



NJ CETACEAN STRANDINGS FROM DECEMBER, 2022 THROUGH PRESENT



Marine Mammal Stranding Center© UPDATED: 10/16/2023

DATE	LOCATION	SPECIES	AGE/SEX	DISPOSITION	NECROPSY STATUS	PRELIMINARY FINDINGS	HISTOPATHOLOGY RESULTS	NOTES
12/5/2022	IDEAL BEACH	SPERM WHALE	DEPENDENT CALF FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED ON SCENE	NECROPSY COMPLETED, BURIED ON SCENE	FAT CLOT AROUND THE HEART, FLUID IN LUNGS	PENDING	
12/10/2022	STRATHMERE	HUMPBACK WHALE	SUB-ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	DECOMPOSED - PARTIAL NECROPSY, BURIED ON SCENE	LEVEL A DATA AND SAMPLES COLLECTED	PENDING	
12/23/2022	ATLANTIC CITY	HUMPBACK WHALE	SUB-ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	DECOMPOSED - PARTIAL NECROPSY, BURIED ON SCENE	LEVEL A DATA AND SAMPLES COLLECTED	PENDING	
12/28/2022	SANDY HOOK	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	HEAVILY DECOMPOSED, BURIED ON SCENE	N/A	N/A	
1/7/2023	ATLANTIC CITY	HUMPBACK WHALE	SUB-ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	NECROPSY COMPLETED, BURIED ON SCENE	ENTANGLEMENT SCARS, HEMATOMA BEHIND BLOWHOLE, SUSPECT HI/VESSEL STRIKE	PENDING	
1/12/2023	BRIGANTINE	HUMPBACK WHALE	SUB-ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	NECROPSY COMPLETED, BURIED ON SCENE	HEMATOMA BEHIND BLOWHOLE, PROBABLE HI/VESSEL STRIKE	PENDING	
1/18/2023	BRIGANTINE	HUMPBACK WHALE	UNK. UNK.	FLOATING DEAD, 45MI OFFSHORE	CARCASS NEVER WASHED ASHORE	N/A	N/A	
1/23/2023	LONG BEACH TWP	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PNEUMONIA, SUSPECTED BACTERIAL INFECTION	PENDING	
1/28/2023	BRIGANTINE	HUMPBACK WHALE	UNK. UNK.	FLOATING DEAD, 12MI OFFSHORE	CARCASS NEVER WASHED ASHORE	N/A	N/A	
1/29/2023	IBSP	HARBOR PORPOISE	ADULT UNK.	STRANDED DEAD	HEAVILY SCAVENGED AND DECOMPOSED, BURIED	N/A	N/A	
2/8/2023	SEASIDE HEIGHTS	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	BILATERAL PARASITIC GRANULOMAS IN LUNGS PARASITIC CYSTS IN ABDOMINAL CAVITY PARASITIC MIGRATION TRACTS IN BRAIN	PENDING	
2/13/2023	MOORES BEACH	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT UNK.	STRANDED DEAD	TOO DECOMPOSED, LEFT TO BREAKDOWN NATURALLY	N/A	N/A	
2/13/2023	MANASQUAN	HUMPBACK WHALE	SUB-ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	NECROPSY COMPLETED, TAKEN TO LANDFILL	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA INJURIES, SUSPECT HI/VESSEL STRIKE	ACUTE ANTEMORTEM TRAUMA	
2/18/2023	HIGHLANDS	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED ON SCENE	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PARASITIC GRANULOMAS IN LUNGS PARASITIC CYSTS IN ABDOMINAL CAVITY GI TRACT EMPTY	BRONCHOINTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIA DUE TO PRE-EXISTING PARASITIC INFECTION, ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA LIKELY DUE TO LIVE STRANDING, PARASITIC GASTRITIS AND ENTEROCOLITIS	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
2/18/2023	HIGHLANDS	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED ON SCENE	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PARASITIC GRANULOMAS IN LUNGS PARASITIC CYSTS IN ABDOMINAL CAVITY GI TRACT EMPTY	BRONCHOINTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIA WITH EDEMA DUE TO PRE-EXISTING PARASITIC INFECTION, PARASITIC ENTEROCOLITIS	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
