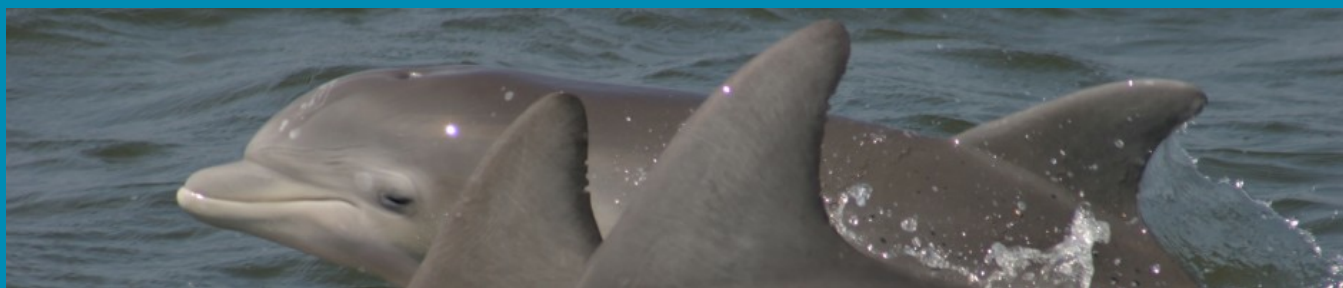


Outer Banks Center for Dolphin Research



Spring Newsletter

April 24th, 2015

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OBXCDR 2014 Season:

In 2014, eight surveys were conducted in April through July, October, and November. We had a total of 20 sightings of approximately 187 dolphins in Roanoke Sound! Of our seasonal residents, we saw Lorna and her four year old calf, Sprite, Cola, Wendy and her calf, Double Scoop and her four year old calf, Nick, Betty, Scarlet, FB459, Long, and Easy. Many of these dolphins migrate seasonally between Nags Head and Beaufort, spending the summer months on the Outer Banks, and traveling south for the winter. Seasonally resident dolphins were also sighted during

opportunistic surveys on the Nags Head Dolphin watch. These dolphins included Skylar, Mohammed, Sinatra, Lily, 89, 708, Sequoia, Rake, Rainbow, and Rocky, FB457, Fatlip, and our famous Onion.

So far, only one survey has been conducted in 2015, with no dolphin sightings. However, as May approaches, we expect to see our seasonal dolphins returning very soon. Join us on a 2015 dolphin survey to contribute to OBXCDR's research and put a name to the fin for some of our well known dolphins!

OBXCDR Outreach Information:

Outreach training was held on February 26, 2015 at Jennette's Pier in Nags Head. We learned about teaching local dolphin conservation at outreach booths and in classroom settings as well as practiced crafts and activities related to local dolphin research. Thanks to all that attended! Check out the OBXCDR Outreach Booth at these upcoming local events.

Outreach Schedule:

KidsFest, Festival Park, Manteo:
Friday May 8th

Coastal Gardening Festival, Baum Center:
Saturday May 16th

OBXCDR Survey Information:

The Annual Photo-identification Training will be held on Saturday April 25th at 1079 Kitty Hawk Road at 2:00 pm. At the training, we will be reviewing our field data collection protocols, including data-sheets, equipment use, and boat driving during surveys. In addition, there will be a brief review of safety on board our research vessel. We have also had some exciting updates to our research vessel for this season that will be announced! This is a mandatory training or anyone interested in participating in our boat surveys.

Survey Schedule:

May: 17th, 30th
June: 6th, 28th
July: 11th, 18th
August: 9th, 15th
September: 6th, 13th
October: 3rd, 10th

The 5th Annual Shrimp Cook-off was more successful than ever! \$4500 for OBXCDR!

The Outer Banks Shrimp Cook-off is held annually on the first Sunday of November at Ocean Boulevard in Kitty Hawk, NC. Each year, 8-10 chefs from local restaurants compete to prepare the best shrimp dish. A silent auction with donations from local businesses, 50/50 raffle, outreach booth, door prizes, and live MC round out the event. All proceeds are donated to the Outer Banks Center for Dolphin Research and support field research and outreach activities to promote local dolphin conservation.

