

# Dolphin Safe Fishing Tips



## Help Protect Wild Dolphins While Fishing

NMFS Permit# 18881



NOAA FISHERIES



### Never Feed Wild Dolphins – It's Harmful and Illegal

- Feeding is illegal under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- Feeding teaches dolphins to beg for food and draws them dangerously close to gear and propellers.

### 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.

### Reel in Your Line if Dolphins are Near

- Reel in and wait for dolphins to pass to avoid losing your catch and prevent harm to dolphins.
- Never cast toward dolphins.

### Change Locations if Dolphins Show Interest in Bait or Catch

- Move away from dolphins to prevent unintentionally hooking one and prevent damage to gear or catch.

### Release Catch Quietly Away From Dolphins

- When and where it is possible to do so without violating any state or federal fishing laws.

### Check Gear and Terminal Tackle

- Inspect your gear often to avoid unwanted line breaks

### 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.

### Stay at Least 50 Yard Away

- Maintaining a safe distance helps keep dolphins wild.

### Recycle Fishing Line

- Place all broken or used fishing line in a monofilament fishing line recycling bin.
- If no recycling bins are available, cut line into pieces and place in a lidded trash can.

### Stash Your Trash

- Littering is illegal and can be harmful to wildlife.

Report feeding or harassment of wild dolphins: NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement 1-800-853-1964

Report an injured or entangled dolphin: Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network 1-800-9-MAMMAL