrand.

Georgia

There were a total of 22 strandings, including two manatees, between the months of November and May. The stranded species include 19 bottlenose dolphins, one pygmy sperm whale, and two Cuvier's beaked whales. One of the two Cuvier's beaked whales had abundant plastic bags and debris in the stomach, and one of the 19 bottlenose dolphins was found near Savannah, alive and entangled in a blue crab pot float line. Georgia Marine Mammal Stranding Network (GMMSN) cooperators at the University of Georgia Marine Extension (UGA) successfully disentangled the animal. Another bottlenose dolphin was found dead on a beach with an apparent shark attack injury. Also included in the 19 bottlenose dolphin strandings were 3 neonate mortalities this spring.

Georgia Department of Natural Resouces is developing a partnership with the UGA School of Veterinary Medicine's Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study to support the GMMSN's histopathology and diagnostic efforts. Dr. John Schacke, adjunct professor in UGA's Institute of Ecology, recently offered a Maymester course in marine mammal biology, the first ever offered at UGA. Highlights of the course included a field trip to the GA coast and a bottlenose dolphin necropsy at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, led by Dr. Daniel Odell.

Tursiops truncatus with evidence of shark bite
Cumberland Island National Seashore June 2006

Louisiana

On March 9, 2006, a live male bottlenose dolphin was reported in Vermillion Parish in Rollover Bayou (see photo). The animal was believed to be displaced by Hurricane Rita in 2005 by the storm surge. It's amazing that the animal was able to survive nearly six months after having been displaced. The dolphin was trapped in a channel approximately 100ft. wide by a wooden waterway obstruction. Only a small portion of the area was more than three feet deep. The Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network contained the animal and it was examined by the attending veterinarian. It was deemed to be in very good condition, and a roto tag was attached to the dorsal fin. The dolphin was then transported 2 miles by boat and released into the Gulf of Mexico.

Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, 2006

Mississippi

There was a total of 8 strandings in MS, all were bottlenose dolphins.

Recovery from Hurricane Katrina is still one of the primary activities at the Pascagoula Laboratory, but significant progress is being made. The lab's freezers and necropsy lab are fully repaired, equipped and functional. Demolition of the main lab building was completed on September 15. The plans for a new two-story lab are nearly complete and construction is scheduled to begin in January 2007. Until the new lab is completed, staff offices will continue to be located in FEMA trailers on the laboratory's property.

Taking off ribs during a sperm whale necropsy.
University of North Carolina 2006

North Carolina

There was a total of 75 stranding in NC between November and May, 44 of which were bottlenose dolphins. There was a small mass stranding of dwarf sperm whales in the Outer Banks in February, including a mature male, a pregnant female and a calf. Unfortunately, they were all code 3 when they were reported, so limited sampling occurred. In addition to these three animals, there was also another dwarf sperm whale that stranded four days prior to this event. Additionally, there was a live stranded mature female sperm whale in Cape Lookout in March, to which a multi-agency team responded. A necropsy was performed on this animal on the beach .

South Carolina

There was a total of 29 strandings in South Carolina between the months of November and May. Of these, 24 were bottlenose dolphins. Four of these animals showed signs of human interaction, one of which was successfully disentangled from a crab pot line, and the other three had rope wounds on the tail. Two humpbacks also stranded, both of which showed signs of human interaction. One had injures indicative of a ship strike, and the other showed signs of previous entanglement and wounds indicative of a ship strike. The Stranding Network would like to thank Bill McLellan (UNCW) for performing the necropsy on this animal. A third humpback was reported dead at sea and not recovered.

Two necropsy demonstrations are slated in the fall for

Stranded Humpback whale, showed signs of a ship strike, and past entanglement NOS/CCEHBR 2006

Coastal Carolina University students in Dr. Rob Young's marine mammal class. Additionally, Wayne McFee of NOAA's National Ocean Service in Charleston requests that stranding network personnel collect the following data on animals caught in crab pot lines: 1) where along the line was the animal entangled (i.e. how many feet from the buoy); 2) water depth (if known) of where entanglement occurred; 3) length of buoy line, 4) type and size of the buoy line; please provide this information along with a copy of the Level A data sheet at wayne.mcfee@noaa.gov.

