

ANNUAL HUMAN-CAUSED MORTALITY AND SERIOUS INJURY

Fishery Information

Detailed fishery information is reported in Appendix III. Total annual estimated average fishery-related mortality and serious injury to this stock during 2001-2005 was zero, as there were no reports of mortality or serious injury to Fraser's dolphins.

Other Mortality

From 2001-2005, 12 Fraser's dolphins were reported stranded between Maine and Puerto Rico (Table 1). The total includes one animal stranded in 2002, 10 mass stranded live animals in April 2003 in Lee, Florida, and one animal stranded in Florida in 2004. Prior to this time period, one animal stranded in Puerto Rico in 1999. There were no indications of fishery or human interactions for these stranded animals.

Stranding data probably underestimate the extent of fishery-related mortality and serious injury because all of the marine mammals that die or are seriously injured may not wash ashore, nor will all of those that do wash ashore necessarily show signs of entanglement or other fishery-interaction. Finally, the level of technical expertise among stranding network personnel varies widely as does the ability to recognize signs of fishery interaction.

STATE	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTALS
Florida	0	0	10 ^a	1	0	11
Puerto Rico	0	1	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	0	1	10	1	0	12

^a Florida live mass stranding of 10 animals in Lee, Florida on April 4, 2003

STATUS OF STOCK

The status of Fraser's dolphins relative to OSP in the U.S. western North Atlantic EEZ is unknown. The species is not listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. There are insufficient data to determine the population size or trends and PBR cannot be calculated for this stock. No fishery-related mortality and serious injury has been observed since 1999; therefore, total U.S. fishery-related mortality and serious injury rate can be considered insignificant and approaching zero mortality and serious injury. This is not a strategic stock.

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