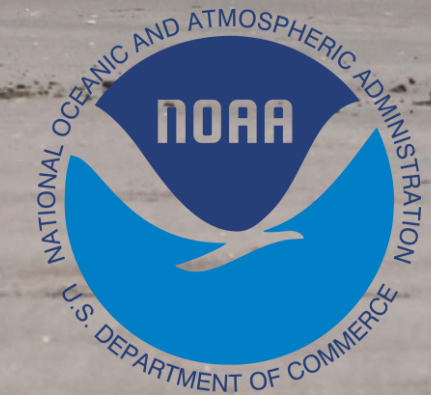


Seabrook Island Dolphin Conservation Project

Presented by Lauren Rust, ED of LMMN



The Seabrook Island education program is designed to provide education to the general public while encouraging onlookers to view them responsibly thus preserving this rare behavior.



Objectives:

1. Engage beach visitors about the feeding dolphins
2. Collect weather, visitor and dolphin data
3. Reduce Harassment

*1. Harassment means any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance that has the potential to injure a marine mammal (Level A harassment); or that has the potential to disturb a marine mammal by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, migration, breathing, nursing, feeding or sheltering (Level B harassment). *defined by NOAA Fisheries*



Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act

It is illegal to...

Touch

Feed

Swim with

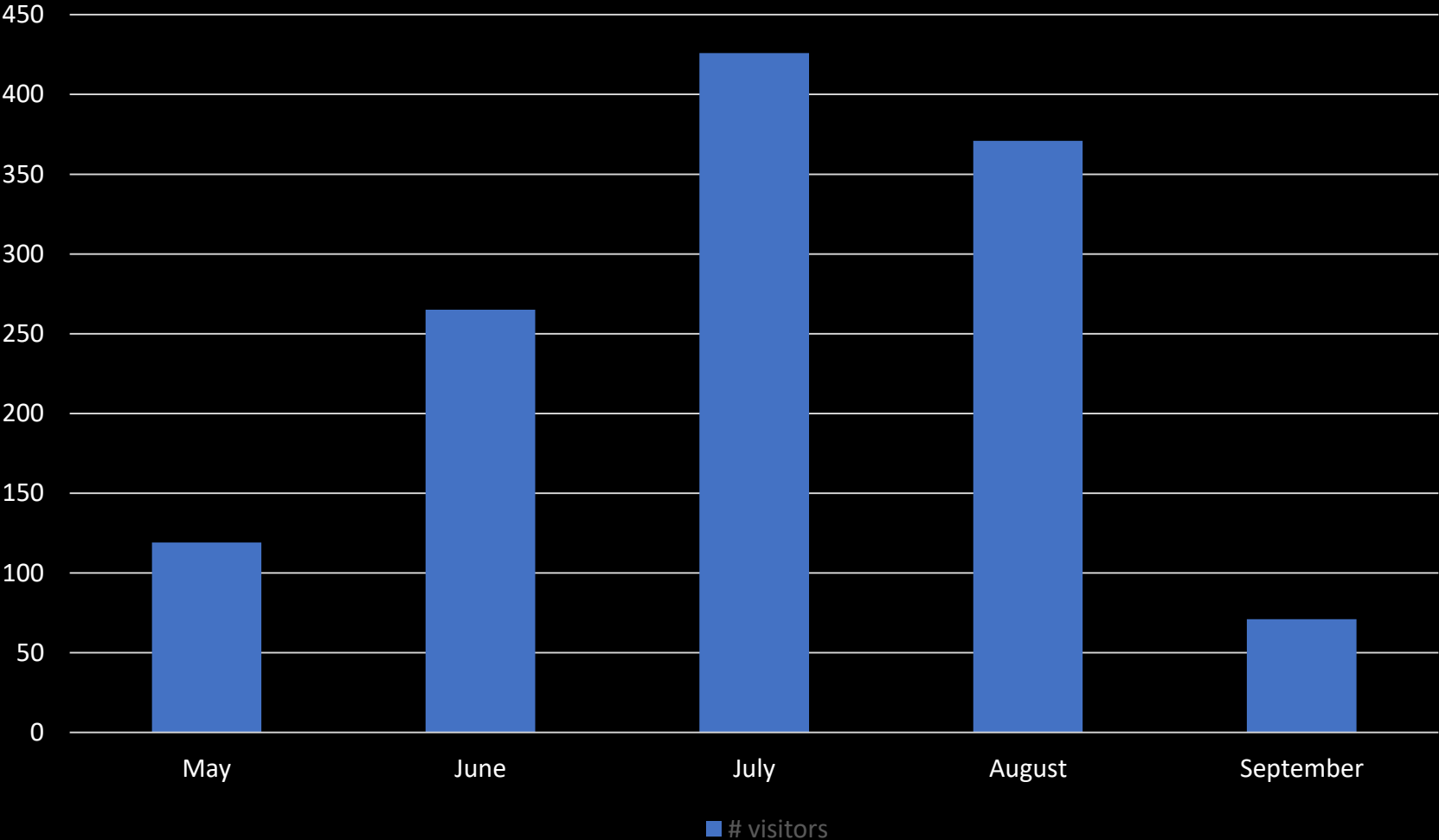
Engage

or Harass



Educators engaged with
1,252 people on the beach

Total Visitor Count



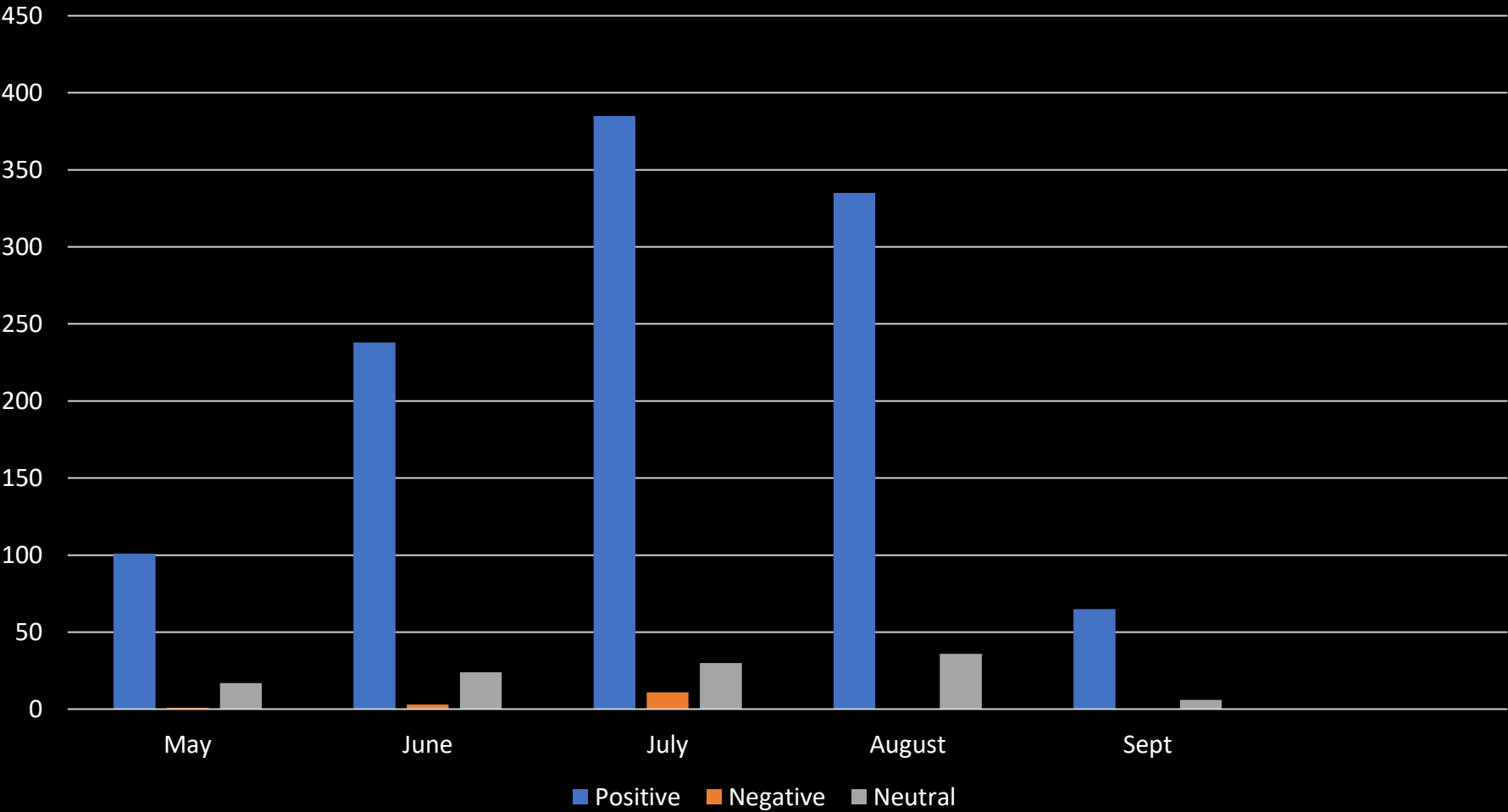
- 12 educators spent 320 hours on the beach over 80 beach shifts from April- September



