



NJ CETACEAN STRANDINGS FROM JANUARY 2025 THROUGH PRESENT

Marine Mammal Stranding Center© UPDATED: 8/23/2026

DATE	LOCATION	SPECIES	AGE/SEX	DISPOSITION	NECROPSY STATUS	PRELIMINARY FINDINGS	HISTOPATHOLOGY RESULTS	NOTES
8/17/2026	BARNEGAT LIGHT	FIN WHALE	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, MODERATELY SCAVENGED. INITIALLY REPORTED FLOATING 1.5 MILES OFF OF SHIP BOTTOM ON 8/16/2026. WASHED ASHORE IN BARNEGAT LIGHT ON 8/17/2026. THE POOR CARCASS CONDITION AND IT'S POSITION IN THE SURF PREVENTED ANY SAMPLES FROM BEING SAFELY COLLECTED BEYOND GENETICS AND BASIC LEVEL A INFORMATION. DUE TO THE PROXIMITY OF PROTECTED NESTING SHORE BIRDS, EQUIPMENT WAS INITIALLY UNABLE TO ACCES THE CARCASS FOR DISPOSAL. THROUGH A COMBINED EFFORT OF MMSC, NJDEP, NJ DIVISION OF PARKS AND FOREST, NJ FOREST FORE SERVICE AND NJF&W, EQUIPMENT WAS ABLE TO ACCES THE CARCASS ON 8/21/2026 AND THE CARCASS WAS REMOVED FROM THE WATER AND BURIED ON SITE.	N/A	N/A	
7/18/2026	BRIGANTINE	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	FRESH DEAD. INITIAL REPORTS SAID THE ANIMAL WAS ALIVE, BUT IT DIED BEFORE FIRST RESPONDERS ARRIVED ON SCENE. CARCASS WASHED OUT BEFORE MMSC ARRIVED. INITIAL PHOTOS SHOWED THE ANIMAL HAD A FEW SHARK BITES ON ITS ABDOMEN AND AROUND ITS DORSAL. WHEN THE CARCASS WASHED BACK IN A FEW BLOCKS NORTH OF THE ORIGINAL STRANDING LOCATION, IT HAD NUMEROUS ADDITIONAL SHARK BITES AND IT'S ORGANS WERE EXPOSED.	BODY CONDITION WAS FAIR, GI TRACT WAS EMPTY, LITTLE TO NO BLOOD PRESENT IN BODY CAVITY AND ORGANS, LUNGS PALE, LIVER CONGESTED. COD WAS LIKELY FROM EXANGUINATION.	N/A	HEAVILY SCAVENGED, LIMITED FIELD NECROPSY PERFORMED
6/29/2026	SEA ISLE CITY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, HEAVILY SCAVENGED, PECS AND HEAD MOSTLY INTACT, BODY CAVITY EMPTY, NO FLUKES. CARCASS ALMOST COMPLETELY SKELETONIZED. PHOTOGRAPHED AND MEASURED BY MMSC VOLUNTEER. DISPOSED OF BY DPW.	N/A	N/A	
6/28/2026	SEA GIRT	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	JUVENILE UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, HEAVILY SCAVENGED, ONLY FRONT HALF OF CARCASS REMAINED. PHOTOGRAPHED AND MEASURED BY MMSC VOLUNTEER. DISPOSED OF BY DPW.	N/A	N/A	
6/6/2026	NORTH WILDWOOD	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, SKIN COMPLETELY MISSING, EYES SCAVENGED, VERY BLOATED, BELIEVED TO BE THE SAME ANIMAL THAT WAS SPOTTED IN POOR CONDITION THE SAME LOCATION A WEEK EARLIER BUT COULD NOT BE RELOCATED WHEN MMSC STAFF ARRIVED DESPITE AN HOURS LONG SEARCH. CARCASS WAS TOWED TO A NEARBY BOAT RAMP WITH ASSISTANCE OF NJSP MARINE UNIT TO BE DISPOSED OF BY DPW.	N/A	N/A	



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5/29/2026	STRATHMERE	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	JUVENILE UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, SOME SCAVENGING, FETAL FOLDS STILL VISIBLE, CARCASS WASHED OUT BY TIDE BEFORE IT COULD BE EXAMINED	N/A	N/A	
5/24/2026	ELBERON	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, LIGHTLY SCAVENGED, ORGANS EXPOSED, ~35% OF SKIN MISSING, NO OBVIOUS COD, MEASURED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY MMSC VOLUNTEER, DISPOSED OF BY DPW.	N/A	N/A	
