



# “ON EFFORT”

Newsletter

Summer, 2022

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## **THE DOLPHIN PROJECT**

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The Dolphin Project is an all-volunteer, non-profit research, conservation and education organization, founded in 1989, dedicated to the protection of wild estuarine Bottlenose dolphins and our shared environment. Tax ID# 58-1914176



## FROM THE HELM...

Greetings Crew!

**HAPPY JULY 4th!!!**

**We Celebrate Our Freedom and  
Our Sacred Constitution**

It's hard to believe that it's summer already. So much to do. Where has the time gone? We need to make time for dolphin research surveys. The Dolphin Project needs your support. Please sign up to skipper and crew. Dolphin surveys are fun. Enjoy a great day on the water while you help The Dolphin Project.

**You're invited! Award-Winning Documentary about  
North Atlantic Right Whales.  
Tuesday, July 12th. 6:30pm.  
Lucas theater in Savannah  
Details on page 2**

We're still looking for sponsors to help fund our research. Not being able to fundraise has hit us hard financially. The compilation of the new TDP database requires professional help. If you or your company is interested in supporting The Dolphin Project, please contact me. Some of you may work for companies that offer a matching gift program for charities. Please think of us. Corporate Sponsorships are greatly appreciated. Contact Peach for more information.

Don't forget Adopt-A-Dolphin is always a great gift to give for any occasion—or gift yourself to protect our dolphins.

Some of you may work for companies that offer a matching gift program for charities. Please think of us. Corporate Sponsorships are greatly appreciated. Contact Peach for more information.

We're still doing training workshops via Zoom. Invite your friends. Need a refresher. We have a revised Event Sheet this year.

I'm looking forward to getting back together.  
Stay Safe.

Sincerely, *Peach*

## YOU'RE INVITED! Award-Winning Documentary About North Atlantic Right Whales.

Would you like to know about Georgia's official state marine mammal—the critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whale?

The *Last of the Right Whales Team*, and our co-hosts—Tybee Island marine Science Center and IFAW (International Fund for animal Welfare) would like you to join us at the Georgia premiere of the award-winning and beautiful film on Tuesday, July 12th on 6:30 pm at the Lucas theater in Savannah.

<https://www.lucastheatre.com/schedule/last-right-whales>

Tickets: Adults—\$10, children—Free



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL  
2022

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
BUENOS AIRES  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
\*\*\*\*\* 2022 \*\*\*\*\*

BEST  
CANADIAN FEATURE  
PLANET in FOCUS  
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2021

Tuesday, July 12 at 6:30 PM  
Lucas Theatre for the Arts  
Savannah, Georgia  
With a post-film Q&A

last of the  
right whales

@LastRightWhales #LOTRW @HitPlayProductions

# Bottlenose Boutique

TDP T-Shirts are now available on our website.

More items will be available soon.



## 2022 CALENDAR...

### JULY

- 09 Research **SURVEY**
- 16 ZOOM **Training Workshop**

### AUGUST

- 06 Research **SURVEY**
- 20 ZOOM **Training Workshop**

### SEPTEMBER

- 17 Research **SURVEY**
- 24 ZOOM **Training Workshop**

### OCTOBER

- 1 GA-DNR Coastfest. Brunswick
- 14-16 Great Ogeechee Seafood Festival
- 22 Research **SURVEY**

### NOVEMBER

- 05 Research **SURVEY**
- 19 ZOOM **Training Workshop**

### DECEMBER

- 03 Richmond Hill Christmas Parade

The Dolphin Project Education Outreach Program has already been in schools and has been booked for club meetings this year. If you know of a club or school that would like a dolphin program, contact Peach. We're also available for STEM and STEAM nights and CAREER Days at schools. Contact us now for fall school programs.

## June survey crew

Many thanks to the June 2022 survey crew out of the Sunbury area.

Nicole, Susan, Carlos, Jennifer and Skipper Boyd

Sure looks like they had a great time!!!



## A fuel warning from the Coast Guard to boaters...

The Coast Guard is warning recreational boaters to beware. Filling up on E15 would save you a few bucks, but it could have a much bigger cost out on the water. Due to high gas prices, President Biden announced last month that 15% ethanol can be sold this summer. While it might be okay for your car this fuel can damage small boat engine and increases the chance of it catching fire.

Troy Campanello is a small engine mechanic. He says 80-percent of the issues customers have is because of the gas they use. "There's so much ethanol and alcohol in the fuel that it dries out all the rubber parts in the engine, the carburetors, the fuel system, the fuel lines," says Campanello. That type of damage can cost owners thousands as they try to save pennies on gas. E-15 runs hotter, increasing the potential of a catastrophic boat fire, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. One of the reasons why using it voids a marine engine warranty.

