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Deceased and Distressed Dolphins Reported in St. Bernard Parish and Vicinity (June 2019)

St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) discovered two (2) deceased dolphins on April 10, 2019. The parish subsequently issued a press release and began using social media to encourage boaters to report any deceased or distressed dolphins in the area. A total of 26 deceased and four (4) distressed dolphins were reported in April (please refer to the April 2019 report). The June 2019 report serves as an update on all deceased and distressed dolphins reported in St. Bernard Parish and vicinity from May 1, 2019 through June 21, 2019. An additional eleven (11) deceased and two (2) distressed dolphins are identified in the June report, bringing the total number of reported deceased dolphins to 37 and distressed dolphins to six (6).

SBPG has remained in close communication with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, US Department of Commerce), and other relevant stakeholders for the duration of the event. Preliminary feedback from LDWF suggested that area dolphins might be suffering from freshwater lesions, which are often fatal for marine mammals. On April 30, 2019, NOAA officials contacted SBPG regarding the situation and advised parish officials on the process for reporting deceased and distressed dolphins to the federal government.

SBPG immediately issued a press release and began using social media to inform the public of the federal reporting process. All reports of deceased and distressed dolphins have since been redirected to NOAA, although SBPG continues to work closely with the public and its federal and state partners to ensure proper reporting and keep stakeholders informed.

On May 10th, NOAA officials met with SBPG to discuss the event. SBPG subsequently declared an emergency in anticipation of the second

opening of the Bonnet Carre' Spillway, which was projected to dramatically increase the exposure of local dolphins to freshwater. The full text of the emergency declaration is included below.

***EXECUTIVE ORDER
ST. BERNARD PARISH***

***WHEREAS**, St. Bernard Parish and its citizens have suffered tremendously as a result of catastrophic coastal land loss and environmental degradation over the past century, and is currently being threatened with the exacerbation of coastal land loss and environmental degradation resulting from the ongoing and unprecedented influx of freshwater into St. Bernard Parish's waterways and estuaries, which will adversely impact the viability of the Parish's economically and culturally significant commercial and recreational industries as well as the health, safety, welfare, and resilience of its citizens; and*

***WHEREAS**, St. Bernard Parish has already observed significant damage to its valuable fish, oyster, shellfish, aquaculture crops and wildlife production, including unexplained death and disease among the local dolphin population and undetermined damage to other species since the Bonnet Carre Spillway was initially opened months ago; and*

***WHEREAS**, St. Bernard Parish now faces the prospect of the Bonnet Carre Spillway being opened for an unprecedented second time in a matter of months, likely causing a drastic increase in the ongoing influx of freshwater into the Parish's estuaries and waterways; and*

***WHEREAS**, St. Bernard recognizes the importance of flood control measures, including the opening of the Bonnet Carre Spillway, taken as a result of the present state of the Mississippi River; and*

***WHEREAS**, the very definite threats of irreparable environmental harm and loss of property, and related threats to the health, safety, welfare, and resilience of the citizens of St. Bernard Parish are now imminent; and*


***WHEREAS**, such emergency action must be taken now.*

***WHEREAS**, I, GUY McINNIS, President of St. Bernard Parish and Chief Executive Officer, by the authority vested in me by the St. Bernard Parish Home Rule Charter and the Louisiana Homeland Assistance and Disaster Act, LA-R.S. 29:721 et seq., do hereby proclaim;*

***A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist within St. Bernard Parish and all the Emergency Preparedness Plans and all Emergency Operations Plans be activated.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all provisions of the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act of 1993 as Amended by Acts 2003 are hereby invoked, effective immediately.*

Issued on this 10th day of May, 2019 and is effective at time of issuance.



Guy McInnis, President
St. Bernard Parish

The Bonnet Carre' Spillway was opened for a second time on May 10th. NOAA officially declared an *unusual mortality event* for the bottlenose dolphin in the northern Gulf of Mexico on June 14th. SBPG has since continued working closely with its federal and state partners to monitor the situation.