5/23/2026	BARNEGAT LIGHT	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, MODERATELY SCAVENGED, MOST OF SKIN MISSING, SPECIES AND CONDITION CONFIRMED BY PHOTOS, CARCASS WASHED OUT BY TIDE	N/A	N/A	
5/20/2026	CAPE MAY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	JUVENILE UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, LIGHTLY SCAVENGED, NO OBVIOUS COD, DISPOSED OF BY DPW	N/A	N/A	
5/20/2026	CAPE MAY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	FRESH DEAD, SLIGHTLY BLOATED, MODERATE ODOR, XENO ON PECS, FLUKES AND DORSAL. NO OBVIOUS COD. TAKEN TO NJAHL FOR NECROPSY	MILD VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA AND PARASITIC GRANULOMAS IN LUNGS, NUMEROUS ROUND FLUKES PRESENT IN STOMACH, GI TRACT EMPTY, PARASITES PRESENT IN PTERYGOID SINUSES.	A DEFINITIVE COD COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED. ADDITIONAL VIROLOGY PENDING.	HPAI: NEGATIVE MORBILLIVIRUS: NEGATIVE BRUCELLA: NEGATIVE
5/10/2026	LONGPORT	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	JUVENILE UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, LIGHTLY SCAVENGED, NO OBVIOUS COD, CARCASS DISPOSED OF BY DPW	N/A	N/A	
4/25/2026	BRIGANTINE	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT UNKNOWN	INITIALLY STRANDED ALIVE	ANIMAL STRANDED ALIVE BUT REFLOATED ON ITS OWN AS MMSC ARRIVED ON SCENE. ANIMAL WAS FREESWIMMING AND WAS MONITORED FROM SHORE UNTIL AFTER DARK AND COULD NOT BE RELOCATED THE FOLLOWING MORNING. A NOTICEABLE WOUND WAS NOTED ON THE LEADING EDGE OF ITS RIGHT FLUKE AS IT SWAM OFF. 5/13/2026 CARCASS WASHED ASHORE IN ST GEORGES BAY. BRIGANTINE. SEVERELY DECOMPOSED WITH SEVERAL SHARK BITES. CARCASS COLLECTED, MEASURED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY MMSC STAFF. DISPOSED OF BY DPW	N/A	N/A	
4/15/2026	BRIGANTINE	UNKNOWN DOLPHIN	UNKNOWN UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	FRESH DEAD, LIGHTLY SCAVENGED, CARCASS PUSHED BACK INTO WATER BY FISHERMAN BEFORE MMSC STAFF ARRIVED TO EXAMINE IT, CARCASS COULD NOT BE RELOCATED	N/A	N/A	
4/9/2026	JERSEY CITY	SEI WHALE	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, BLOATED, LARGE GASH ON DORSAL PORTION OF BODY, SEVERAL ABRASIONS ON LEFT SIDE OF BODY. 4/16/2026 TOWED TO JONES BEACH NY FOR NECROPSY AND DISPOSAL	FAIR BODY CONDITION, STOMACH EMPTY, SMALL AMOUNT OF FECAL MATTER IN GI TRACT, HISTOPATHOLOGICAL SAMPLES COLLECTED	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA, INTESTINAL BOLBOSOMIASIS (INCIDENTAL)	
4/5/2026	ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	SMALL ABRASION ON TIP OF ROSTRUM, NUMEROUS TOOTH RAKES ON BODY, NO SIGNIFICANT INJURIES OR OBVIOUS COD, TAKEN TO NJAHL FOR NECROPSY	SEVERE, CASEOUS SINUSITIS WITH INTRALESIONAL TREMATODES, MILD PARASITIC GASTRITIS	SEVERE NECROTIZING AND GRANULOMATOUS MENINGOENCEPHALITIS (NASITREMIASIS), MODERATE EOSINOPHILIC AND GRANULOMATOUS PNEUMONIA WITH PULMONARY EDEMA AND CONGESTION, MILD GASTRITIS WITH INTRALESIONAL TREMATODES	