The 5th Annual Shrimp Cook-off was held on Sunday November 2nd 2014 at Ocean Boulevard. At one approximately \$4500 was raised to benefit the Outer Banks Center for Dolphin Research! The event was sponsored by the Nags Head Dolphin Watch (www.nagsheaddolphinwatch.com), In The Lens Photography (www.inthelens.com), and the Outer Banks Veterinary Hospital (www.outerbanksvet.com). Competing restaurants included Ocean Boulevard (Chef Mike), Pok's Art (Chef Pok), Saltbox Cafe (Chef Rudolf), Coastal Provisions (Chef Dan), Metropolis (Chefs Matt and Mark), Café Lachine (Chef Johanna), and The Black Pelican (Chef Renee). The winners were: The Black Pelican (Shrimp & Sweet Corn Fritter with Southern Slaw and Wasabi Honey Truffle Aioli) for People's and Judge's Choice and a tie between Café Lachine (BBQ Bacon Wrap Shrimp Slider with red onion marmalade & bleu cheese spread) and Metropolis (Bocado de Cielo--A Little Bit of Heaven) for Chef's Choice. Christian Benedi rocked as MC for the 5th year in a row and Greg Bailey's flyers were posted around the Outer Banks to advertise the event. The MilePost donated an ad to advertise as well! Thanks to the many local businesses that donated to our silent auction: Outer Banks Veterinary Hospital, Oasis Day Spa, Nags Head Dolphin Watch, Salty Paws Biscuits, Trio, Front Porch Café, Deja New, Kitty Hawk Kites, Jennette's Pier, Toy Gallery, NC Aquarium, Slice Pizzeria, Maria Faci, Hovater Photography, Hollow Daze/Castille Soap, Daniel's Homeport, The Jelly Lounge, Chip's Wine and Beer Market, The Lost Colony, Hilton Garden Inn, Waveriders Coffee and Deli, Outer Banks Ace Hardware, Sea Ranch Resort and Beachside Bistro, Farm Dog Surf School, It Works Global, Manteo Marine, and Island Guest House.

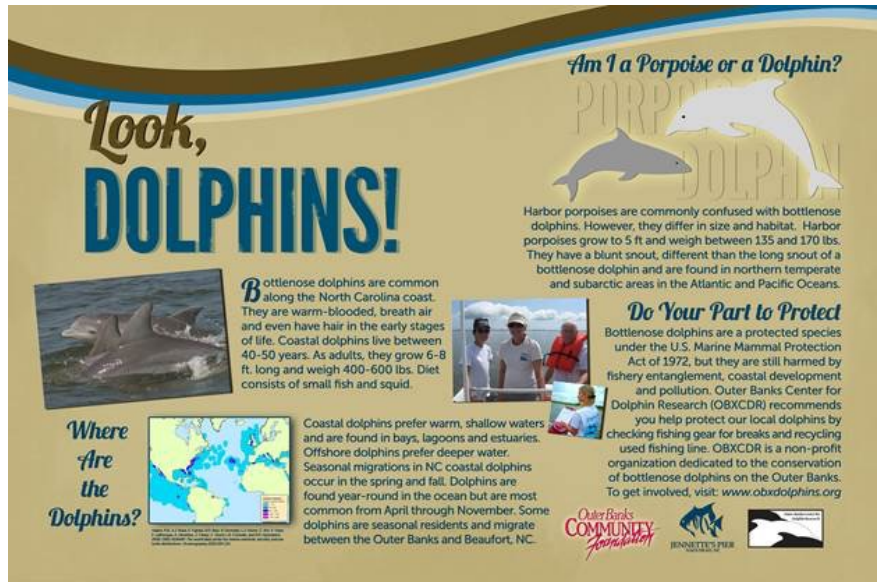
Thanks so much to the following volunteers for helping to make this event a success: Christin Brown, Barb Clark, Terri Kirby-Hathaway, Carol Dodson, Bob Dodson, Liah McPherson, Jackie Orsulak, Darlene Jones, Diane Breneman, Jay Taylor, Diane Thomas, Linda Turowski, and Louise Vance. We are also very appreciative of Donny, Heather, and Angel of Ocean Boulevard in helping to organize this event and Susan Beauvais of Salty Paws for selling tickets in advance.

Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Shrimp Cook-off! It will be held at Ocean Boulevard on Sunday November 1st from 12-3 pm. Check out details and updates on the event at www.obshrimp.com. Hope to see everyone there!



New Signs at the Pier and Aquarium

The North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, Jennette's Pier and the Outer Banks Community Foundation teamed up with OBXCDR to develop informational signs for the Pier and Aquarium that highlight the OBXCDR and focus on conservation of bottlenose dolphins. The signs are graphic panels that are 37 x 25 inches. At Jennette's pier the sign will be located under the spotting scope on the north side of the pier. This is a perfect location for visitors to potentially spot a dolphin, while learning about how they can conserve and help protect this amazing animal.



At the aquarium the graphic panel will be located just north of the sound side pier. This sign focuses on conservation and also includes information about how scientists identify dolphins. Guest at this location may have a chance to spot one of our dolphins! Installation of the signs will be in late-April.



This project was made possible through a grant received by the Outer Banks Community Foundation and matching funds provided by both the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island and Jennette's Pier.