Table 1: Deceased and Distressed Dolphins Reported in St. Bernard Parish and Vicinity, April 10, 2019 through June 21, 2019

Deceased and Distressed Dolphins
St. Bernard Parish and Vicinity
As of June 21, 2019

ID/Description	Date	Location	# Dead	# Distressed	Notes
(a) Decomposed, red, floating	10-Apr	Lake of Two Trees	1	0	Identified by SBPG
(b) Decomposed, red, floating	10-Apr	Spoil Canal @ MRGO	1	0	Identified by SBPG
(c) Decomposed, peeling, floating	11-Apr	Long Lake @ 4 Horse	1	0	Identified by Kim Serigne
(d) Deceased	11-Apr	SW Shore, Lake Robin	1	0	Identified by Ted De Agano
(e) Deceased	11-Apr	SW Shore, Lake Robin	1	0	Identified by Ted De Agano
(f) Deceased	11-Apr	Petain Lagoon	1	0	Identified by Calvin Duvalle
(g) Deceased	11-Apr	Lake Campo	1	0	Identified by Jeff Gallet
(h) Deceased	11-Apr	Drum Bay	1	0	Identified by Jeff Gallet
(i) Deceased	11-Apr	MRGO @ Campo's	1	0	Identified by Robin Pati
(j) Deceased	12-Apr	MRGO @ end of rocks	1	0	Identified by Leslie Schneider
(k) Deceased	12-Apr	La Loutre @ Star Lodge	1	0	Identified by Bobby Lovell
(l) Live with deteriorated skin	15-Apr	MRGO @ Campo's	0	3	Identified by Robbie Campo
(m) Deceased	18-Apr	Crooked Bayou @ 4 Horse	1	0	Identified by Britt Ordes
(n) Deceased	18-Apr	Bay Shallow	1	0	Identified by Britt Ordes
(o) Live with deteriorated skin	18-Apr	Morgan Harbor	0	1	Identified by Johnny Schneider
(p) Deceased	24-Apr	Bay Boudreaux	1	0	Identified by PJ McIntyre
(q) Deceased	24-Apr	Petain Lagoon	1	0	Identified by Neil Simmons
(r) Deceased	24-Apr	Lake Borgne	1	0	Identified by Jack Branch
(s) Deceased	26-Apr	Lake John	1	0	Identified by Charlie Thomasson
(t) Deceased	26-Apr	Drum Bay	1	0	Identified by Randy Blanchard
(u) Deceased	26-Apr	MRGO @ rock dam	1	0	Identified by Kim Serigne
(v) Deceased	26-Apr	Bienvenue @ Borgne	1	0	Identified by Will Bordon
(w) Deceased	28-Apr	Lake Callabasse	1	0	Identified by Britt Ordes
(x) Deceased	28-Apr	Lake Borgne	1	0	Identified by Kevin Clement
(y) Deceased	28-Apr	Bay Eloi	1	0	Identified by Tony Puglia
(z) Deceased	28-Apr	Lake Machais	1	0	Identified by Shawn Bodden
(aa) Deceased	29-Apr	Deer Island Bayou	1	0	Identified by Scott Delacruz
(ab) Deceased	29-Apr	Cat Pass @ Lake Fortuna	1	0	Identified by Dylan Bailey
(ac) Deceased	6-May	Mozambique Pt./Fortuna	1	0	Identified by Charlie Thomasson
(ad) Deceased	6-May	Drum Bay	1	0	Identified by Charlie Thomasson
(ae) Deceased	7-May	Raccoon Isle/Fortuna	1	0	Identified by SBPG
(af) Deceased	7-May	Lake Coquille	1	0	Identified by SBPG
(ag) Deceased	7-May	Conkey Cove	1	0	Identified by Frank Praznik
(ah) Deceased	16-May	Lk. Borgne/Bayou Thomas	1	0	Identified by PJ McIntyre
(ai) Deceased	17-May	Bay Eloi	1	0	Identified by Richard Stevens
(aj) Deceased	17-May	Lakes of Bayou Maroon	1	0	Identified by Brooke Augustine
(ak) Deceased	20-May	MRGO/Spoil Canal	1	0	Identified by Tim Ursin
(al) Live with deteriorated skin	22-May	Twin Pipe./4 Horse Lake	0	2	Identified by SBPG
(am) Deceased	26-May	Lake Calabas/Drum Bay	1	0	Identified by Nicky Alphonso
(an) Deceased	20-Jun	Lk. of 2 Trees/Shallow Bay	1	0	Identified by LDW7
TOTAL:			37	6	

