To report feeding or harassment of wild dolphins, call the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Enforcement Division at: 1-800-853-1964.

To report an injured or entangled dolphin, or other wildlife, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at: 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).

For more information on fishing line recycling and bin locations, please visit: www.fishinglinerecycling.org

For more information on dolphins and interactions with anglers, please visit: www.mote.org or www.sarasotadolphin.org
Dolphins Need Your Help. Serious and even fatal dolphin injuries from interactions with recreational fishing gear and boats are on the rise. **You can prevent injuries to dolphins and other sea life – and have a better day on the water – by following a few tips designed to protect marine animals.** These “Best Practices” were developed by marine scientists and wildlife managers working with boaters, anglers, and fishing guides:

1) **Never feed wild dolphins – it’s harmful and illegal**
   - Feeding teaches dolphins to beg for food and draws them dangerously close to fishing gear and boat propellers.
   - Feeding is illegal under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act.

2) **Reuse or share leftover bait**
   - Freeze leftover bait for later or give it to your fishing neighbor.
   - Dumping leftover bait may attract dolphins to fishing areas to beg or steal bait and catch.

3) **Reel in your line if dolphins appear**
   - Reel in and wait for dolphins to pass to avoid losing your bait or catch and prevent potential harm to dolphins.
   - Never cast toward dolphins.

4) **Change locations if dolphins show interest in bait or catch**
   - Move away from dolphins to avoid unintentionally hooking one and prevent damage to gear or catch.

5) **Release catch quietly away from dolphins when and where it is possible to do so without violating any state or federal fishing regulations**
   - Feeding or attempting to feed a marine mammal in the wild is prohibited.

6) **Check gear and terminal tackle**
   - Inspect your gear often to avoid unwanted line breaks – even small amounts of gear in the water can be harmful to wildlife if entangled or ingested.

7) **Use circle and corrodbile hooks**
   - Circle hooks may reduce injuries to fish, dolphins, and sea turtles.
   - Corrodbile hooks (any hook other than stainless steel) eventually dissolve.

8) **Stay at least 50 yards away**
   - Stay a safe distance from wild dolphins to avoid causing potential harm.
   - Maintaining a safe distance helps keep dolphins wild.

9) **Prevent wildlife entanglements – recycle fishing line**
   - Place all broken or used fishing line in a Monofilament Fishing Line Recycling Bin.
   - If no recycling bins are available, place broken or used fishing line that has been cut into pieces in a lidded trash can.

10) **Stash your trash**
    - Littering is illegal and can be harmful to wildlife.
    - Collect any trash you’ve left behind and place it in a lidded trash can.