Visitors ranged from 1 to
>50 people per shift

90% of visitor
interactions were
positive

Visitor responses



**We had no (reportable) negative
interactions with the dolphins**



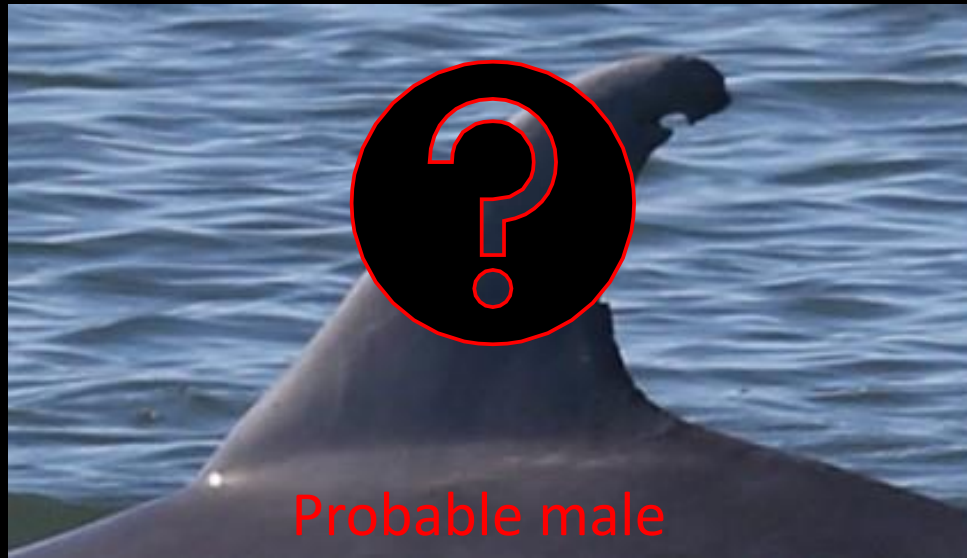
Significant Findings- 11 strand feeders



Same 5-7 dolphins



Long term sustainability of this behavior?