2/18/2023	HIGHLANDS	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED ON SCENE	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PARASITIC GRANULOMAS IN LUNGS PARASITIC CYSTS IN ABDOMINAL CAVITY GI TRACT EMPTY	BRONCHOINTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIA WITH FIBROSIS AND EDEMA DUE TO PRE-EXISTING PARASITIC INFECTION, ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA LIKELY DUE TO LIVE STRANDING, NECROTIZING AND SUPPURATIVE HEPATITIS	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
2/20/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	UNK. DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	FLOATING DEAD IN BAY	CARCASS NEVER WASHED ASHORE	N/A	N/A	
2/22/2023	HARTHORNE WOODS PARK	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	PENDING	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
2/24/2023	SANDY HOOK	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	SENT TO CORNELL FOR NECROPSY	SCANT FOOD FOUND IN G.I. TRACT, LIVER PALE IN COLOR	PENDING	
2/24/2023	SANDY HOOK	COMMON DOLPHIN	DEPENDENT CALF MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED ON SCENE	SENT TO CORNELL FOR NECROPSY	POSSIBLE HEART DEFECT	PENDING	
2/27/2023	AVALON	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	NECROPSY PERFORMED BY MMSC ON BEACH, BURIED IN BRIGANTINE	PNEUMONIA AND NECROSIS OF THE LUNGS	PENDING	
3/2/2023	SEASIDE PARK	HUMPBACK WHALE	SUB-ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	NECROPSY COMPLETED, BURIED ON SCENE	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA INJURIES, FRACTURED SKULL, ENTANGLEMENT SCARS, PROP. WOUNDS, SUSPECT HI/VESSEL STRIKE	PENDING	
3/7/2023	SANDY HOOK	UNK. DOLPHIN	ADULT UNK.	FLOATING DEAD UNDER DOCK	TOO DECOMPOSED, LEFT TO BREAKDOWN NATURALLY	N/A	N/A	
3/15/2023	SANDY HOOK BAY	COMMON DOLPHIN	DEPENDENT CALF FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	PENDING	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
3/15/2023	SANDY HOOK BAY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED ON SCENE	DISPOSED OF BY PARK STAFF DUE TO LACK OF FREEZER SPACE	LEVEL A DATA COLLECTED	N/A	

3/21/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	JUVENILE MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED BEFORE MMSC ARRIVAL	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	BILATERAL PULMONARY CONGESTION, PARASITIC GRANULOMAS, HEMORRHAGE LEFT LUNG	PENDING	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
DATE	LOCATION	SPECIES	AGE/SEX	DISPOSITION	NECROPSY STATUS	PRELIMINARY RESULTS	HISTOPATHOLOGY RESULTS	NOTES
3/21/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	UNILATERAL PULMONARY CONGESTION, PARASITIC GRANULOMAS	PENDING	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
3/21/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	BILATERAL PULMONARY CONGESTION	PENDING	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
3/21/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PARASITES IN ABDOMINAL CAVITY	PENDING	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
3/21/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	JUVENILE MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	BILATERAL PULMONARY CONGESTION, HYPER-INFLATED LOBULES, STOMACH PARASITES, TWO POX LESIONS	MENINGOENCEPHALITIS, PERIVASCULAR HEMORRHAGE IN BRAIN, PNEUMONIA	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
3/21/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	BILATERAL PULMONARY CONGESTION, PARASITIC GRANULOMAS, PLUERAL FIBROTIC PLAQUES	HEPATITIS, TRACHEITIS, PNEUMONIA, MENINGOENCEPHALITIS	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