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4/1/2026	SANDY HOOK	HUMBACK WHALE	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	TONGUE BLOATED AND PROTRUDING FROM MOUTH, HEALED SCARS ON TAIL LIKELY FROM PREVIOUS ENTANGLEMENT	GOOD OVERALL BODY CONDITION, EVIDENCE OF BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA FOUND UPON INTERNAL EXAM, SIGNIFICANT BRUISING ON THE RIGHT DORSAL SIDE OF THE BODY AND HEAD, DISCOLORATION OF BONE IN RIGHT SHOULDER AND RIGHT SIDE OF SKULL, GI TRACT FULL	PENDING	
3/30/2026	BEACH HAVEN	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED BEFORE MMSC STAFF ARRIVED	SOME SUPERFICIAL ABRASIONS ON BODY, NO OBVIOUS SIGNS OF SIGNIFICANT INJURY OR ILLNESS, TAKEN TO NJAHL FOR NECROPSY	SINUS TREMATODIASIS, MILD BRONCHIAL NEMATODIASIS, MILD PYLORIC TREMATODIASIS	NASITREMIASIS, MODERATE PULMONARY AND GASTRIC PARASITISM,	
3/30/2026	SAYREVILLE	HARBOR PORPOISE	SUBADULT UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, MODERATELY SCAVENGED, NO OBVIOUS COD, MEASURED AND DISPOSED OF BY MMSC VOLUNTEERS	N/A	N/A	
2/24/2026	LITTLE EGG HARBOR	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, NO OBVIOUS COD, ~50% OF SKIN MISSING, BLOATED AND LIGHTLY SCAVENGED, LEFT ON SITE DUE TO SIZE AND REMOTE LOCATION	N/A	N/A	
2/20/2026	BARNEGAT LIGHT	FIN WHALE	SUBADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, THIN BODY CONDITION. OLD ENTANGLEMENT SCAR AT BASE OF TAIL	BRUISING EVIDENT ON LEFT SIDE OF BODY, NO BROKEN BONES OBSERVED, INTERNAL ORGANS HEAVILY AUTOLYZED, STOMACH AND INTESTINE FOUND IN UPPER PORTION OF THORACIC CAVITY. STOMACH EMPTY, SCANT YELLOW/BROWN DIGESTA PRESENT IN INTESTINES, UNABLE TO IDENTIFY HEART OR LIVER, HISTOLOGY SAMPLES COLLECTED BY CORNELL UNIVERSITY	PENDING	
1/21/2026	LAVALLETTE	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED WHILE BEING LOADED INTO RESCUE VEHICLE	ANIMAL STRANDED ALIVE ON BEACH WITH HIGH RESPIRATION RATE AND AUDIBLE "GURGLING" HEARD DURING BREATHS. THIN BODY CONDITION.	PREGNANT, SEVERE NECROSUPPURATIVE PLACENTITIS, NUMEROUS PARASITE MIGRATION TRACTS THROUGHOUT THE BRAIN	SEVERE NECROTIZING AND GRANULOMATOUS ENCEPHALITIS, NASITREMIASIS, SEVERE NECROSUPPURATIVE PLACENTITIS DUE TO BRUCELLA	PLACENTA TESTED POSITIVE FOR BRUCELLA
1/4/2026	GLOUCESTER CITY	FIN WHALE	JUVENILE MALE	STRANDED DEAD	FRESH DEAD, DISCOVERED ON THE BULBOUS BOW OF A CARGO VESSEL COMING INTO PORT. CARCASS REMOVED FROM VESSEL AND SECURED ON 1/5/2026. NECROPSY PERFORMED 1/9/2026.	BODY CONDITION IS FAIR, PAINT TRANSFER ON RIGHT SIDE OF BODY. SIGNIFICANT BRUISING ON RIGHT SIDE OF BODY. SOME CIRCULAR LESIONS AND ULCERATIONS EXTERNALLY ON BOTH SIDES OF BODY. INTERNAL EXAM FOUND NUMEROUS FRACTURED VERTEBRAE. RIGHT HUMERAL HEAD AND SYNOVIAL FLUID FROM RIGHT HUMEROSCAPULAR JOINT TINGED PINK. NO FOOD IN STOMACH, BUT DIGESTA AND FECES PRESENT IN INTESTINES AND COLON. VESSEL STRIKE SUSPECTED AS COD. HISTOLOGY PENDING.	PENDING	
12/20/2025	OCEAN CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	FRESH DEAD, VERY THIN BODY CONDITION, EYES SCAVENGED, NO OBVIOUS INJURY OR COD, TAKEN TO NJAHL FOR NECROPSY	BODY CONDITION WAS FAIR, GI TRACT WAS EMPTY, SOME PARASITIC GRANULOMAS IN LUNGS, XENOBALANUS ON FLUKES	NASITREMIASIS, MILD VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA	
12/16/2025	LOWER ALLOWAYS	COMMON DOLPHIN	UNKNOWN UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	FRESH DEAD, CARCASS SANK OR FLOATED AWAY BEFORE IT COULD BE RECOVERED	N/A	N/A	