Jon Anderson says he wishes companies would do a better job of explaining that to boat owners. "If they're going to say it's going to void the warranty then they need to put stickers all over the boat saying it's going to void your warranty," says Anderson.

The Coast Guard also reminds owners that warning labels at the pump may not be obvious, E-15 could simply say regular 88 or regular unleaded. Beyond labels, they understand it's convenient to fill up your vehicle and a boat at the same time, making it easy to overlook this potentially dangerous detail.

Campanello suggests using the cleanest fuel you can find and use it quickly. The longer you save your fuel in your tank, the weaker it gets and the more problems you can have. "I recommend 93 grade fuel in the small engine it's usually a 50 to 1 mix, so you're mixing your fuel quite a bit, and you want to use that fuel within 30 to 45 days," says Campanello.

Before you leave the dock take a look through your manual, checking the specs of your engine could save you a headache when you're out on the water.

## Robotic buoys developed to keep Atlantic Right Whales safe

By Patrick Whittle. May 28, 2022

A Cape Cod science center and one of the world's largest shipping businesses are collaborating on a project to use robotic buoys to protect a vanishing whale from lethal collisions with ships.

A lab at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution developed the technology, which uses buoys and underwater gliders to record whale sounds in near real time. The robotic recorders give scientists, mariners and the public an idea of the location of rare North Atlantic right whales, said Mark Baumgartner, a marine ecologist with Woods Hole whose lab also operates the buoys.

The whales number less than 340 in the world and ship strikes are one of the biggest threats to their existence, as they travel through some of the busiest stretches of ocean on the planet. Now, French shipping giant CMA CGM is working with Woods Hole to deploy two of the robotic buoys off of Norfolk, Virginia, and Savannah, Georgia.

CMA CGM is funding the deployment of the buoys, which will add to the data collected by six others off the East Coast, Baumgartner said. The two new buoys could be deployed for testing soon, he said.

## Robotic buoys ....



“We have to change our industrial practices when whales are around. That’s what this tech enables,” Baumgartner said. “Having the industry tell us what works and what doesn’t is the best way to have solutions that will actually be implemented.”

The whales were once abundant off the East Coast, but their populations were decimated generations ago by commercial whaling. These days, they’re vulnerable to ship collisions and entanglement in fishing gear. And they’ve dwindled in population in recent years because of high mortality and poor reproduction. The whales are aided by a complex network of protected areas and shipping restrictions. However, scientists have sounded alarms recently that the whales have been straying outside of protected areas in search of food as waters warm. That has made them more vulnerable.

Representatives for CMA CGM, which has a U.S. headquarters in Norfolk, said the company chose to locate buoys off the Virginia city and Savannah because those are among the busiest shipping ports in the United States. Ed Aldridge, president of CMA CGM America, said it’s an effort to “responsibly share the ocean with marine mammals and protect endangered species.” The company is paying for the construction, maintenance and operation of the buoys for three years, said Heather Wood,

director of sustainability for CMA CGM America. The company declined to disclose the cost of the project. It hopes to build a consortium of shippers that use this kind of technology to protect whales, Wood said. “It’s an investment we’re making in the future of the seas and the future of the right whale,” she said.

Acoustic recorders have tracked whale sounds for decades, but the buoys that provide sound in near real time are a relatively recent invention, Baumgartner said. The robotic buoys make data available every couple of hours as opposed to months later, he said. The results go on a public website and are also used by federal authorities to help make decisions about when to announce “right whale slow zones,” which call on vessel operators to slow down to 10 knots (11.5 mph) or less.

The data “allow us to send information to mariners quickly so those that are able can take action (by slowing down or avoiding the areas) to reduce the risk of vessel strike, which is one of the largest threats to this endangered population,” scientists Diane Borggaard and Genevieve Davis of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a joint statement. Conservation groups and academics also use the data collected by the robotic buoys. They’re also used on the West Coast to help protect blue, fin and humpback whales, said Callie Steffen, a project scientist with Whale Safe in Santa Barbara, California.

“We hope shipping companies will integrate this,” Steffen said. “It’s a Smokey Bear fire warning, but for whale presence.”

## Bottlenose Dolphins identify their friends by tasting ...urine

We already knew that bottlenose dolphins recognize each other through their signature whistles, but now it seems the taste of their urine also plays a role.