3/21/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	BILATERAL PULMONARY CONGESTION, PARASITIC GRANULOMAS	HEPATITIS, TRACHEAL ADENITIS, PNEUMONIA, MENINGOENCEPHALITIS	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
3/21/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED BEFORE MMSC ARRIVAL	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	BILATERAL PULMONARY CONGESTION, PARASITIC GRANULOMAS, HEMORRHAGE PANCREAS	PENDING	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
3/22/2023	LONG BEACH ISLAND	HUMPBAC WHALE	SUB-ADULT UNK.	FLOATING DEAD, 70MI OFFSHORE	CARCASS NEVER WASHED ASHORE	N/A	N/A	
3/24/2023	OCEAN CITY	PYGMY SPERM WHALE	UNK. UNK.	STRANDED DEAD	TOO DECOMPOSED, BURIED ON SCENE	N/A	N/A	
3/28/2023	ORTLEY	HARBOR PORPOISE	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	NO FOOD IN STOMACH OR INTESTINES	PENDING	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
4/1/2023	CAPE MAY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	PENDING	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
4/2/2023	SEA BRIGHT	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	FLOATING DEAD	TOO DECOMPOSED, LEFT TO BREAKDOWN NATURALLY	N/A	N/A	
4/11/2023	RUMSON OCEANIC BRIDGE	UNK. DOLPHIN	ADULT UNK.	FLOATING DEAD	TOO DECOMPOSED, LEFT TO BREAKDOWN NATURALLY	N/A	N/A	
4/15/2023	GREAT BAY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT UNK.	FLOATING DEAD	HEAVILY DECOMPOSED AND SCAVENGED, LEFT TO BREAKDOWN NATURALLY	N/A	N/A	WASHED UP ON MARSH, REPORTED MULTIPLE TIMES
4/16/2023	AVALON	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	NECROPSY PERFORMED BY MMSC ON BEACH, BURIED ON SCENE	NO FOOD IN G.I. TRACT, LUNGS PALE AND MOTTLED	N/A	
5/6/2023	STONE HARBOR	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUB-ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	PENDING	
5/17/2023	CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	DEPENDENT CALF FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	TAKEN TO MMSC FOR NECROPSY	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, HEAVY PREDATION, SEVERAL SHARK BITES, ORGANS EXPOSED, GI TRACT EMPTY	N/A	
5/18/2023	FORKED RIVER	UNK. SMALL CETACEAN	UNK. UNK..	FLOATING DEAD	CARCASS NEVER WASHED ASHORE	N/A	N/A	
5/18/2023	SPRING LAKE	HARBOR PORPOISE	SUB-ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	EXAMINED BY MMSC VOLUNTEERS, DISPOSED OF BY TOWNSHIP	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, HEAVILY SCAVENGED, HEAD SKELETONIZED	N/A	
5/21/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	SENT TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	PENDING	
5/21/2023	SEA BRIGHT	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	TAKEN TO MMSC FOR NECROPSY	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, SLIGHTLY SCAVENGED, EXTREMELY THIN, GI TRACT EMPTY, LUNGS AND LIVE CONGESTED, PARASITIC CYSTS IN ABDOMINAL WALL	N/A	
5/21/2023	CAPE MAY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	DEPENDENT CALF MALE	FLOATING DEAD	CARCASS NEVER WASHED ASHORE	N/A	N/A	
5/24/2023	SEASIDE PARK	HARBOR PORPOISE	SUB-ADULT UNK..	STRANDED DEAD	EXAMINED BY MMSC VOLUNTEERS, DISPOSED OF BY DPW	ADVANCED DECOMPOSITION, MODERATELY SCAVENGED, HEAD MISSING, PECTORAL FINS AND FLUKES SKELETONIZED	N/A	
5/28/2023	GOSHEN	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT UNK.	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED AND SCAVENGED, LEFT TO BREAKDOWN NATURALLY	N/A	N/A	