11/23/2025	ASBURY PARK	HARBOR PORPOISE	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	FRESH DEAD, VERY THIN, SEVERAL TEETH MISSING, NO EXTERNAL WOUNDS OR OBVIOUS COD, TAKEN TO NJAHL FOR NECROPSY	PARASITIC GRANULOMAS IN LUNGS, MODERATE TO HEAVY PARASITE LOAD	SEVERE VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA	
10/30/2025	BELMAR	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, NO SKIN REMAINING, SCAVENGED, ORGANS AND JAW BONE EXPOSED, PHOTOS AND MEASUREMENTS BY MMSC VOLUNTEER, DISPOSED OF BY DPW	N/A	N/A	



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10/29/2025	TOMS RIVER	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	JUVENILE UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, BLOATED, SKIN MOSTLY MISSING, LIGHTLY SCAVENGED, PHOTOS AND MEASUREMENTS BY MMSC VOLUNTEERS, DISPOSED OF BY PARKS DEPARTMENT	N/A	N/A	
10/17/2025	HOLGATE	HUMPBACK WHALE	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE, DIED BEFORE IT COULD BE EUTHANIZED	EMACIATED, OLD HEALED PROP CUTS ON LEFT AND RIGHT DORSAL SIDES OF BODY, LETHARGIC, EVALUATED AND SEDATED ON 10/18. EUTHANASIA COULD NOT BE PERFORMED SAFELY AT THAT TIME DUE TO TIDE AND LIMITED DAYLIGHT, ANIMAL DIED OVERNIGHT, TOWED AND TAKEN TO LANDFILL ON 10/21, NECROPSY PERFORMED ON 10/22.	EXTREMELY EMACIATED, PROP CUTS ALMOST COMPLETELY HEALED, NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT EXTERIOR LESIONS OF FRACTURES ASSOCIATED WITH PREVIOUS TRAUMA, NO STOMACH CONTENTS, YELLOW/BROWN LIQUID THROUGHOUT INTESTINES AND COLON, PARASITE FRAGMENTS IN BLADDER, HEAVY PARASITE LOAD AND NUMEROUS CALCIFICATIONS IN BOTH KIDNEYS	PENDING	
10/2/2025	OLD BRIDGE TWP.	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, BLOATED, >50% OF SKIN MISSING, MODERATELY SCAVENGED, MEASURED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY MMSC VOLUNTEERS, DISPOSED OF BY DPW.	N/A	N/A	
9/22/2025	AVON BY THE SEA	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	THIN, MANY TEETH WORN OR BROKEN, SEVERAL SUPERFICIAL ABRASIONS ON BODY, NO OBVIOUS COD. TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY.	MODERATE TO SEVERE DENTAL ATTRITION, GASTRIC ULCERATIONS WITH TREMATODIASIS, PERITONIAL CYSTS WITH INTRALESIONAL CESTODES	CHRONIC NECROTIZING ENCEPHALITIS WITH HEMORRHAGE, NASITREMIASIS, GASTRITIS, INTERSTITIAL NEPHRITIS	
8/2/2025	BARNEGAT LIGHT	MINKE WHALE	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE BUT DIED BEFORE MMSC ARRIVED	BODY CONDITION WAS THIN, ANIMAL REPEATEDLY STRANDED IN SHALLOW WATER AND REPORTEDLY COLLIDED WITH AT LEAST TWO VESSELS PRIOR TO LANDING ON A SANDBAR AND EXPIRING ON ITS OWN.	LUNGS CONGESTED AND CONTAINED SOME BLOOD, GI TRACT CONTAINED SOME SEA WATER AND A SMALL NUMBER OF PARASITES, SMALL AMOUNT OF FECES IN COLON	PENDING	
7/24/2025	STONE HARBOR	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	PROBABLE SHARK BITES ON RIGHT FRONT FLIPPER, BODY AND PEDUNCLE, WEIGHT WAS OK, NO OBVIOUS COD, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PARASITIC GRANULOMAS IN THE LUNGS, NUMEROUS PARASITIC CYSTS ON LINING OF PYLORIC STOMACH	VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA	