Bottlenose dolphins can recognize familiar individuals just by tasting their urine, similar to how the smell of a friend's perfume can be part of our mental representation of them. Jason Bruck at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas and his colleagues found that bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) spent about three times longer sampling water that contained urine collected from familiar dolphins compared with unfamiliar ones, suggesting they recognized their friends' unique urine tastes. This sampling involved "opening their mouths and running their tongues through the water where we poured the urine in front of them", says Bruck.



Bottlenose dolphins are also known to identify each other through signature whistles that they invent early in life. The latest finding indicates they can recognize each other in more than one way – either through taste or sound.

Interestingly, the dolphins were found to investigate areas for longer when they could taste a friend's urine and simultaneously hear their whistle played through a speaker, compared with when

the whistle of another known individual was played. It suggests they have concepts of individual friends in their minds that connect their unique taste and sound, says Bruck. This is similar to how we have mental representations of our friends that integrate multiple elements like the smell of their perfume and the sound of their voice.

"While that might sound easy to do for a human, animals don't always do that," says Bruck. Being able to identify other dolphins through urine is useful because it hangs around, he says. "If the urine cue can persist, then another dolphin would be able to detect that and determine if a past ally or enemy is in the area," says Bruck. Another advantage is being able to detect potential mates, he says.

Dolphins commonly inspect each other's genitals, including during courtship, which may provide an opportunity to sample each other's urine, says Bruck. We know they must taste each other's urine rather than smell it because they don't have functional smell systems, he says.

At this stage, bottlenose dolphins are the only known species that can identify familiar individuals based on taste alone. Other types of dolphins may do the same thing, but this will need to be explored in future research, says Bruck.

**PRINT CLEARLY**  
**USE MILITARY TIME**

DATE  month  day  year

ZONE

BOAT NAME

PERIOD  Period START

Period END

EVENT

continuous numbering throughout survey

CI Survey  Traditional Survey

Write: first initial, last name

Team Leader	<input type="text"/>	Assistant TL	<input type="text"/>
Skipper	<input type="text"/>	Assistant TL	<input type="text"/>
Photographer-A	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
Photographer-B	<input type="text"/>	CI	<input type="text"/>

Event START Time	Event END Time	LONGITUDE: WEST	LATITUDE: NORTH
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	8 ° ' "	3 ° ' "

TIDE	TIDE	SEA	SEA STATE	WEATHER	Weather
OH - Outgoing High	IH - Incoming High		0 = Glassy		C = Clear
OM - Outgoing Mid	IM - Incoming Mid		1 = <1ft 2 = 1-2 ft		P = Partly Cloudy
OL - Outgoing Low	IL - Incoming Low		3 = 2-3ft 4 = >3ft		O = Overcast
					F = Fog
					D = Drizzle
					R = Rain

WATER INFO: DEPTH  FEET SALINITY  PH  TEMP  CELSIUS

**ADULT:** 6' or more / **JUVENILE:** 4-5'; Stays w/ mother or similar size / **CALF:** 3-4'; Stays w/ mother / **NEONATE:** 3' or less; Dark skin; Light fetal folds; Soft fins.

Total dolphin number

Adults  Juveniles  Calves  Neonates

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILLING: non-directional movement                       | <input type="checkbox"/> FEEDING: fish in mouth  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRAVELING: heading in general direction                 | <input type="checkbox"/> PROBABLE FEED: fish splashing near dolphin, birds nearby, repetitive deep dives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BREACH: leap out of water/land on side                  | <input type="checkbox"/> MUDDING-STRAND FEEDING: part or totally out of water-on mud bank - with fish    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEAP: jump out of water                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> HERDING/HARDSTOP: rushing fish parallel to mudbank, abrupt stop & turn          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEX: Erect penis  | <input type="checkbox"/> CIRCLING: Dolphins circling to corral fish in center                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROBABLE SEX: Rolling together                          | <input type="checkbox"/> KERPLUCKING/WHACKING: slapping tail to stun fish                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SPYHOP: pops up to look around                          | <input type="checkbox"/> BOAT INTERACTION: riding alongside; bow riding                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BEGGING: head out of water, mouth open, approaches boat |  |

**DOLPHIN DISTRESS:** If seen towards boat, STOP sighting, LEAVE DOLPHINS

Tailslap  Chuffing  Jaw Clap

Photographer A: Start of Survey - Event Sheet Frame # <input type="text"/>	Photographer B: Start of Survey - Event Sheet Frame # <input type="text"/>
This Event Camera Frames # - # <input type="text"/>	This Event Sheet# <input type="text"/>
This Event Camera Frames # - # <input type="text"/>	This Event Sheet# <input type="text"/>

OBSERVATIONS/ NOTES/ SKETCHES