



December 12, 2014

**Reward increases to \$20,000 for Alabama case of dolphin killed with hunting arrow**

*Federal investigators receive tips, asking for more*

The reward for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the person (s) responsible for killing a bottlenose dolphin in Orange Beach, Ala., with a hunting arrow has increased to \$20,000. Several organizations contributed to this reward.

NOAA federal agents leading the investigation have received several tips but are still asking for others to step forward if they have information on this criminal act. Investigators are following up on every tip they receive. They also appreciate the very generous reward donations, and help from the media and the public in getting the word out.

Reward contributions came from the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, The Humane Society of the United States and The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust, Alabama Gulf Coast Reef and Restoration Foundation, Coastal Alabama Business Chamber, Cobalt/Cosmos Restaurants, Reel Surprise Fishing Charters, Gulf Chrysler, and the Coastal Conservation Association.

This is the second bottlenose dolphin killed in recent weeks in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. A pregnant dolphin was shot and killed with a gun in Choctawhatchee Bay in Miramar Beach, Fla., just before Thanksgiving. NOAA agents are also asking for information on that case and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society is offering a \$2,500 reward.

Preliminary results suggest both dolphins died as a result of the shootings. The [dolphin in Orange Beach](#) died from secondary infection from the arrow wound and [the one in Choctawhatchee Bay](#) died of complications from the bullet being lodged in its lung.

NOAA is asking anyone with details on either incident to call our Office of Law Enforcement in Niceville, Fla., at 850-729-8628 or the NOAA Enforcement Hotline at 1-800-853-1964 as soon as possible. Tips may be left anonymously.

People can help prevent future harm to wild dolphins by [not feeding or attempting to feed them](#). Dolphins fed by people learn to associate people with food, which puts dolphins and people in potentially harmful situations.

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.

To report a stranded, injured or sick dolphin, call 1-877-WHALE-HELP ([1-877-942-5343](tel:1-877-942-5343)).

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.

**\*Photos of both dolphins are available upon request – please contact Kim Amendola at [727-403-6533](tel:727-403-6533) or via email, [Kim.Amendola@noaa.gov](mailto:Kim.Amendola@noaa.gov)**