7/13/2025	DEAL	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE EUTHANIZED	BODY CONDITION WAS GOOD, NO OBVIOUS ILLNESS, LETHARGIC AND NOT VERY RESPONSIVE, MOSTLY HEALED SCAR BEHIND DORSAL FIN FROM POSSIBLE PREVIOUS HUMAN OR FISHERIES INTERACTION, NUMEROUS SHARK BITES ALL OVER BODY, SEVERAL OF WHICH WERE QUITE SEVERE.	VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, HEAVY PARASITE LOAD	SEVERE VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, NEMATODIASIS, INTESTINAL CESTODIASIS, CHRONIC PANCREATITIS	
6/30/2025	AVALON	STRIPED DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE BUT DIED BEFORE MMSC ARRIVED	THIN, NO OBVIOUS INJURY OR COD, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	MILD VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, NEMATODIASIS	SEVERE VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, LYMPHOPLASMACYTIC MENAGITIS	
6/29/2025	ATLANTIC CITY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	EMACIATED, NO OBVIOUS INJURY OR COD, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, CESTODIASIS	VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, CESTODIASIS, NASITREMIASIS	



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6/23/2025	BEACH HAVEN TERRACE	HUMBACK WHALE	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	INITIALLY REPORTED ON 6/23/2025 FLOATING ~3.5 MILES OFFSHORE, APPEARED RELATIVELY FRESH, NO OBVIOUS COD. CARCASS LANDED ON BEACH ON 6/27/2025. SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, MODERATELY SCAVENGED, NO EXTERNAL SIGNS OF TRAUMA. SKIN MISSING, NUMEROUS BONES EXPOSED, NO FRACTURES NOTED. THE ANIMAL'S BODY CONDITION WAS THIN, LEVEL A DATA AND GENETICS COLLECTED, EXAMINED BY MMSC STAFF, DISPOSED OF BY DPW.	N/A	N/A	
6/21/2025	SPRING LAKE	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	THIN, STUCK IN JETTY, NUMEROUS RAKE MARKS PRESENT, XENO ON DORSAL AND FLUKES, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	SEVERE VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, PARASITIC GASTRITIS	SEVERE VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, MILD CHRONIC LYMPHOPLASMATICITIS MENINGITIS, LYMPHOPLASMATIC GASTRITIS WITH INTRALESIONAL FLUKES	
6/14/2025	ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	SKIN SLOUGHING, SLIGHTLY BLOATED, NO OBVIOUS INJURY OR COD. TO BE DISPOSED OF BY PARK STAFF.	N/A	N/A	
6/13/2025	DEAL	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	UNKNOWN UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	SKIN SLOUGHING, BLOATED, LARGE WOUND ON DORSAL SIDE OF BODY BEHIND HEAD. CARCASS WASHED OUT BEFORE VOLUNTEERS COULD ARRIVE ON SCENE.	N/A	N/A	
6/12/2025	HEISLERVILLE	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT MALE	ALIVE, DIED SHORTLY AFTER CAPTURE	THIN BODY CONDITION, INITIALLY REPORTED TO MMSC ON 6/5/2025, LATER REPORTS CLAIM ANIMAL MAY HAVE BEEN IN CREEK SINCE 5/24/2025. ANIMAL WAS SUCCESSFULLY NETTED FROM CREEK BUT STOPPED BREATHING WHILE BEING LOADED INTO RESCUE VEHICLE AND COULD NOT BE RESUSCITATED. TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	SUSPECTED ABSCESS ON LEFT LATERAL ABDOMEN FULL OF YELLOW/GREEN FLUID, NUMEROUS PARASITIC GRANULOMAS AND LUNGWORMS PRESENT, CAUDAL PORTION OF LEFT LUNG WAS FIRM AND SANK IN FORMALIN (LIKELY VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA), CEREBRAL SPINAL FLUID WAS DARK RED, SEVERAL PARTIALLY DIGESTED FISH IN NON-GLANDULAR STOMACH ALONG WITH SEVERAL SHALLOW ULCERS IN THE MUCOSA, NUMEROUS FLUKES PRESENT IN GALANDULAR AND PYLORIC STOMACH CHAMBERS, ABUNDANT TAPEWORMS THROUGHOUT THE INTESTINES AND COLON.	SEVERE VERMINOUS NEMATODIASIS, CHRONIC LYPHOHISTIOCYTIC ENCEPHALITIS, BRONCHOPNEUMONIA, CHRONIC ULCERATIVE GASTRITIS, CHRONIC ENTEROCOLITIS	
