



Chesapeake Dolphin Watch

UMCES • Chesapeake Biological Laboratory



Photo courtesy of Toni K.

Photo courtesy of Melissa M.

Photo courtesy of Scott F.

Members of the public inform bottlenose dolphin research in the Chesapeake Bay.

Join us! www.ChesapeakeDolphinWatch.org

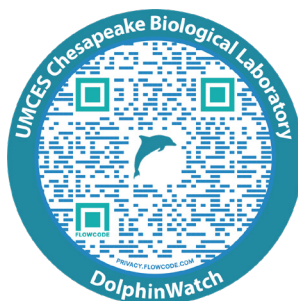
Little is known about how often bottlenose dolphins come into Chesapeake Bay, how long they spend here, what areas of the Bay they are using and why. In 2017, Dr. Helen Bailey and her team at Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) developed an app which engages the public to help answer these questions. Members of the public can report dolphin sightings in real time. This observation network provides information on dolphin distribution and local residents are encouraged to learn about these animals and their environment through participating in this research project.

To join the nearly 10,000 observers already reporting dolphins, set up a free account at: chesapeakedolphinwatch.org or download the app on your mobile device. All you need to sign up is an email address.

To report a dolphin sighting:

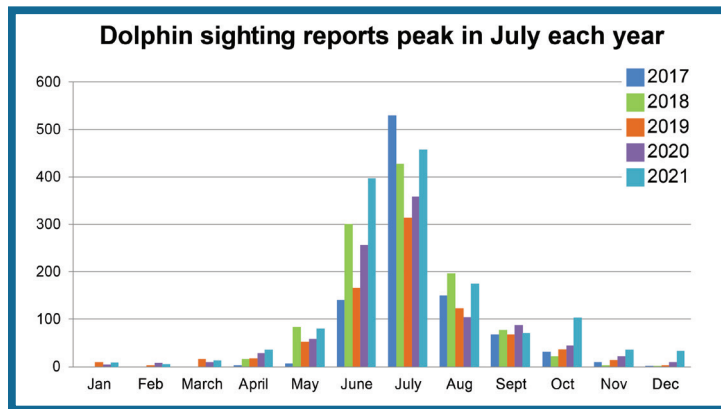
- click the map on the location you saw the dolphins
- enter your dolphin sighting date and time
- select the group size from the slider bar
- type a short description of what you saw, where you observed the dolphins, or other interesting details
- upload images (photos or video)

→Scan the circular code with your smart phone to download the app from Google Play or Apple App Store.

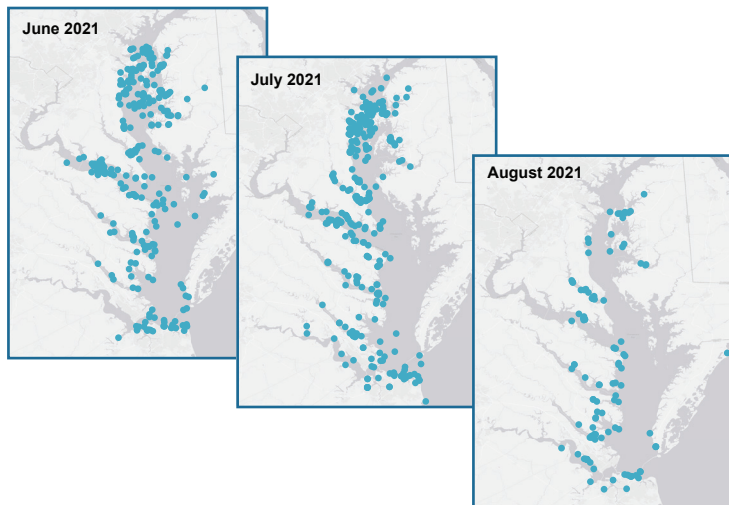


All are welcome to use the app to browse dolphin sightings submitted by others, view photos and videos of dolphins, and listen to recordings of dolphin calls from our hydrophones (underwater microphones).

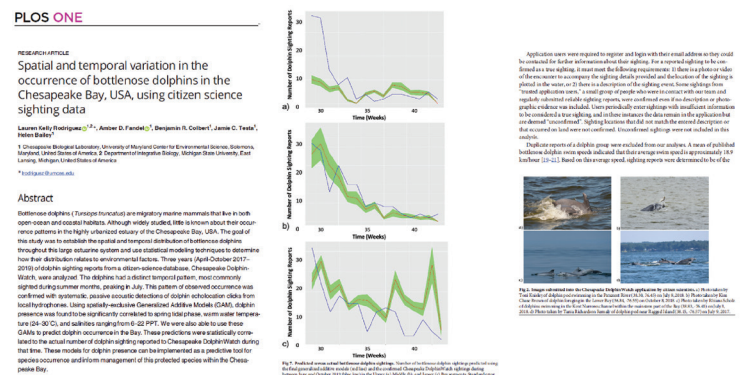
In 2021, 1,423 total sightings were reported of which 1,017 were confirmed (71%) in a quality check by a member of our UMCES team. Similar to previous years, sightings for the year peaked in July. June and October of 2021 also showed noticeable peaks in sightings reported as compared to the previous 4 years.



In 2021, dolphin sightings were reported very far upstream in several tributaries including the Choptank, Little Choptank, Patuxent, Potomac, York, Rappahannock and James Rivers. We have learned that fewer dolphin sightings are reported in August-October, when dolphins head south to the lower portions of Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean.



A scientific paper using DolphinWatchers' sighting data and photographs was published in Summer 2021! You can read the paper by typing this into your web browser: <https://bit.ly/349pG8E>.



We celebrated the 5th anniversary of our research program by releasing a photo book titled *DolphinWatch-Dolphins of the Chesapeake Bay*. This compilation of photos from our DolphinWatchers' sightings would make a great coffee table book or gift. You can purchase the book at: <https://www.prestophoto.com/bookstore/457242> or use your smartphone's camera to view the round code to the right and allow your phone to open Presto Photo's website.



Learn more about Chesapeake DolphinWatch: <http://www.umces.edu/dolphinwatch>