5/31/2023	RARITAN BAY	HUMPBAC WHALE	SUB-ADULT FEMALE	FLOATING DEAD	TOWED TO SHORE NECROPSY COMPLETED BURIED ON SITE	BLUNT & SHARP FORCE TRAUMA INJURIES, FRACTURED SKULL, LEFT PEC SEVERED, PROP. WOUNDS, SUSPECT H/VESSEL STRIKE	ACUTE ANTEMORTEM SHARP AND BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	
6/5/2023	NORTH BEACH	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	DEPENDENT CALF FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	TAKEN TO MMSC FOR NECROPSY	GI TRACT EMPTY, TEETH NOT YET ERUPTED, FETAL FOLDS PRESENT, AIR IN LUNGS	N/A	

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6/7/2023	CAPE MAY POINT	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	PENDING	
6/12/2023	CAPE MAY POINT	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT UNK.	STRANDED DEAD	HEAVILY SCAVENGED, DISPOSED OF BY DPW	N/A	N/A	
6/22/2023	WILDWOOD	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUB-ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED BEFORE MMSC ARRIVAL	TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	PENDING	
6/23/2023	WOODBIDGE	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED ON SCENE	TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	PENDING	
6/24/2023	SEASIDE PARK	RISSO'S DOLPHIN	SUB-ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	PENDING	
7/17/2023	BARNEGAT BAY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	FLOATING DEAD	TOO DECOMPOSED, CARCASS NEVER WASHED ASHORE	N/A	N/A	
8/12/2023	LONG BRANCH	HUMBACK WHALE	SUB-ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	NECROPSY COMPLETED, BURIED ON SCENE	LEFT FLUKE MISSING FROM PREVIOUS VESSEL STRIKE DOCUMENTED IN FALL 2022, SOME FOOD IN STOMACH AND GI TRACT, BRUISING AROUND HEAD AND NECK	PENDING	
8/23/2023	ASBURY PARK	UNK. BALEEN WHALE	UNK. UNK.	FLOATING DEAD, 12MI OFFSHORE	SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, HEAVILY SCAVENGED, NEVER WASHED ASHORE	N/A	N/A	
8/29/2023	LOVELADIES	PYGMY SPERM WHALE	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION	TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PARASITIC CYSTS IN BLUBBER, NEMATODES IN GI TRACT, LARGE SECTION OF INTESTINE IMPACTED W/ FECAL MATTER AND AMBERGRIS	PENDING	SAMPLES FOR ACOUSTIC TESTING PREPARED
8/30/2023	CAPE MAY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT UNK.	FLOATING DEAD	NEVER WASHED ASHORE	N/A	N/A	
9/25/2023	SEA ISLE CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	SUB-ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, EUTHANIZED DUE TO POOR BODY CONDITION (UNDERWEIGHT, LETHARGIC)	TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	PENDING	PUSHED BACK OUT INTO THE OCEAN BY BEACH GOERS BUT RESTRANDED A FEW HOURS LATER
9/27/2023	MANTOLOKING	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUB-ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	TAKEN TO MMSC FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	N/A	
9/27/2023	KEYPORT	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUB-ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	TAKEN TO MMSC FOR NECROPSY	PENDING	N/A	
10/1/2023	BARNEGAT BAY	MINKE WHALE	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE	NECROPSY PERFORMED BY MMSC STAFF	FROTH IN THE LUNGS, FISH BONES AND PARASITES IN STOMACH AND INTENSTINES, DISCOLORED FLUID IN SHOULDER, THIN BODY CONDITION, NO EVIDENCE OF TRAUMA	PENDING	REFLOATED AND RESTRANDED SEVERAL TIMES OVER 5 DAYS. EUTHANIZED ON 5TH DAY.
10/6/2023	BARNEGAT LIGHT	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	HEAVILY SCAVENGED, TOWED TO NEARBY STATE PARK FOR DISPOSAL	N/A	N/A	TANGLED IN CRAB POT