6/10/2025	BRIGANTINE	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE EUTHANIZED	THIN BODY CONDITION, NO OBVIOUS INJURY OR ILLNESS, VERY LETHARGIC, NUMEROUS RAKE MARKS ON BODY, OLD SCAR ON RIGHT SIDE NEAR DORSAL	FOCAL ABSCESS OF THE RIGHT FRONTAL COTEX OF THE BRAIN, VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, CHRONIC PANCREATITIS	SEVERE ENCEPHALIC NASITREMIASIS, VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, EVIDENCE OF MULTISYSTEMIC HYPERTENSION	
6/9/2025	NORTH WILDWOOD	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	JUVENILE MALE	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, SKIN SLOUGHING, BLOATED, NO OBVIOUS COD, DISPOSED OF BY MMSC VOLUNTEER	N/A	N/A	
6/6/2025	SALEM CITY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, SKIN SLOUGHING, BLOATED, NO OBVIOUS COD, NECROPSY BY MMSC STAFF, DISPOSED OF BY DPW.	VERY THIN, GI TRACT COMPLETELY EMPTY, ALL INTERNAL ORGANS EXTREMELY FRIABLE, COD COULD NOT BE DETERMINED	N/A	
5/31/2025	TOWN BANK	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, HEAVILY SCAVENGED, SKIN AND ORGANS MISSING, NO OBVIOUS COD, DISPOSED OF BY DPW.	N/A	N/A	
5/30/2025	TOWN BANK	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, MODERATELY SCAVENGED, MOST OF SKIN SLOUGHED OFF, BLOATED, DISPOSED OF BY DPW	N/A	N/A	
5/22/2025	OCEAN CITY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	NO OBVIOUS COD, OLD HEALED WOUNDS ON PECS (LIKELY FROM FAILED PREDATION ATTEMPTS), TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	SEVERE VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, VENTRAL BRIDGING SPONDYLOSIS OF SEVERAL THORACIC VERTEBRAE	SEVERE VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, SPONDYLOSIS LIKELY THE RESULTS OF PREVIOUS TRAUMA	



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5/22/2025	CAPE MAY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, EMACIATED, SKIN SLOUGHING, LACERATIONS IN THE CORNERS AND ROOF OF MOUTH FROM POSSIBLE ENTANGLEMENT(WOUNDS APPEAR TO BE POST MORTEM), NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT LESIONS ON CARCASS, CARCASS EXAMINED BY MMSC STAFF, DISPOSED OF BY DPW	N/A	N/A	
5/17/2025	VILLAS	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	CALF FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	NO OBVIOUS COD, ROSTRAL HAIRS AND FETAL FOLDS STILL PRESENT, SMALL SECTION OF UMBILICUS STILL PRESENT, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	ATELECTASIS IN SECTIONS OF THE RIGHT CRANIOVENTRAL LUNG LOBE, GI TRACT EMPTY EXCEPT FOR SOME UNFORMED SOFT GELATINOUS FECES IN COLON	PULMONARY EDEMA, ALVEOLAR HISTIOCYTOSIS	