Map 1: Deceased and Distressed Dolphins Reported in St. Bernard Parish and Vicinity, April 10, 2019 through June 21, 2019

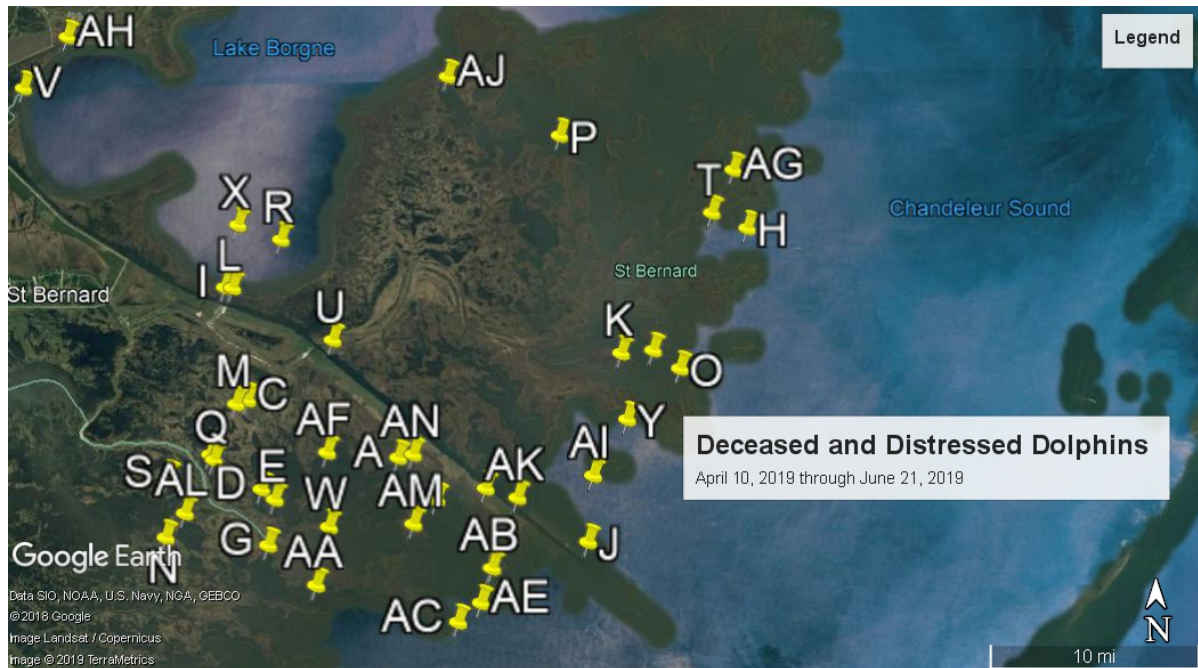


Image 1: Deceased Dolphin (A) Discovered in St. Bernard Parish on April 10, 2019



Image 2: Deceased Dolphin (B) Discovered in St. Bernard Parish on April 10, 2019



Image 3: Deceased Dolphin (C) Discovered in St. Bernard Parish on April 11, 2019



Image 4: Deceased Dolphin (T) Discovered in St. Bernard Parish on April 26, 2019



Image 5: Deceased Dolphin (W) Discovered in St. Bernard Parish on April 28, 2019

