



**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**NOAA seeks information on dead dolphin found on Elmer's Island, Louisiana**  
*Dolphin died from bullet lodged in animal's lung*

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement and marine mammal experts received a report Saturday of a bottlenose dolphin found dead on Elmer's Island in Louisiana. A necropsy, or non-human autopsy, revealed the dolphin died of a gunshot wound.

Necropsy results showed the animal was shot on the right side just behind the blowhole, likely with a small caliber firearm. Later the bullet was discovered lodged in the dolphin's lung.

NOAA officials seek information from anyone who may have details of this incident. Please call the NOAA Enforcement Hotline as soon as possible at 1-800-853-1964. Tips may be left anonymously.

The [Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society](#) (WDCS) is offering a \$1,500 reward for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the illegal and cruel acts that led to the death of a protected bottlenose dolphin.

Harassing, harming, killing or feeding wild dolphins is prohibited under the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#) of 1972. Violations can be prosecuted either civilly or criminally and are punishable by up to \$100,000 in fines and up to one year in jail per violation.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources.

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