5/14/2025	SEA BRIGHT	PILOT WHALE	SUBADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE EUTHANIZED	VERY THIN, LETHARGIC, REPORTEDLY REFLOATED AND RESTRAINED PRIOR TO VOLUNTEERS ARRIVING ON SCENE.	BODY CONDITION WAS POOR, GI TRACT COMPLETELY EMPTY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME WORMS IN MAIN STOMACH, COLON EMPTY, SEVERE PNEUMONIA, LIVER CONGESTED	SEVERE BRONCHOPNEUMONIA	
5/5/2025	AVALON	STRIPED DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	FRESH DEAD, NO OBVIOUS COD, SEVERAL RAKE MARKS ON PECS AND PEDUNCLE, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PARASITIC GRANULOMAS IN THE LUNGS, GI TRACT EMPTY	LYMPHOPLASMACYTIC MENINGOENCEPHALOMYELITIS, PYOGRANULOMATOUS BRONCHOPNEUMONIA, ULCERATIVE AND HYPERPLASTIC GASTRITIS, THYROIDITIS	
5/2/2025	HOLGATE	STRIPED DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE EUTHANIZED	PUSHED BACK OUT BY BEACHGOERS SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE MMSC WAS NOTIFIED, VERY THIN BODY CONDITION, MINOR LACERATIONS ON VENTRAL SIDE NEAR HEAD, EUTHANIZED, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	PYOGRANULOMATOUS PNEUMONIA, GASTRIC NEMATODIASIS,	PYOGRANULOMATOUS PNEUMONIA WITH NECROSIS, POLYGRANULOMATOUS LYMPHADENITIS, MENINGOMYELITIS	NOCARDIOSIS
4/28/2025	MIDDLE TWP.	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, MODERATELY SCAVENGED, STRANDED IN REMOTE LOCATION, UNABLE TO CONFIRM SPECIES	N/A	N/A	
4/19/2025	CAPE MAY POINT	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	SUBADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE BUT DIED BEFORE MMSC ARRIVED ON SCENE	THIN BODY CONDITION, NO OBVIOUS COD, SEVERAL MINOR LACERATIONS AND RAKE MARKS PRESENT, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	SEVERE VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, SEVERE CESTODIASIS, MILD PARASITIC GASTRITIS	VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, HEPATOCELLULAR NECROSIS OF THE LIVER, LYMPHOPLASMACYTIC GASTRITIS, LYMPHOPLASMACYTIC NEPHRITIS	
4/11/2025	OCEAN CITY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	JUVENILE FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE EUTHANIZED	VERY THIN BODY CONDITION, FAIRLY UNRESPONSIVE, NUMEROUS RAKE MARKS ALL OVER BODY, SEVERAL SMALL LESIONS NEAR DORSAL FIN, NUMEROUS SOFT BARNACLES ON TRAILING EDGES OF DORSAL FIN, PECS AND FLUKES, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	POOR BODY CONDITION WITH DEPLETED MUSCLE MASS, VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, PARASITIC GASTRITIS, NUMEROUS SOFT BARNACLES ON CAUDAL EDGES OF DORSAL, PECS AND FLUKES.	VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, ENCEPHALITIS, HEPATOCELLULAR NECROSIS IN THE LIVER	
4/8/2025	ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	SEVERAL DIVOTS IN SKIN, MANY TEETH MISSING/WORN, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	SEVERAL LESIONS ON TONGUE, NUMEROUS ENCYSTED PARASITIC FLUKES IN CAUDOVENTRAL TISSUES, CAUDAL PERITONEUM CONTAINED NUMEROUS THICK WALLED CYSTS, ~20% OF LEFT CRANIAL LUNG LOBE COLLAPSED AND DARK RED, SEVERAL NEMATODES PRESENT IN BRONCHI, ULCERATION PRESENT IN PYLORIC STOMACH CONTAINING SEVERAL NEMATODES	NECROTIZING ENCEPHALITIS, BRONCHOPNEUMONIA, PERIPORTAL HEPATITIS	