Dolphin Update:

This season, two new dolphins were named, Emma and Virginia. Emma is a female dolphin matched to the Beaufort catalog and was accompanied this year by a new calf! Virginia received her namesake by being the only dolphin so far matched to the Virginia catalog. Dolphins lost this year include Buddha, a male dolphin paired with Mohammed who we had been studying for many years.



Emma's new calf!

Meet our 2015 Interns- Maggie and Kara!



Maggie is a senior in Marine Science, minoring in Environmental Science and Applied Ecology at North Carolina State University. During her time in college she has worked as an undergraduate research assistant in a Plankton Ecology Lab, Maggie's research project focuses on the food web dynamics of plankton communities in the Tar-Pamlico River system. After graduation in December 2015 Maggie plans on working as a fisheries biologist or as a wildlife biologist, and her long term goal is to attend graduate school for Conservation Biology or Marine Ecology.

Kara is currently a masters student studying coastal environmental management at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. She has a Bachelors of Science with a double major in Biology and Environmental Studies and a minor in French from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She is interested in marine mammal and sea turtle conservation, more specifically in how they will be affected by human induced harm from marine debris, shipping lanes, the opening up of new areas for oil and gas exploration, and fisheries. Kara has worked in Costa Rica as a research assistant on an adult endangered sea turtle conservation project where she captured, tagged, and released adult sea turtles as part of a population study. Eventually, Kara would like to be in a position in which she can use her science background to effectively communicate science based recommendations for policy and management decisions of endangered marine mammal and sea turtle species.



Who was on the boat last season?

Dennis Silveri, Pat Kight, Jackie Orsulak, Liah McPherson, Jessica McKeowen, Bill Ackiss, Darlene Jones, Carol Dodson, Richard Welti, Tara Landes, Kaye Lyerly, and Debbie Hester participated on the 2014 photo-identification surveys. Thank-You! If you're interested in coming out on the boat in 2015, check out our tentative survey schedule!

Current Research

The 1st matching project to the Mid-Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin Catalog (MABDC) was completed by intern, Jessica McKeowen and principal investigator, Jessica Taylor. Lab analysis for this project was completed through a new collaboration with the Coastal Studies Institute in Skyco, NC and Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort, NC. OBXCDR's research updates were sent to Kim Urian at the Duke University Marine Lab for inclusion in the MABDC in March of 2015.

The MABDC is a compilation of bottlenose dolphin photo-id images from contributors on the U.S. Atlantic coast, ranging from New Jersey to Florida. The purpose of the MABDC is to gain a further understanding of bottlenose dolphin stock structure and movement patterns along the coast. Check out



Jess Taylor continues to examine the prevalence of skin lesions on dolphins in Roanoke Sound. Analysis of skin lesion prevalence in 2013 is currently underway.



Sighting data has been contributed to Shauna McBride, doctoral student at University of Mississippi for an analysis of dolphin habitat use in Roanoke Sound. This spring, Shauna presented her findings of hot spots for dolphins in the sound at the regional SEAMAMMS conference in Virginia Beach, VA.

A poster for the "Science on the Sound" lecture series. The background is a large image of a dolphin's dorsal fin cutting through the water. The text "Science on the Sound" is prominently displayed in white. Below it, "lecture series" is written in a smaller font. There are three small inset photos: one of Jessica Taylor smiling, one of a person on a boat with a camera, and one of a dolphin leaping from the water. The Coastal Studies Institute logo is at the top right. A dark grey box on the right contains the title of the lecture, the date and time, the location, and a description of the research. At the bottom, contact information is provided.

Science
on the
Sound
lecture series

Coastal Studies Institute
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

**“Germ in the Derm?
What mark-recapture studies can
tell us about local dolphin and
environmental health.”**

6:00 pm, May 21, 2015
UNC Coastal Studies Institute
850 Hwy 345, Wanchese, NC

Join us for an evening presentation from Jessica Taylor, President and Principal Investigator at the Outer Banks Center for Dolphin Research (OBXCDR).

She has conducted a long-term study on the bottlenose dolphins in Roanoke Sound since 2008. By photographing the distinctive markings on their dorsal fins, the OBXCDR are able to track individual dolphins over time. When they surface, researchers are also able to observe various types of skin lesions that may be indicative of reactions to environmental variables or evidence of viral, bacterial, or fungal diseases. In 2012, the OBXCDR conducted a preliminary study examining the prevalence and types of skin lesions on dolphins in Roanoke Sound. Ms. Taylor will present the results of this study as well as the relationship between the health of the local dolphin population and the health of Roanoke Sound.

This program will also be broadcast LIVE at the following address: <http://csi.northcarolina.edu/ustream>

Phone: 252.475.5400 • Web: <http://csi.northcarolina.edu>

On May 21st at 6 pm, Jess will be presenting information about our research at the Coastal Studies Institute in Wanchese. Come out and support the Outer Banks Center for Dolphin Research- there's always something to learn!

