

A #WAS-615

This Georgia dolphin has a big gash and a cut on the right side of her dorsal fin and a deep scrape on the left side. She was seen with her new calf, only a few weeks old, near Wassaw Island. The little one stays very close to its mama for protection and to feed every few minutes. Calves stay with their mothers for around 2 years if they are male and up to 6 years if they are female.

B #WIL-207

This little two-year old female had a rubber loop stuck around her neck. She probably swam through it, thinking it was a bubble ring, but it didn't pop like a bubble. The loop was on her neck over a year before she could be rescued. The loop was cut off. The rescuers put an ID tag on her dorsal fin but it eventually came off, which left a unique curved notch. She lives in the Savannah area and is doing well.





<u>C</u> #SCA-414

The dorsal fin is used to regulate body temperature and for stabilization. Part of the dorsal fin is missing from this South Carolina dolphin because it was chopped off by a boat propeller. Sometimes the entire fin gets chopped off. People don't look where they are going in boats and hit dolphins. Bottlenose dolphins live in our estuaries yearround. They can usually adapt without their dorsal fins.

<u>D</u> #CAT-516

This dolphin lives off Bryan Neck near St. Catherines Sound. It loves to tease people by coming up one side of the boat and then popping up on the other side. It also likes to leap in the air. Dolphins leap and jump for fun and sometimes for communication to other dolphins. This dolphin joins other dolphins to catch fish. Dolphins have many cooperative feeding strategies to herd fish.



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100% of the Adoption donations go directly to **The Dolphin Project** research, education, and conservation efforts which will benefit the wild estuarine dolphins on the coasts of Georgia and lower South Carolina.

The TDP dolphin adoption kit includes the following:

- Photograph(s) of the adopted dolphin,
- A personalized adoption certificate,
- Information sheet about the Atlantic Bottlenose dolphins,
- Nautical chart(s) showing survey zones where the dolphin has been sighted,
- · The Dolphin Project brochure,
- Dolphin bookmark,
- Information sheet on photo identification of dorsal fins and how they are used for research,
- For children: Dolphin Activity Pages

The Dolphin Project is an all-volunteer, non-profit, research, conservation and education organization dedicated to the protection of estuarine Atlantic Bottlenose dolphins since 1989. TDP members conduct relative abundance surveys and seek to identify estuarine dolphins through their distinctive dorsal fins. The dolphins that we study are wild and in their natural habitat. TDP collaborates with research organizations and agencies to study resident and transient populations.

Sightings and photographs of dolphins by **The Dolphin Project** are opportunistic events that take place during organized photo surveys under a General Authorization Permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service. Data and photographs compiled by TDP are entered into the Mid-Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin Catalog (MABDC) and OBIS —SEAMAP database at Duke University. (http://seamap.env.duke.edu/)

AdoptA Dolphin

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