4/3/2025	OCEAN CITY	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED DEAD	BODY CONDITION APPEARED NORMAL, NO OBVIOUS COD, TAKEN TO NJAHD FOR NECROPSY	BODY CONDITION WAS ADEQUATE, SEVERE VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, NUMEROUS SOFT BARNACLES ON CAUDAL EDGES OF FLUKES	VERMINOUS PNEUMONIA, MENINGOENCEPHALITIS	
4/2/2025	BRIGANTINE	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT UNKOWN	STRANDED DEAD	CARCASS ON SANDBAR IN CHANNEL, INACCESSIBLE, CARCASS APPEARED TO BE MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, LIGHTLY SCAVENGED, LEFT ON SITE	N/A	N/A	



NJ CETACEAN STRANDINGS FROM JANUARY 2025 THROUGH PRESENT

Marine Mammal Stranding Center© UPDATED: 8/23/2026

DATE	LOCATION	SPECIES	AGE/SEX	DISPOSITION	NECROPSY STATUS	PRELIMINARY FINDINGS	HISTOPATHOLOGY RESULTS	NOTES
4/1/2025	BRIGANTINE	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED DEAD	MODERATELY DECOMPOSED, LIGHTLY SCAVENGED, VERY THIN, LARGE NUMBER OF ISOPODS THROUGHOUT CARCASS, NO OBVIOUS COD	N/A	N/A	
3/31/2025	OCEAN CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT FEMALE	STRANDED ALIVE BUT DIED BEFORE MMSC ARRIVED ON SCENE	BODY CONDITION WAS FAIR, NO SIGNIFICANT LESIONS, TAKEN NJAHDL FOR NECROPSY	THIN NUTRITIONAL CONDITION, MILD PANNICULITIS, MODERATE PARASITE LOAD	MENINGOENCEPHALITIS	
3/24/2025	EDGEWATER	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	>50% OF SKIN MISSING, ADVANCED DECOMPOSITION, NO OBVIOUS COD. DISPOSED OF BY DPW	N/A	N/A	
3/19/2025	BRIGANTINE	UNKNOWN DOLPHIN	UNKNOWN UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	MOSTLY SKELETONIZED, HEAD AND PECS MISSING	N/A	N/A	
3/19/2025	ATLANTIC CITY	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE BUT DIED BEFORE MMSC ARRIVED ON SCENE	FROTH PRESENT AROUND BLOWHOLE, PINPOINT LESIONS ALL OVER BODY, NUMEROUS WORN/MISSING TEETH, TAKEN TO NJAHDL FOR NECROPSY	EMACIATED, MILD TO MODERATE PARASITIC INFECTIONS	MENINGOENCEPHALITIS WITH NECROSIS, VERMINOUS BRONCHOPNEUMONIA AND EDEMA, CHANGES TO BRAIN AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM SUGGEST LIKELY PROTOZOAL INFECTION	ADDITIONAL TESTS PENDING
3/7/2025	ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK	UNKNOWN DOLPHIN	UNKNOWN UNKNOWN	STRANDED DEAD	FRONT HALF OF CARCASS SKELETONIZED, INTESTINES EXPOSED, VERY LITTLE SKIN REMAINING	N/A	N/A	
3/5/2025	OCEANPORT	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE BUT DIED BEFORE MMSC ARRIVED ON SCENE	FAIR BODY CONDITION, LESIONS IN MOUTH, MANY WORN/MISSING TEETH, TAKEN TO NJAHDL FOR NECROPSY	NEMATODES IN LUNGS, FLUKES IN GLANDULAR AND PYLORIC STOMACH, NUMEROUS TEETH WORN TO GUMLINE	MENINGOENCEPHALITIS, VERMINOUS AND BRONCHOPNEUMONIA	
3/4/2025	MONMOUTH BEACH	COMMON DOLPHIN	ADULT MALE	STRANDED ALIVE. EUTHANIZED	BODY CONDITION GOOD, NUMEROUS LESIONS ON HEAD, DORSAL AND FLUKES. SEVERAL TEETH SEVERELY WORN OR MISSING. TAKEN TO NJAHDL FOR NECROPSY	GASTRIC ULCERATION, PERITONEAL ABSCESS, SLIGHT THICKENING OF CORONARY ARTERY, INTRABRONCHIAL NEMATODES.	MODERATE VERMINOUS AND BACTERIAL BRONCHOPNEUMONIA, EVALUATION OF THE LIVER ALONG WITH ULCERATIVE GASTRITIS AND MILD ENTERITIS SUGGEST A CHRONIC PARASITIC INFECTION. A DEFINITIVE CAUSE OF STRANDING/DEATH COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED.	