Christina Smar (Graduate School at College of Charleston) defended her thesis on Age and Life History of Pygmy Sperm Whales on July 8, 2006. Her project compared three commonly used methods for aging sperm whales and determined that stained sections are still the best way to age sperm whales. The project also provides the first comprehensive life table of pygmy sperm whales in the Southeast U.S. Stranding Network, providing age and growth data for 50 animals.

Texas

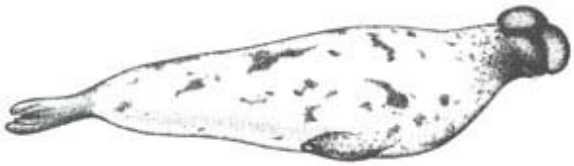
There were a total of 77 strandings in Texas between the months of November 2005 and May 2006. Seventy-four of those animals were bottlenose dolphins. On November 2, 2005, a sperm whale. was reported in the Corpus Christi region, it was a code 4 and reported with low accuracy. On March 26, 2006, a live melonheaded whale (see photo) was responded to in the Corpus Christi region. The animal was an adult male approximately 253cm in length. Based on several factors, including behavior, declining blood values, and ultrasound test results, the decision was made to euthanize on March 30, 2006.

The TMMSN has agreed to officially expand their area of geographical coverage to include Western Louisiana from the Texas border to Morgan City, LA. They are excited to lend the needed help, and increase the response efforts in this area. Thank you TMMSN!

Melon headed whale TMMSN, 2006

Puerto Rico

Two hooded seals were reported in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and in Puerto Rico. Both had evidence of a shark bite. It is suspected that these reports may be of the same animal.



Hooded seal, Whale Release and Stranding Group of Newfoundland and Labrador 2006

According to the Whale Release and Stranding Group of Newfoundland and Labrador, hooded seals typically live on the edge of the pack ice moving south during winter to fish on the Grand Banks. Hooded seal pups are born mid-March on the pack ice off southern Labrador and northeastern Newfoundland.

Prescott Corner

The John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program is conducted by NOAA to provide federal Assistance to eligible members of the Stranding Network to:

- Support basic needs of organizations for response, treatment, and data collection from living and dead stranded marine mammals;
- Fund scientific research objectives designed to answer questions about marine mammal strandings, health or rehabilitation techniques utilizing data from living and dead stranded marine mammals; and
- Support facility operations directly related to the recovery or treatment of stranded marine mammals and collection of data from living or dead stranded marine mammals.

The following is a list of stranding network organizations and projects that have been awarded Prescott funding this year.

Prescott Grant Southeast Region Funded projects for 2006

Project	Organization
Stranding and necropsy training for increasing quality level of A,B, and C data collection by the Florida Cetacean Stranding Network	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Clinical pathology and histopathologic processing and analysis of cetaceans in northern and central Florida	University of Florida
Enhance Georgia Marine Mammal Stranding Network	Georgia DNR
Enhancing live animal stranding response, assessing cetacean health and evaluating neonatal mortality trends of the bottlenose dolphin along the east coast of Florida	Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute
Validation of historic marine mammal stranding data from the southeastern United States	Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute
Improve MARS' mass stranding response capability and post-rehabilitation monitoring preparedness for the SEUS stranding region	Marine Animal Rescue Society
Investigating brevitoxin-induced mortality in bottlenose dolphins stranded in central west Florida	Mote Marine Laboratory
Improving live marine mammal stranding response in NC through a rapid Diagnostic capability and short-term holding capacity	NC State University
Enhancing response to and necropsy of large whales in NC, VA, and SC	UNC Wilmington
Enhancing tissue collection and health monitoring of stranded marine Mammals	UNC Wilmington
Analysis of Kogia stranding data collected by the SEUS stranding region	Nova Southeastern University
Response, treatment, and data collection from stranded marine mammals	TMMSN

For more information please visit: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/prescott/

Recent Publications

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