A mother teaching the
next generation of strand
feeders





STEP

Stono River resident

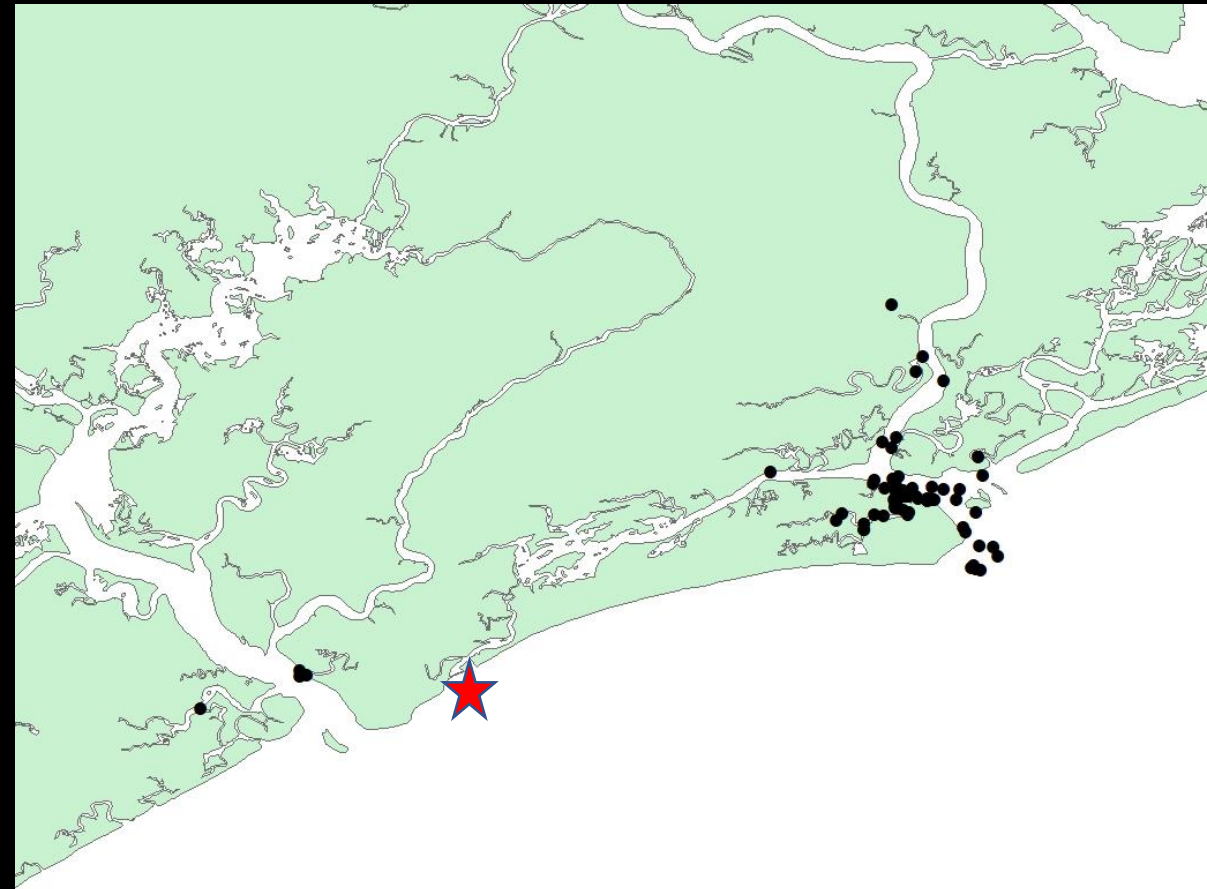
Sighted over 70 times since 1995

Over 27 yrs old

Seen with at least 5 calves

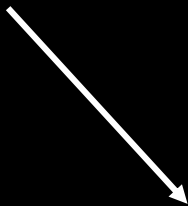
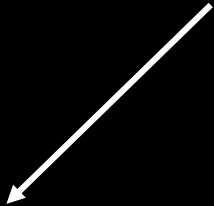
Regular strand feeder at spit

First time recorded at the spit





Family Dynamics



Rosie, 11yo



High Scoops, 16 yo

2 new spring calves



Animals range from
1-5 to strand feed



Behaviors in the spit





Negative Interactions include...kayaks







Boats



People...





Signs



A photograph of a dolphin leaping from the water near a sandy beach. The dolphin is captured mid-air, with its body arched and its tail fluke visible. The water is calm and reflects the light. In the background, there is a sandy beach and a line of green vegetation under a clear sky.

If you'd like to get involved contact Lauren Rust
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Special thanks to the Seabrook Volunteers:
Becky Holditch, Donna Laird, Gary Holtz,
Jackie Hoffman, Ken and Regina Oster, Keri
Phillips, Phil Phillips, Patricia Schaefer, Teri
Hinkebein, and Valerie and Patrick Luzadder

Thank you

