



[www.mote.org](http://www.mote.org) or [www.sarasotadolphin.org](http://www.sarasotadolphin.org)

For more information on dolphins and interactions with anglers, please visit:

For more information on fishing line recycling and bin locations, please visit: [www.fishinglinerecycling.org](http://www.fishinglinerecycling.org)

call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at: 1-888-404-FWCC (3922)

To report an injured or entangled dolphin, or other wildlife,

call the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Enforcement Division at: 1-800-853-1964.

To report feeding or harassment of wild dolphins,



## Dolphin-Friendly Fishing & Viewing Tips



**Dolphins Need Your Help.** Serious and even fatal dolphin injuries from interactions with recreational fishing gear and boats are on the rise. **You can prevent injuries to dolphins and other sea life – and have a better day on the water – by following a few tips designed to protect marine animals.** These “Best Practices” were developed by marine scientists and wildlife managers working with boaters, anglers, and fishing guides:

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- 1) **Never feed wild dolphins – it’s harmful and illegal**
  - Feeding teaches dolphins to beg for food and draws them dangerously close to fishing gear and boat propellers.
  - Feeding is illegal under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- 2) **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.
- 3) **Reel in your line if dolphins appear**
  - Reel in and wait for dolphins to pass to avoid losing your bait or catch and prevent potential harm to dolphins.
  - Never cast toward dolphins.
- 4) **Change locations if dolphins show interest in bait or catch**
  - Move away from dolphins to avoid unintentionally hooking one and prevent damage to gear or catch.
- 5) **Release catch quietly away from dolphins when and where it is possible to do so without violating any state or federal fishing regulations**
  - Feeding or attempting to feed a marine mammal in the wild is prohibited.
- 6) **Check gear and terminal tackle**
  - Inspect your gear often to avoid unwanted line breaks – even small amounts of gear in the water can be harmful to wildlife if entangled or ingested.
- 7) **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.
- 8) **Stay at least 50 yards away**
  - Stay a safe distance from wild dolphins to avoid causing potential harm.
  - Maintaining a safe distance helps keep dolphins wild.
- 9) **Prevent wildlife entanglements – recycle fishing line**
  - Place all broken or used fishing line in a Monofilament Fishing Line Recycling Bin.
  - If no recycling bins are available, place broken or used fishing line that has been cut into pieces in a lidded trash can.
- 10) **Stash your trash**
  - Littering is illegal and can be harmful to wildlife.
  - Collect any trash you’ve left behind and place it in a lidded trash can.