

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



Chicago Zoological Society
Inspiring Conservation Leadership



Dolphin-Friendly Fishing & Viewing Tips



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 corrodible hooks**
 - Circle hooks may reduce injuries to fish, dolphins, and sea turtles.
 - Corrodible 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.